

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 715

To establish parents as teachers programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 1 (legislative day, MARCH 3), 1993

Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. DANFORTH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To establish parents as teachers programs.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) increased parental involvement in the edu-
6 cation of their children appears to be the key to
7 long-term gains for youngsters;

8 (2) providing seed money is an appropriate role
9 for the Federal Government to play in education;

1 (3) children participating in the parents as
2 teachers program in Missouri are found to have in-
3 creased cognitive or intellectual skills, language abil-
4 ity, social skills and other predictors of school
5 success;

6 (4) most early childhood programs begin at age
7 3 or 4 when remediation may already be necessary;
8 and

9 (5) many children receive no health screening
10 between birth and the time they enter school, thus
11 such children miss the opportunity of having devel-
12 opmental delays detected early.

13 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

14 It is the purpose of this Act to encourage States and
15 eligible entities to develop and expand parent and early
16 childhood education programs in an effort to—

17 (1) increase parents' knowledge of and con-
18 fidence in child-rearing activities, such as teaching
19 and nurturing their young children;

20 (2) strengthen partnerships between parents
21 and schools; and

22 (3) enhance the developmental progress of par-
23 ticipating children.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 For the purposes of this Act—

1 (1) the term “developmental screening” means
2 the process of measuring the progress of children to
3 determine if there are problems or potential prob-
4 lems or advanced abilities in the areas of under-
5 standing and use of language, perception through
6 sight, perception through hearing, motor develop-
7 ment and hand-eye coordination, health, and phys-
8 ical development;

9 (2) the term “eligible entity” means an entity
10 in a State operating a parents as teachers program
11 on the date of enactment of this Act;

12 (3) the term “eligible family” means any parent
13 with one or more children between birth and 3 years
14 of age;

15 (4) the term “lead agency” means—

16 (A) except as provided in subparagraph
17 (B), the office, agency, or other entity in a
18 State designated by the Governor to administer
19 the parents as teachers program authorized by
20 this Act; or

21 (B) in the case of a grant awarded under
22 this Act to an eligible entity, such eligible
23 entity;

24 (5) the term “parent education” includes par-
25 ent support activities, the provision of resource ma-

1 materials on child development and parent-child learn-
2 ing activities, private and group educational guid-
3 ance, individual and group learning experiences for
4 the parent and child, and other activities that enable
5 the parent to improve learning in the home; and

6 (6) the term “parent educator” means a person
7 hired by the lead agency of a State or designated by
8 local entities who administers group meetings, home
9 visits and developmental screening for eligible fami-
10 lies, and is trained by the Parents As Teachers
11 National Center established under section 7.

12 **SEC. 4. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**

13 (a) AUTHORITY.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized
15 to make grants in order to pay the Federal share of
16 the cost of establishing, expanding, or operating par-
17 ents as teachers programs in a State.

18 (2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary may
19 make a grant under paragraph (1) to a State, except
20 that, in the case of a State having an eligible entity,
21 the Secretary shall make the grant directly to the
22 eligible entity.

23 (b) FUNDING RULE.—Grant funds awarded under
24 this section shall be used so as to supplement, and to the
25 extent practicable, increase the level of funds that would,

1 in the absence of such funds, be made available from non-
2 Federal sources, and in no case may such funds be used
3 so as to supplant funds from non-Federal sources.

4 **SEC. 5. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

5 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Each State or eligible entity
6 receiving a grant pursuant to section 4 shall conduct a
7 parents as teachers program which—

8 (1) establishes and operates parent education
9 programs, including programs of developmental
10 screening of children; and

11 (2) designates a lead State agency which—

12 (A) shall hire parent educators who have
13 had supervised experience in the care and edu-
14 cation of children;

15 (B) shall establish the number of group
16 meetings and home visits required to be pro-
17 vided each year for each participating family,
18 with a minimum of 2 group meetings and 10
19 home visits for each participating family;

20 (C) shall be responsible for administering
21 the periodic screening of participating children's
22 educational, hearing and visual development,
23 using the Denver Developmental Test, Zimmer-
24 man Preschool Language Scale, or other ap-
25 proved screening instruments; and

1 (D) shall develop recruitment and reten-
2 tion programs for hard-to-reach populations.

3 (b) LIMITATION.—Grant funds awarded under this
4 Act shall only be used for parents as teachers programs
5 which serve families during the period beginning with the
6 birth of a child and ending when the child attains the age
7 of 3.

8 **SEC. 6. SPECIAL RULES.**

9 Notwithstanding any other provision of this section—

10 (1) no person, including home school parents,
11 public school parents, or private school parents, shall
12 be required to participate in any program of parent
13 education or developmental screening pursuant to
14 the provisions of this Act;

15 (2) no parents as teachers program assisted
16 under this Act shall take any action that infringes
17 in any manner on the right of parents to direct the
18 education of their children; and

19 (3) the provisions of section 438(c) of the Gen-
20 eral Education Provisions Act shall apply to States
21 and eligible entities awarded grants under this Act.

22 **SEC. 7. PARENTS AS TEACHERS NATIONAL CENTER.**

23 The Secretary shall establish a Parents As Teachers
24 National Center to disseminate information to, and pro-
25 vide technical and training assistance to, States and eligi-

1 ble entities establishing and operating parents as teachers
2 programs.

3 **SEC. 8. EVALUATIONS.**

4 The Secretary shall complete an evaluation of the
5 parents as teachers programs assisted under this Act with-
6 in 4 years from the date of enactment of this Act, includ-
7 ing an assessment of such programs' impact on at-risk
8 children.

9 **SEC. 9. APPLICATION.**

10 Each State or eligible entity desiring a grant under
11 this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at
12 such time, in such manner and accompanied by such infor-
13 mation as the Secretary may reasonably require. Each
14 such application shall describe the activities and services
15 for which assistance is sought.

16 **SEC. 10. PAYMENTS AND FEDERAL SHARE.**

17 (a) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall pay to each
18 State or eligible entity having an application approved
19 under section 9 the Federal share of the cost of the activi-
20 ties described in the application.

21 (b) FEDERAL SHARE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share—

23 (A) for the first year for which a State or
24 eligible entity receives assistance under this Act
25 shall be 100 percent;

1 (B) for the second such year shall be 100
2 percent;

3 (C) for the third such year shall be 75 per-
4 cent;

5 (D) for the fourth such year shall be 50
6 percent; and

7 (E) for the fifth such year shall be 25 per-
8 cent.

9 (2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal
10 share of payments under this Act may be in cash or
11 in kind, fairly evaluated, including planned equip-
12 ment or services.

13 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000
15 for fiscal year 1993, and such sums as may be necessary
16 for each of the fiscal years 1994 through 1997, to carry
17 out this Act.

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