

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1526

To aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2009

Mr. PAYNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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-
10 termined by the Secretary, demonstrated effective-
11 ness in the following areas:

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

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

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

12 (D) Offering opportunities for local health-
13 care facilities to obtain books at significant dis-
14 counts, as described in section 7.

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

19 (2) PEDIATRIC EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM.—
20 The term “Pediatric Early Literacy Program”
21 means a program that—

22 (A) creates and implements a 3-part model
23 through which—

24 (i) healthcare providers, doctors, and
25 nurses, trained in research-based methods

1 of early language and literacy promotion,
2 encourage parents to read aloud to their
3 young children, and offer developmentally
4 appropriate recommendations and strate-
5 gies to parents for the purpose of reading
6 aloud to their children;

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

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

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

22 (C) receives the endorsement of nationally
23 recognized medical associations and academies.

24 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of Education.

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

2 The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligi-
3 ble entities under this Act to enable the eligible entities
4 to implement Pediatric Early Literacy Programs.

5 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION.**

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

10 **SEC. 5. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

11 An eligible entity receiving a grant under this Act
12 shall provide either directly or through private contribu-
13 tions, in cash or in-kind, non-Federal matching funds
14 equal to not less than 50 percent of the grant received
15 by the eligible entity under this Act.

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

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving a
18 grant under this Act shall—

19 (1) enter into contracts with private nonprofit
20 organizations, or with public agencies, selected based
21 on the criteria described in subsection (b), under
22 which each contractor will agree to establish and op-
23 erate a Pediatric Early Literacy Program;

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

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

5 (b) CONTRACTOR CRITERIA.—Contractors shall be
6 selected under subsection (a)(1) on the basis of the extent
7 to which the contractors give priority to serving a substan-
8 tial number or percentage of at-risk children, including—

9 (1) low-income children (defined in this section
10 as children from families with incomes below 200
11 percent of the poverty line), particularly low-income
12 children in high-poverty areas;

13 (2) children without adequate medical insur-
14 ance;

15 (3) children enrolled in a State Medicaid pro-
16 gram, established under title XIX of the Social Se-
17 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) or in the State
18 Children’s Health Insurance Program established
19 under title XXI of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et
20 seq.);

21 (4) children living in rural areas;

22 (5) migrant children; and

23 (6) children with limited access to libraries.

1 **SEC. 7. RESTRICTION ON PAYMENTS.**

2 The Secretary shall make no payment to eligible enti-
3 ties under this Act unless the Secretary determines that
4 the eligible entity or a contractor of the eligible entity, as
5 the case may be, has made arrangements with book pub-
6 lishers or distributors to obtain books at discounts that
7 are at least as favorable as discounts that are customarily
8 given by such publisher or distributor for book purchases
9 made under similar circumstances in the absence of Fed-
10 eral assistance.

11 **SEC. 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

12 An eligible entity receiving a grant under this Act
13 shall report annually to the Secretary on the effectiveness
14 of the program implemented by the eligible entity and the
15 programs instituted by each contractor of the eligible enti-
16 ty, and shall include in the report a description of each
17 program.

18 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
20 this Act—

- 21 (1) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;
22 (2) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;
23 (3) \$17,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;
24 (4) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and
25 (5) \$19,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.