

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 393

To aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and 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 “Prescribe A Book
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible enti-
9 ty” means a nonprofit organization that has, as de-

1 terminated by the Secretary, demonstrated effective-
2 ness in the following areas:

3 (A) Providing peer-to-peer training to
4 healthcare providers in research-based methods
5 of literacy promotion as part of routine pedi-
6 atric health supervision visits.

7 (B) Delivering a training curriculum
8 through a variety of medical education settings,
9 including residency training, continuing medical
10 education, and national pediatric conferences.

11 (C) Providing technical assistance to local
12 healthcare facilities to effectively implement a
13 high-quality Pediatric Early Literacy Program.

14 (D) Offering opportunities for local
15 healthcare facilities to obtain books at signifi-
16 cant discounts, as described in section 7.

17 (E) Integrating the latest developmental
18 and educational research into the training cur-
19 riculum for healthcare providers described in
20 subparagraph (B).

21 (2) PEDIATRIC EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM.—

22 The term “Pediatric Early Literacy Program”
23 means a program that—

24 (A) creates and implements a 3-part model
25 through which—

1 (i) healthcare providers, doctors, and
2 nurses, trained in research-based methods
3 of early language and literacy promotion,
4 encourage parents to read aloud to their
5 young children, and offer developmentally
6 appropriate recommendations and strate-
7 gies to parents for the purpose of reading
8 aloud to their children;

9 (ii) healthcare providers, at health su-
10 pervision visits, provide each child between
11 the ages of 6 months and 5 years a new,
12 developmentally appropriate children's
13 book to take home and keep; and

14 (iii) volunteers in waiting areas of
15 healthcare facilities read aloud to children,
16 modeling for parents the techniques and
17 pleasures of sharing books together;

18 (B) demonstrates, through research pub-
19 lished in peer-reviewed journals, effectiveness in
20 positively altering parent behavior regarding
21 reading aloud to children, and improving ex-
22 pressive and receptive language in young chil-
23 dren; and

24 (C) receives the endorsement of nationally
25 recognized medical associations and academies.

1 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Education.

3 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

4 The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligi-
5 ble entities to enable the eligible entities to implement Pe-
6 diatric Early Literacy Programs.

7 **SEC. 4. APPLICATIONS.**

8 An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under
9 section 3 shall submit an application to the Secretary at
10 such time, in such manner, and including such informa-
11 tion as the Secretary may reasonably require.

12 **SEC. 5. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

13 An eligible entity receiving a grant under section 3
14 shall provide, either directly or through private contribu-
15 tions, non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than
16 50 percent of the grant received by the eligible entity
17 under section 3. Such matching funds may be in cash or
18 in-kind.

19 **SEC. 6. USE OF GRANT FUNDS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving a
21 grant under section 3 shall—

22 (1) enter into contracts with private nonprofit
23 organizations, or with public agencies, selected based
24 on the criteria described in subsection (b), under

1 which each contractor will agree to establish and op-
2 erate a Pediatric Early Literacy Program;

3 (2) provide such training and technical assist-
4 ance to each contractor of the eligible entity as may
5 be necessary to carry out this Act; and

6 (3) include such other terms and conditions in
7 an agreement with a contractor as the Secretary de-
8 termines to be appropriate to ensure the effective-
9 ness of such programs.

10 (b) CONTRACTOR CRITERIA.—Each contractor shall
11 be selected under subsection (a)(1) on the basis of the ex-
12 tent to which the contractor gives priority to serving a
13 substantial number or percentage of at-risk children, in-
14 cluding—

15 (1) children from families with an income below
16 200 percent of the poverty line (as defined by the
17 Office of Management and Budget and revised an-
18 nually in accordance with section 673(2) of the
19 Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.
20 9902(2)) applicable to a family of the size involved,
21 particularly such children in high-poverty areas;

22 (2) children without adequate medical insur-
23 ance;

24 (3) children enrolled in a State Medicaid pro-
25 gram, established under title XIX of the Social Se-

1 security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) or in the State
2 Children's Health Insurance Program established
3 under title XXI of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et
4 seq.);

5 (4) children living in rural areas;

6 (5) migrant children; and

7 (6) children with limited access to libraries.

8 **SEC. 7. RESTRICTION ON PAYMENTS.**

9 The Secretary shall make no payment to an eligible
10 entity under this Act unless the Secretary determines that
11 the eligible entity or a contractor of the eligible entity, as
12 the case may be, has made arrangements with book pub-
13 lishers or distributors to obtain books at discounts that
14 are at least as favorable as discounts that are customarily
15 given by such publisher or distributor for book purchases
16 made under similar circumstances in the absence of Fed-
17 eral assistance.

18 **SEC. 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

19 An eligible entity receiving a grant under section 3
20 shall report annually to the Secretary on the effectiveness
21 of the program implemented by the eligible entity and the
22 programs instituted by each contractor of the eligible enti-
23 ty, and shall include in the report a description of each
24 program.

1 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2012 and such sums
4 as may be necessary for each of the succeeding 4 fiscal
5 years.

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