

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5623

To establish a National Parents Corps Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. LEWIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish a National Parents Corps Program, and for other purposes.

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 “National Parents
5 Corps Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) Nearly 25 percent of children in the United
9 States ages 12 to 17 have used an illicit drug in
10 their lifetime, according to the Substance Abuse and

1 Mental Health Administration’s 2012 National Sur-
2vey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH).

3 (2) The American Lung Association states, ap-
4proximately 4,000 children under age 18 try their
5first cigarette and more than 950 of them will be-
6come new, regular daily smokers. Moreover, accord-
7ing to NSDUH, among children ages 12 to 17 who
8smoked cigarettes in the last month, 54.6 percent
9also used an illicit drug.

10 (3) The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids says
11parents have more influence over their children than
12friends, music, TV, the Internet, and celebrities. It
13adds, children whose parents teach them about drug
14risks are significantly less likely to use drugs.

15 (4) In response to concerns about youth vio-
16lence and drug, tobacco, and alcohol use by youth,
17the White House unveiled the Parents Corps in
182003. It was initially a 3-year initiative operating in
199 States to bring together citizenship, service, and
20responsibility to empower parents to keep their chil-
21dren, schools, and communities drug-free.

22 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL PARENTS CORPS PROGRAM.**

23 (a) GRANT TO ESTABLISH THE PROGRAM.—Subject
24to the availability of appropriations to carry out this Act,
25the Administrator shall, not later than 3 months after the

1 date of the enactment of this Act, award a grant to an
2 eligible nonprofit entity to establish a National Parents
3 Corps Program (referred to in this Act as the “Program”)
4 to promote safety, combat youth violence, and combat
5 drug and alcohol abuse in schools in the United States.
6 The eligible nonprofit entity awarded such grant shall be
7 known as the “NPCP Nonprofit Partner”.

8 (b) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The NPCP Nonprofit
9 Partner shall use the grant awarded under this section
10 to establish and administer the Program, which shall in-
11 clude—

12 (1) employing Parent Leaders to carry out the
13 Program at eligible schools that are selected to host
14 Parent Leaders, in accordance with sections 4 and
15 5; and

16 (2) working with schools, parents of children
17 enrolled in schools, local nonprofit organizations,
18 and law enforcement agencies and officers to pro-
19 mote safety, combat youth violence, and combat
20 drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse in schools.

21 **SEC. 4. PARTICIPATION OF SCHOOLS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
23 date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the
24 NPCP Nonprofit Partner shall solicit applications from el-
25 igible schools desiring to participate in the Program by

1 hosting a Parent Leader. Each eligible school selected to
2 host a Parent Leader shall enter into a memorandum of
3 understanding with the NPCP Nonprofit Partner—

4 (1) in which the eligible school agrees to partici-
5 pate in the Program and host a Parent Leader for
6 the number of years that is equal to the number of
7 grade levels taught at the school; and

8 (2) that outlines the parameters and goals of
9 hosting a Parent Leader and carrying out the Pro-
10 gram at the eligible school, including how the Parent
11 Leader and the operation of the Program will ad-
12 dress the cultural, social, and crime prevention needs
13 and goals of the students at such school.

14 (b) SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting eligi-
15 ble schools to host Parent Leaders under this Act, the
16 NPCP Nonprofit Partner shall ensure that, to the extent
17 practicable, the eligible schools selected represent
18 schools—

19 (1) that are located in a variety of geographical
20 regions in the United States;

21 (2) in urban, rural, and suburban areas; and

22 (3) in ethnically and economically diverse com-
23 munities.

1 **SEC. 5. PARENT LEADERS.**

2 (a) PARENT LEADER FOR EACH SCHOOL.—For each
3 eligible school selected to participate in the Program as
4 a host school under section 4, the NPCP Nonprofit Part-
5 ner shall, after consultation with the principal of the se-
6 lected school, solicit applications for, hire, and employ one
7 Parent Leader. The Nonprofit Partner shall use the grant
8 funds provided under this Act to train, supervise, support,
9 and provide a salary and benefits to each Parent Leader.

10 (b) DUTIES OF PARENT LEADERS.—Each Parent
11 Leader employed by the Nonprofit Partner shall, with re-
12 spect to the eligible school hosting the Parent Leader—

13 (1) educate and mobilize parents of students at
14 the school to combat criminal and gang activity and
15 prevent students from social, cultural, and commer-
16 cial forces that encourage children and adolescents
17 to initiate the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco;

18 (2) create a delivery system to provide parents
19 of students at the school with information regarding
20 science-based prevention and analysis related to
21 early recognition of behaviors and traits that may
22 lead to or indicate drug, alcohol, and tobacco use
23 and abuse, gang activity, and violence;

24 (3) work with school officials, other parents of
25 students at the school, and students at the school to
26 develop programs and practices to treat, prevent,

1 and reduce violence and drug, alcohol, and tobacco
2 addiction for students at the school;

3 (4) assist parents of students at the school and
4 school administrators with finding professional as-
5 sistance for any child who—

6 (A) is using drugs, including referrals to
7 professionals who can assess the needs of the
8 child for counseling, treatment, and other ap-
9 propriate assistance; or

10 (B) is engaged in violent activities or gang
11 activities;

12 (5) recruit and train parent and student volun-
13 teers from the school to participate in drug and vio-
14 lence prevention and education outreach and pro-
15 gramming; and

16 (6) consult with the NPCP Nonprofit Partner,
17 school administrators, local government authorities,
18 local nonprofit organizations, and other parents to
19 develop best practices and training models related to
20 the prevention of school violence and drug, alcohol,
21 and tobacco use and abuse by students.

22 (c) PARENT LEADER ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to
23 be employed as a Parent Leader under this Act, an indi-
24 vidual shall—

1 (1) be the parent (as such term is defined in
2 section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
3 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) of at least one
4 student who will be enrolled, during the first year
5 the individual will be employed as a Parent Leader,
6 in the lowest grade level offered at the school that
7 will host the Parent Leader;

8 (2) not be employed full-time at any position
9 other than as a Parent Leader;

10 (3) complete a background check, including
11 criminal records checks, fingerprint-based checks of
12 State and national crime information databases (as
13 defined in section 534(f)(3)(A) of title 28, United
14 States Code), checks in any available child abuse
15 and neglect registries, and checks in any available
16 sex offender registries; and

17 (4) enter into an agreement with the NPCP
18 Nonprofit Partner to serve as a Parent Leader for
19 a number of years that is equal to the number of
20 years normally required for a student to complete all
21 of the grade levels offered at the school that will
22 host the Parent Leader (as determined by the
23 school), except that the individual shall not be re-
24 quired to continue to serve as Parent Leader in the
25 case of an extreme, unforeseen circumstance (such

1 as death, disability, relocation, or criminal activity)
2 that prevents the individual from completing the
3 term of service required under this paragraph.

4 (d) VACANCIES.—If an individual who is employed as
5 a Parent Leader is unable to complete the term of service
6 required under subsection (c)(4), the NPCP Nonprofit
7 Partner shall, after consultation with the host school at
8 which the Parent Leader was serving, promptly solicit ap-
9 plications for, hire, and employ another individual to serve
10 as Parent Leader at such school, in accordance with the
11 requirements of this section.

12 **SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

13 (a) REPORTS BY PARENT LEADERS.—Not less than
14 once each calendar quarter during each year a Parent
15 Leader is employed by the NPCP Nonprofit Partner, the
16 Parent Leader shall submit to the NPCP Nonprofit Part-
17 ner and the school hosting the Parent Leader a report
18 including activities carried out by the Parent Leader to
19 carry out the Program, the results of such activities, best
20 practices observed and used by the Parent Leader to carry
21 out the Program, and any other information the Parent
22 Leader, the NPCP Nonprofit Partner, or the school
23 hosting the Parent Leader determine to be appropriate.

24 (b) REPORTS BY NPCP NONPROFIT PARTNER.—Not
25 later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of

1 this Act, and every 6 months thereafter, the NPCP Non-
2 profit Partner shall prepare and submit to the Adminis-
3 trator a report on the progress and effectiveness of the
4 Program, including—

5 (1) statistics, trends, and other data analyzing
6 whether the Program is effective at preventing
7 school violence and drug, alcohol, and tobacco use
8 and abuse by students;

9 (2) a summary of the reports submitted by Par-
10 ent Leaders; and

11 (3) the results and best practices reported by
12 the Parent Leader at each school hosting a Parent
13 Leader.

14 (c) REPORTS BY ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later than
15 one year after the date of the enactment of this section,
16 and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall prepare
17 and submit to the Attorney General and the appropriate
18 Congressional committees a report relating to the progress
19 and effectiveness of the Program.

20 **SEC. 7. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

21 It is the sense of the Congress that eligible schools
22 selected to host a Parent Leader in accordance with sec-
23 tion 4 should take such actions as may be necessary to
24 secure funding to employ a Parent Leader to carry out

1 the Program after Federal funding is no longer available
2 to carry out this Act.

3 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
6 trator” means the Administrator of the Office of Ju-
7 venile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

8 (2) ELIGIBLE NONPROFIT ENTITY.—The term
9 “eligible nonprofit entity” means an organization de-
10 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
11 Code of 1986 that—

12 (A) was operating on the day before the
13 date of the enactment of this Act;

14 (B) has demonstrated experience admin-
15 istering Federal grants in a fiscally responsible
16 manner, as determined by the Administrator;

17 (C) has administered national programs
18 relating to addiction and parenting;

19 (D) has developed and administered pro-
20 grams similar to the Program authorized under
21 this Act;

22 (E) has worked with the Corporation for
23 National and Community Service, the Depart-
24 ment of Health and Human Services, and the
25 Department of Justice in assessing and devel-

1 oping initiatives relating to youth drug preven-
2 tion and parental involvement; and

3 (F) has as its mission to focus on child
4 and youth drug prevention.

5 (3) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term “eligible
6 school” means a public middle school or secondary
7 school (as such term is defined in section 9101 of
8 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
9 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) that has demonstrated a
10 commitment, as determined by the Secretary, to—

11 (A) increasing parental involvement in the
12 school; and

13 (B) reducing drug, alcohol, and tobacco
14 abuse by students enrolled in the school.

15 (4) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
16 TEES.—The term “appropriate Congressional com-
17 mittees” means the Committee on the Judiciary, the
18 Committee on Education and Labor, and the Appro-
19 priations Committee in the House of Representa-
20 tives, and the Committee on the Judiciary, the Com-
21 mittee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions,
22 and the Appropriations Committee in the Senate.

23 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other amounts oth-
25 erwise appropriated to carry out the purposes of this Act,

1 there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this
2 Act \$5,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through
3 2025.

4 (b) FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES.—The Admin-
5 istrator, the NPCP Nonprofit Partner, and eligible schools
6 selected to host a Parent Leader in accordance with sec-
7 tion 4 are authorized to solicit, receive, and use funding
8 from State, local, and private sources to carry out the Pro-
9 gram, including for expenses related to employing Parent
10 Leaders.

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