

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7796

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize the use of Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants for the development and maintenance of school and community gardens, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 2024

Ms. BROWN (for herself, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. CAREY, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) 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 authorize the use of Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants for the development and maintenance of school and community gardens, 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 “Thriving Community
5 Gardens Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT SAFE AND HEALTHY STU-**
2 **DENTS.**

3 Clause (ii) of section 4108(5)(C) of the Elementary
4 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 7118(5)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(ii) support a healthy, active life-
7 style, including—

8 “(I) nutritional education and
9 regular, structured physical education
10 activities and programs, that may ad-
11 dress chronic disease management
12 with instruction led by school nurses,
13 nurse practitioners, or other appro-
14 priate specialists or professionals to
15 help maintain the well-being of stu-
16 dents; and

17 “(II) the development and main-
18 tenance of school or community gar-
19 dens;”.

20 **SEC. 3. INFORMATION COLLECTION AND BEST PRACTICES.**

21 (a) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—The Secretary of
22 Education shall regularly collect information from local
23 educational agencies that use funds provided under section
24 4108 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
25 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7118) to develop and maintain commu-

1 nity gardens (as authorized under paragraph (5)(C)(ii)(II)
2 of such section).

3 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF BEST PRACTICES.—Based
4 on the information collected from local educational agen-
5 cies under subsection (a), the Secretary of Education shall
6 identify best practices for the development and mainte-
7 nance of community gardens as described in such sub-
8 section.

9 (c) PUBLICATION AND UPDATES.—The Secretary of
10 Education shall—

11 (1) publish the best practices identified under
12 subsection (b) on a publicly accessible website of the
13 Department of Education; and

14 (2) regularly update the best practices based on
15 information received from local educational agencies
16 under subsection (a).

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