

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2234

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish the Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award Program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in prekindergarten through higher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2017

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. LEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. MCGOVERN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish the Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award Program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in prekindergarten through higher education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Recognizing Achieve-
5 ment in Classified School Employees Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Classified school employees provide valuable
4 service to public schools in the United States.

5 (2) Classified school employees provide essential
6 services, such as transportation, facilities mainte-
7 nance and operations, food service, safety, and
8 health care.

9 (3) Classified school employees play a vital role
10 in providing for the welfare and safety of students.

11 (4) Classified school employees strive for excel-
12 lence in all areas of service to the education commu-
13 nity.

14 (5) Exemplary classified school employees
15 should be recognized for their outstanding contribu-
16 tions to quality education in the United States.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE.—The term
20 “classified school employee” means a public em-
21 ployee of a State or of any political subdivision of a
22 State, who works in any grade from prekindergarten
23 through higher education in any of the following oc-
24 cupational specialties:

25 (A) Paraeducator services.

26 (B) Clerical and administrative services.

1 (C) Transportation services.

2 (D) Food and nutrition services.

3 (E) Custodial and maintenance services.

4 (F) Security services.

5 (G) Health and student services.

6 (H) Technical services.

7 (I) Skilled trades.

8 (2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in
9 this Act have the meaning given the terms in section
10 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
11 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12 **SEC. 4. RECOGNITION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall
14 establish a national recognition program to be known as
15 the “Recognizing Inspiring School Employees Award Pro-
16 gram” or the “award program”. The purpose of the award
17 program shall be to recognize and promote the commit-
18 ment and excellence exhibited by classified school employ-
19 ees in public schools who provide exemplary service to stu-
20 dents in prekindergarten through higher education.

21 (b) AWARD.—Prior to March 31 of each year (begin-
22 ning with the second calendar year that begins after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act), the award program
24 shall recommend to the Secretary a classified school em-

1 ployee to receive the Recognizing Inspiring School Em-
2 ployees Award for the year.

3 (c) SELECTION PROCESS.—

4 (1) NOMINATION PROCESS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Novem-
6 ber 1 of each year (beginning with the first cal-
7 endar year that begins after the date of the en-
8 actment of this Act), the Secretary shall solicit
9 nominations of classified school employees in
10 public schools from the occupational specialties
11 described in section 3(1) from the chief State
12 school officer of each State.

13 (B) NOMINATION SUBMISSIONS.—In order
14 for individuals in a State to be eligible to re-
15 ceive recognition under this section, the chief
16 State school officer shall consider nominations
17 submitted by the following:

- 18 (i) Local educational agencies.
- 19 (ii) School administrators.
- 20 (iii) Professional associations.
- 21 (iv) Labor organizations.
- 22 (v) Educational service agencies.
- 23 (vi) Any other group determined ap-
24 propriate by the award program.

1 (2) DEMONSTRATION.—Each chief State school
2 officer of a State who desires individuals in the
3 State to receive recognition under this section shall
4 submit the nominations described in paragraph (1)
5 to the Secretary in such manner as may be required
6 by the award program. Each such nomination shall
7 contain, at a minimum, demonstrations of excellence
8 in the following areas:

9 (A) Work performance.

10 (B) School and community involvement.

11 (C) Leadership and commitment.

12 (D) Local support.

13 (E) Enhancement of classified school em-
14 ployees' image in the community and schools.

15 (F) Any other area of superior perform-
16 ance, such as health and safety promotion or ef-
17 ficient use of energy or other resources.

18 (3) SELECTION.—The award program shall de-
19 velop uniform national guidelines for evaluating
20 nominations submitted under paragraph (2) in order
21 to select the most deserving nominees based on the
22 demonstrations made in the areas described in such
23 paragraph.

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