

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 839

To establish a national teaching fellowship program to encourage individuals to enter and remain in the field of teaching at public schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2001

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FROST, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. CLEMENT, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, and Mr. HOLT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish a national teaching fellowship program to encourage individuals to enter and remain in the field of teaching at public schools.

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 “Teaching Fellows Act
5 of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The United States faces an increasing need
2 for high-quality educators.

3 (2) Up to 1,000,000 of the country's 3,000,000
4 teachers will retire in the next 5 years. American
5 schools will have to hire 2,200,000 teachers by 2010.

6 (3) The Congress desires to inspire promising
7 high school seniors and accomplished persons cur-
8 rently involved in the field of education to become
9 certified teachers.

10 (4) The opportunity created by a fellowship
11 program would allow persons in the field of edu-
12 cation the financial opportunity to obtain a quality
13 education which they would use to teach America's
14 youth.

15 (5) The Congress desires to motivate those who
16 go into the field of teaching to become career edu-
17 cators.

18 (6) Many teacher assistants have received their
19 training at community colleges and have the poten-
20 tial and desire to obtain degrees in education and
21 certification as teachers.

22 (7) Rural and inner-city communities could
23 greatly benefit from encouraging those in the com-
24 munity who already have an interest in teaching to

1 pursue a degree in education and become career
2 educators.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

4 Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
5 U.S.C. 1021 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by striking out the head of such title and
7 inserting the following:

8 **“TITLE II—TEACHER QUALITY**
9 **“Part A—Teacher Quality Enhance-**
10 **ment Grants for States and**
11 **Partnerships”;**

12 (2) by striking out “this title” each place it ap-
13 pears in section 201 through 209 and inserting “this
14 part”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new part:

16 **“Part B—Federal Teaching and**
17 **Partnership Fellows**

18 **“SEC. 211. STATE TEACHING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

19 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-
20 courage promising high school seniors and college under-
21 graduates to enter the field of teaching and become career
22 educators.

23 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF TEACHING FELLOWS PRO-
24 GRAM.—

1 “(1) USE OF FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—
2 From the funds appropriated under subsection (g),
3 the Secretary shall make grants available to States
4 for the purpose of establishing State Teaching Fel-
5 lows Programs to provide scholarships for Teaching
6 Fellows. Such scholarships shall be used to pay for
7 higher education tuition, fees, and other costs of at-
8 tendance.

9 “(2) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—Teaching Fel-
10 lows shall be selected from individuals who—

11 “(A) at the time of application, are high
12 school seniors or in their second year of a pro-
13 gram of undergraduate education;

14 “(B) are United States citizens or legal
15 aliens;

16 “(C) are residents of the State sponsoring
17 the Fellows Program to which they are apply-
18 ing; and

19 “(D) meet the criteria established under
20 subsection (d)(1)(B).

21 “(c) COMPETITION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—

22 “(1) STATE APPLICATION TO PROGRAM.—The
23 governor of each State desiring to participate in the
24 Partnership Program shall designate a single State
25 agency to submit an application to the Secretary and

1 to administer the State Fellows Program. Such
2 agency shall have a full-time staff and may be a di-
3 vision of the State’s education department, a coordi-
4 nating or governing board of higher education, an
5 independent government agency, or a non-profit or-
6 ganization. Any such application shall be submitted
7 to the Secretary at such time, and contain such in-
8 formation, as the Secretary shall require.

9 “(2) COMPETITIVE SELECTION.—From the ap-
10 plications submitted by State agencies, the Secretary
11 shall approve those applications that the Secretary
12 determines to be the most promising in carrying out
13 the purposes of the Fellows Program. Each State
14 whose application is selected by the Secretary to par-
15 ticipate in the Fellows Program shall receive funds
16 to offer scholarships in an amount determined by
17 the Secretary in light of the amount of the total ap-
18 propriation for the Fellows Program, the relative
19 size of the State’s student population, and the fund-
20 ing necessary to administer a viable State Fellows
21 Program. Such funds shall go to the State agency
22 designated in subsection (c)(1).

23 “(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE RECEIPT OF FED-
24 ERAL FUNDS.—Each State participating in the Fellows
25 Program shall—

1 “(1) provide information and assurances—

2 “(A) identifying the institutions of higher
3 education within the State, either private or
4 public, that will participate in the Fellows Pro-
5 gram;

6 “(B) establishing specific, rigorous criteria
7 to be used in selecting Teaching Fellows;

8 “(C) providing that the State will offer no
9 less than \$6,500 per year in scholarships to
10 each Fellow, which shall be available—

11 “(i) for each of 4 years of under-
12 graduate education, in the case of a Fellow
13 who, at the time of application, was a high
14 school senior;

15 “(ii) for the third and fourth year of
16 undergraduate education, in the case of a
17 Fellow who, at the time of application, was
18 in his or her second year of undergraduate
19 education; and

20 “(iii) for a fifth year of undergraduate
21 education if such year is required in order
22 to obtain a bachelor’s degree with a State
23 license or certificate to teach;

24 “(D) providing that each participating in-
25 stitution will provide a full-time faculty member

1 or administrator to serve as the Fellows Pro-
2 gram director and to work closely with the
3 State agency to administer the campus program
4 and create and execute the extra-curricular en-
5 richment programs;

6 “(E) describing mandatory extra-curricular
7 enrichment programs and activities as part of
8 the State’s Fellows Program that—

9 “(i) are designed to motivate students
10 to become career educators;

11 “(ii) provide Teaching Fellows with a
12 multidisciplinary education;

13 “(iii) are offered regularly during each
14 year of schooling (including during inter-
15 vals between periods of enrollment); and

16 “(iv) expose Fellows to the State’s
17 business, political, demographic, cultural,
18 and economic climate and help Fellows de-
19 velop leadership qualities; and

20 “(F) establishing procedures for the dis-
21 tribution of scholarships and administration of
22 service obligation oversight;

23 “(2) provide an assurance that the State agency
24 and participating institutions shall, collectively,
25 match the Federal funds provided under this section

1 by providing at least 25 percent of the total cost of
2 the Fellows Program;

3 “(3) use funds received under this section only
4 to supplement the amount of funds that would, in
5 the absence of such Federal funds, be made avail-
6 able from non-Federal sources for the purposes of
7 this section, and not to supplant such funds; and

8 “(4) provide an assurance that Teaching Fel-
9 lows fulfill their teaching commitments at United
10 States public schools within that State only.

11 “(e) CONVERSION TO LOAN.—

12 “(1) OBLIGATION TO REPAY.—The Fellows
13 Program shall require that a Teaching Fellow agree
14 to repay a pro rata amount, as determined by the
15 State agency, of the scholarship received from the
16 Fellows Program, and to pay interest on such pro
17 rata amount at an annual rate of 10 percent until
18 such pro rata amount is repaid, if the recipient fails
19 to comply with one of the following:

20 “(A) Within 7 years after graduation the
21 recipient of the scholarship teaches for 4 years
22 at a public school.

23 “(B) Within 7 years after graduation the
24 recipient teaches for 3 consecutive years, unless
25 the recipient takes an approved leave of ab-

1 sence, at a public school that at the time the re-
2 cipient accepts employment is a low-performing
3 school, as defined by State educational agency
4 or the Secretary of Education.

5 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
6 apply if the State agency finds that it is impossible
7 for the recipient to teach for 4 years, within 7 years
8 after the recipient graduates, at a public school be-
9 cause of the death or permanent disability of the re-
10 cipient.

11 “(f) REVOLVING FUNDING.—Any funds repaid by a
12 Teaching Fellow pursuant to subsection (e), together with
13 any interest thereon, may be retained by the State agency
14 for making available additional scholarships under this
15 section, and for paying costs related to the disbursement
16 of awards and the collection of payments under subsection
17 (e).

18 “(g) FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
19 to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2002
20 and such sums as may be necessary for the 4 succeeding
21 fiscal years.

22 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

23 “(1) FELLOWS PROGRAM.—The term ‘Fellows
24 Program’ means the program established under this
25 section.

1 “(2) TEACHING FELLOWS.—The term ‘Teach-
2 ing Fellow’ means an individual selected for an
3 award of financial assistance under this section.

4 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ includes the
5 several States, the District of Columbia, and the
6 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

7 “(4) STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘State agency’
8 means the agency designated pursuant to subsection
9 (c)(1).

10 **“SEC. 212. TEACHING FELLOWS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.**

11 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-
12 courage members of the education community, such as
13 teaching assistants and other school employees who are
14 not yet certified teachers, to obtain a degree in education.

15 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PARTNERSHIP FELLOWS
16 PROGRAM.—

17 “(1) USE OF FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—
18 From the funds appropriated under subsection (h),
19 the Secretary shall make grants available to States
20 for the purpose of establishing Partnership Pro-
21 grams between associate-degree-granting institutions
22 and bachelor-degree-granting institutions.

23 “(2) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—Partnership
24 Fellows shall be selected from individuals who—

1 “(A) are United States citizens or legal
2 aliens;

3 “(B) are residents of the State sponsoring
4 the partnership program to which they are ap-
5 plying; and

6 “(C) meet the criteria established under
7 subsection (e)(1).

8 “(c) COMPETITION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS.—

9 “(1) STATE REVIEW AND SUBMISSION.—The
10 governor of each State desiring to participate in the
11 Partnership Program shall designate a single State
12 education department, a coordinating or governing
13 board of higher education, or other agency—

14 “(A) to receive and review partnership pro-
15 posals from associate-degree-granting institu-
16 tions and bachelor-degree-granting institutions
17 within the State;

18 “(B) to determine which proposals delin-
19 eate Partnership Programs to be created be-
20 tween associate-degree-granting institutions and
21 bachelor-degree-granting institutions that are
22 the most promising in carrying out the pur-
23 poses of this section;

24 “(C) to submit the partnership proposals
25 that are approved by the State agency to the

1 Secretary for competitive selection in the form
2 of one single partnership proposal application;
3 and

4 “(D) to administer the funds available
5 under this section.

6 “(2) COMPETITIVE SELECTION.—From the
7 partnership proposal applications submitted by State
8 agencies under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
9 select for funding under this section those applica-
10 tions that the Secretary determines to be the most
11 promising in carrying out the purposes of the Part-
12 nership Program. The Secretary shall distribute the
13 awards for each selected application to the State
14 agency that submitted the application.

15 “(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE RECEIPT OF FED-
16 ERAL FUNDS.—A State agency that submits a partnership
17 proposal application to the Secretary under subsection (c)
18 shall provide to the Secretary such information and assur-
19 ances as the Secretary may require to demonstrate that
20 the State will comply with the following requirements:

21 “(1) Any State whose partnership proposal ap-
22 plication is selected to receive Federal funds as au-
23 thorized by this section shall match the Federal
24 funding by providing at least 25 percent of the total
25 cost of the Partnership Program or Programs.

1 “(2) The State agency may reserve up to 20
2 percent of its Federal funding to be used for admin-
3 istrative costs associated with the creation of articu-
4 lation agreements between one or more associate-de-
5 gree-granting institutions and one or more bachelor-
6 degree-granting institutions that detail the partner-
7 ship arrangement between the institutions. Such re-
8 served administrative funds shall be made available
9 to the Partnership institutions in order to support
10 curricula alignment between the associate-degree
11 granting institution’s and the bachelor-degree-grant-
12 ing institution’s requirements and to allow the Part-
13 nership institutions to sponsor extra-curricular ac-
14 tivities for its Fellows as specified in subsection
15 (e)(3).

16 “(3) The State agency shall be responsible for
17 determining how the funds provided under this sec-
18 tion are allocated among specific partnership pro-
19 posals or to administer the allocation of funds for an
20 approved state-wide Partnership Program.

21 “(4) The State agency shall be responsible for
22 assuring such funds are used to provide full-time
23 Partnership Fellows with scholarships of no less
24 than \$6,500 per year, which shall be available for
25 each of the four years of undergraduate education

1 remaining after the year of the Fellow's selection,
2 and for a fifth year of undergraduate education if
3 such year is required in order to obtain a bachelor's
4 degree with a State license or certificate to teach.
5 Partnership Fellows pursuing a part-time course
6 load, as defined by the institution attended, shall re-
7 ceive a pro rata scholarship over a period not to ex-
8 ceed six years. The annual scholarship amount shall
9 be a fraction of the full-time scholarship amount and
10 shall be reduced according to the number of credits
11 being pursued. Partnership Programs also may
12 make scholarship funds available during the period
13 of student teaching as prescribed by subsection
14 (e)(6).

15 “(5) The State agency will use funds received
16 under this section only to supplement the amount of
17 funds that would, in the absence of such Federal
18 funds, be made available from non-Federal sources
19 for the purposes of this section, and not to supplant
20 such funds.

21 “(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTNERSHIP PRO-
22 POSALS.—Each partnership proposal under this section
23 shall be submitted by one or more associate-degree-grant-
24 ing institutions and one or more bachelor-degree-granting
25 institutions and shall propose the establishment of a pro-

1 gram allowing individuals, such as those currently in the
2 education field, to complete a bachelor's degree with a
3 State license or certification to teach. Such proposals shall
4 include—

5 “(1) identification of specific, rigorous criteria
6 to be used in selecting Partnership Fellows, includ-
7 ing outstanding service to school-age children, a firm
8 commitment to the field of education, and aptitude
9 to succeed as a teacher;

10 “(2) designation of a full-time faculty member
11 or administrator to serve as the local or regional
12 Partnership Program director or coordinator and to
13 work closely with the State agency director to ad-
14 minister the program and create and execute the
15 extra-curricular enrichment programs;

16 “(3) mandatory extra-curricular enrichment
17 programs and activities as part of the State's Fel-
18 lows Program that—

19 “(A) are designed to motivate students to
20 become career educators;

21 “(B) provide Fellows with a multidisci-
22 plinary education;

23 “(C) are offered regularly during each year
24 of schooling (including during intervals between
25 periods of enrollment); and

1 “(D) expose Fellows to the State’s busi-
2 ness, political, demographic, cultural, and eco-
3 nomic climate and help Fellows develop leader-
4 ship qualities;

5 “(4) a specific description of how the proposed
6 Partnership Program will provide individuals in
7 rural or underserved communities access to the cur-
8 riculum and extracurricular opportunities created by
9 the Partnership Program;

10 “(5) a description of how the program will ac-
11 commodate Partnership Fellows who must maintain
12 employment while pursuing a degree, whether via
13 distance learning methods, evening and weekend
14 programs, minimum credit requirements, or other
15 programs;

16 “(6) a description of how the program will as-
17 sist Partnership Fellows in accordance with sub-
18 section (d)(4) during the period of student teaching
19 should they be otherwise financially unable to com-
20 plete such a requirement; and

21 “(7) an itemized account of how the funds will
22 be allocated to best achieve the goals of the Partner-
23 ship Program.

24 “(f) CONVERSION TO LOAN.—

1 “(1) OBLIGATION TO REPAY.—The Partnership
2 Program shall require that a Partnership Fellow
3 agree to repay a pro rata amount, as determined by
4 the State agency, of the scholarship received from
5 the Partnership Program, and to pay interest on
6 such pro rata amount at an annual rate of 10 per-
7 cent until such pro rata amount is repaid, if the re-
8 cipient fails to comply with one of the following:

9 “(A) Within 7 years after graduation the
10 recipient of the scholarship teaches for 4 years
11 at a public school.

12 “(B) Within 7 years after graduation the
13 recipient teaches for 3 consecutive years, unless
14 the recipient takes an approved leave of ab-
15 sence, at a public school that at the time the re-
16 cipient accepts employment is a low-performing
17 school, as defined by State educational agency
18 or the Secretary of Education.

19 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
20 apply if the State agency finds that it is impossible
21 for the recipient to teach for 4 years, within 7 years
22 after the recipient graduates, at a public school be-
23 cause of the death or permanent disability of the re-
24 cipient.

1 “(g) REVOLVING FUNDING.—Any funds repaid by a
2 Teaching Fellow pursuant to subsection (f), together with
3 any interest thereon, may be retained by the State agency
4 for making available additional scholarships under this
5 section, and for paying costs related to the disbursement
6 of awards and the collection of payments under subsection
7 (f).

8 “(h) FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
9 to carry out this section \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2002
10 and such sums as necessary for the 4 subsequent fiscal
11 years.

12 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

13 “(1) PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—the term ‘Part-
14 nership Program’ means the program established
15 under this section.

16 “(2) PARTNERSHIP FELLOWS.—The term
17 ‘Partnership Fellow’ means an individual selected
18 for an award of financial assistance under this sec-
19 tion.

20 “(3) STATE.—The term ‘State’ includes the
21 several States, the District of Columbia, and the
22 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

1 “(4) STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘State agency’
2 means the agency designated pursuant to subsection
3 (c)(1).”.

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