

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2867

To provide for the funding and administration of a Veterans Mission for Youth Initiative within the Troops-to-Teachers Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 13, 2000

Mr. DEWINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for the funding and administration of a Veterans Mission for Youth Initiative within the Troops-to-Teachers Program.

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 “Veterans Mission for
5 Youth Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Since 1994, 17,148 retired members of the
9 United States Armed Forces have applied to partici-
10 pate in the Troops-to-Teachers program and 3,720

1 such members have been hired as teachers in 50
2 States.

3 (2) The mission of the Troops-to-Teachers pro-
4 gram is to help improve American Education by pro-
5 viding mature, motivated, experienced, and dedicated
6 personnel for the nation's classrooms.

7 (3) The Troops-to-Teachers program provides
8 positive role models for the nation's public school
9 students.

10 (4) Ninety percent of Troops-to-Teachers par-
11 ticipants are male, compared to 26 percent of the
12 existing teaching force.

13 (5) Nearly 30 percent of Troops-to-Teachers
14 participants are minorities compared to 10 percent
15 in the existing teaching force.

16 (6) The Troops-to-Teachers program helps re-
17 lieve teacher shortages, especially in the subjects of
18 math and science.

19 (7) School administrators who work with
20 Troops-to-Teachers participants were asked to rate
21 such participants in their schools, 54 percent of such
22 administrators said that the former military per-
23 sonnel turned teachers were well above average or
24 were among the best teachers at the schools.

1 (8) The 1999 Alternative Teacher Certification
2 study by C, Emily Feistritzer found that 30 percent
3 of Troops-to-Teachers participants are minorities
4 compared to 10 percent of all teachers, 30 percent
5 are teaching math compared to 13 percent of all
6 teachers, 25 percent teach in urban schools, and 90
7 percent are male compared to the current teaching
8 force which is 74 percent female.

9 (9) America’s 25,000,000 veterans have exhib-
10 ited the ideals of discipline, order, courage, and civic
11 responsibility that are important lessons for Amer-
12 ica’s children.

13 (10) The recent survey of American youth, the
14 “New Millennium Project” found that students
15 chose as their 3 lowest-ranking priorities in life—
16 being a good citizen who cares about the good of the
17 country, being involved in democracy and voting,
18 and being involved in helping make one’s community
19 a better place.

20 (11) A recent survey by the Horatio Alger Soci-
21 ety found that 21 percent of students had no heroes.

22 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A VETERANS MISSION FOR**
23 **YOUTH INITIATIVE.**

24 Title XVII of the National Defense Authorization Act
25 of Fiscal Year 2000 (commonly known as the Troops-to-

1 Teachers Program Act of 1999 (20 U.S.C. 9301 et seq.)

2 is amended by adding at the end the following:

3 **“SEC. 1710. VETERANS MISSION FOR YOUTH INITIATIVE.**

4 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense,
5 acting through the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional
6 Education Support Division of the Department of De-
7 fense, shall establish an initiative to be known as the ‘Vet-
8 erans Mission for Youth Initiative’ to award grants to eli-
9 gible organizations to provide mentoring, tutoring, after-
10 school and other programs for youth.

11 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
13 grant under subsection (a), an organization shall—

14 “(A) be a community organization that
15 provides, or intends to provide, services to link
16 individuals described in paragraph (2) with
17 youth;

18 “(B) prepare and submit to the Secretary
19 an application at such time, in such manner,
20 and containing such information as the Sec-
21 retary may require;

22 “(C) provides assurances to the Secretary
23 that the organization will provide matching
24 funds as required under paragraph (3); and

1 “(D) meet such other requirements as the
2 Secretary may prescribe.

3 “(2) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO PROVIDE SERV-
4 ICES.—An individual described in this paragraph is
5 any member of the Armed Forces—

6 “(A) who was—

7 “(i) discharged or released from active
8 duty after 6 or more years of continuous
9 active duty immediately before the dis-
10 charge or release; or

11 “(ii) involuntarily discharged or re-
12 leased from active duty for purposes of a
13 reduction of force after 6 or more years of
14 continuous active duty immediately before
15 the discharge or release; and

16 “(B) who’s last period of service in the
17 Armed Forces was characterized as honorable;
18 and

19 “(C) who satisfies such other criteria for
20 selection as the Secretary may prescribe.

21 “(3) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible
22 to receive a grant under this section an eligible orga-
23 nization shall agree to make available (directly or
24 through donations from public or private entities)
25 non-Federal contributions toward the cost of car-

1 rying out the program established under the grant
2 in an amount equal to the amount provided under
3 the grant.

4 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An organization shall use
5 amounts provided under a grant under this section to
6 carry out a program to facilitate linkages between individ-
7 uals described in subsection (b)(2) and youth through the
8 provision by such individuals of mentoring, tutoring, after-
9 school and other services.

10 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
12 \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may
13 be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.”.

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