

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2988

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a grant program to fund additional school social workers and retain school social workers already employed in high-need local educational agencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 8, 2015

Ms. MOORE (for herself, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. POCAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a grant program to fund additional school social workers and retain school social workers already employed in high-need local educational agencies.

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 “School Social Workers
5 Improving Student Success Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS GRANTS.**

2 Subpart 2 of part D of title V of the Elementary and
3 Secondary Education Act of 1965 is amended by adding
4 after section 5421 (20 U.S.C. 7245) the following new sec-
5 tion:

6 **“SEC. 5422. GRANTS FOR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS.**

7 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award
9 grants to high-need local educational agencies to en-
10 able such agencies to retain school social workers
11 employed by such agencies or to hire additional
12 school social workers.

13 “(2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this
14 section shall be awarded for a period not to exceed
15 4 years.

16 “(3) SUPPLEMENTATION OF FUNDS.—Funds
17 made available under this section shall be used to
18 supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State,
19 or local funds used for hiring and retaining school
20 social workers.

21 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

22 “(1) A local educational agency receiving a
23 grant under this section shall use the grant to retain
24 school social workers employed by such agencies or
25 to hire additional school social workers providing
26 services described in subsection (d)(2).

1 “(2) A local educational agency receiving a
2 grant under this section may use such grant for any
3 of the following purposes:

4 “(A) To reimburse school social workers
5 for travel expenses incurred during home visits
6 and other school-related trips.

7 “(B) To reimburse school social workers
8 for any additional expenses incurred in ren-
9 dering the services described in subsection
10 (d)(2).

11 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
13 grant under this section, a high-need local edu-
14 cational agency shall submit to the Secretary an ap-
15 plication at such time, in such manner, and accom-
16 panied by such information as the Secretary may
17 reasonably require.

18 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
19 for a grant under this section shall contain a de-
20 scription of the duties and responsibilities of school
21 social workers providing services to students through
22 such grant in accordance with subsection (d).

23 “(d) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL SO-
24 CIAL WORKER.—Any school social worker providing serv-

1 ices to students through a grant funded under this section
2 shall—

3 “(1) identify the highest-need students (as such
4 term is defined by the Secretary) in each school such
5 social worker serves and target services provided at
6 the school to such students; and

7 “(2) provide to students in each school in which
8 a school social worker serves, social work services,
9 including—

10 “(A) counseling and crisis intervention;

11 “(B) case management activities to coordi-
12 nate the delivery of and access to the appro-
13 priate social work services to highest-need stu-
14 dents;

15 “(C) addressing of social, emotional, and
16 mental health needs to ensure better school par-
17 ticipation and better outcomes;

18 “(D) providing assistance to teachers to
19 design behavioral interventions;

20 “(E) working with students, families,
21 schools, and communities to promote attend-
22 ance and address the causes of poor attendance,
23 such as homelessness, lack of transportation,
24 illness, phobia, or parents who have negative
25 impressions of school;

1 “(F) home visits to meet the family of stu-
2 dents in need of social work services in the
3 home environment;

4 “(G) connecting students and families to
5 the social welfare, child welfare, and community
6 resource systems; and

7 “(H) other services the Secretary deter-
8 mines are necessary to carry out this section.

9 “(e) GRANT RENEWAL.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this
11 section may be renewed for additional periods having
12 the same duration as the original grant period.

13 “(2) CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible
14 for renewal under this paragraph of a grant, a high-
15 need local educational agency shall submit to the
16 Secretary, for each renewal, a report on the progress
17 of such recipient in retaining and hiring school social
18 workers. Such report shall include—

19 “(A) a description of the staffing expan-
20 sion of school social workers funded through the
21 grant received under this section; and

22 “(B) a description of the work such social
23 workers performed to target high-need popu-
24 lations (as determined by the Secretary).

25 “(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
2 technical assistance to high-need local educational
3 agencies, including such agencies that do not have
4 adequate staff, in applying for grants under this sec-
5 tion.

6 “(2) EXTENSION OF APPLICATION PERIOD.—
7 The Secretary shall extend any application period
8 for a grant under this section for any high-need local
9 educational agency that—

10 “(A) submits to the Secretary a written
11 notification of the intent to apply for a grant
12 under this section before requesting technical
13 assistance under paragraph (1); and

14 “(B) after submitting the notification
15 under subparagraph (A) requests such technical
16 assistance.

17 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) The term ‘high-need local educational
19 agency’ has the meaning given such term in section
20 2102(3)(A).

21 “(2) The term ‘school social worker’ has the
22 meaning given such term in section 5421(e).

1 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”.

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