

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 297

To put teachers first by providing grants for master teacher programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8, 2001

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

A BILL

To put teachers first by providing grants for master teacher 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. MASTER TEACHER PROGRAMS.**

4 Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating part E as part F;

7 (2) by redesignating sections 2401 and 2402 as
8 sections 2501 and 2502, respectively; and

9 (3) by inserting after part D the following new
10 part:

1 **“PART E—MASTER TEACHER PROGRAMS**

2 **“SEC. 2401. MASTER TEACHER PROGRAMS.**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this part:

4 “(1) BOARD CERTIFIED.—The term ‘board cer-
5 tified’ means successful completion of all require-
6 ments to be certified by the National Board for Pro-
7 fessional Teaching Standards.

8 “(2) MASTER TEACHER.—The term ‘master
9 teacher’ means a teacher who is certified by the Na-
10 tional Board for Professional Teaching Standards
11 and has been teaching for not less than 3 years.

12 “(3) NOVICE TEACHER.—The term ‘novice
13 teacher’ means a teacher who has been teaching for
14 not more than 3 years at a public elementary school
15 or secondary school.

16 “(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

17 “(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary is authorized
18 to award grants on a competitive basis to local edu-
19 cational agencies to establish master teacher pro-
20 grams described in subsection (d).

21 “(2) DISTRIBUTION.—To the maximum extent
22 practicable, the Secretary shall award grants under
23 paragraph (1) so that such grants are distributed
24 among the local educational agencies with the high-
25 est concentration of teachers who are not certified or
26 licensed or are provisionally certified or licensed.

1 “(3) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant award-
2 ed under paragraph (1) shall be determined based
3 on—

4 “(A) the total amount appropriated for a
5 fiscal year under subsection (h); and

6 “(B) the extent of the concentration of
7 teachers who are not certified or licensed or are
8 provisionally certified or licensed in the local
9 educational agency involved.

10 “(c) DURATION.—A grant under this section shall be
11 awarded for a period of 5 years.

12 “(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The master teacher
13 programs described in this subsection shall provide fund-
14 ing assistance to teachers who seek to become board cer-
15 tified, including the provision of the board certification fee.

16 “(e) APPLICATIONS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency
18 desiring a grant under this section shall submit an
19 application to the Secretary at such time, in such
20 manner, and accompanied by such information as
21 the Secretary may reasonably require.

22 “(2) APPROVAL OF APPLICATION.—The Sec-
23 retary shall make a determination regarding an ap-
24 plication submitted under paragraph (1) based on a
25 recommendation of a peer review panel, as estab-

1 lished by the Secretary, and any other criteria that
2 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

3 “(f) PAYMENTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Grant payments shall be
5 made under this section on an annual basis.

6 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Each local edu-
7 cational agency that receives a grant under this sec-
8 tion shall use not more than 2 percent of the
9 amount awarded under the grant for administrative
10 costs.

11 “(3) DENIAL OF GRANT.—If the Secretary de-
12 termines that a local educational agency has failed
13 to make substantial progress during a fiscal year in
14 increasing the percentage of teachers who are board
15 certified, or in improving student achievement, such
16 an agency shall not be eligible for a grant payment
17 under this section in the next succeeding year.

18 “(g) REPORTS.—Not later than March 31, 2005, the
19 Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on
20 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and
21 the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the
22 House of Representatives a report of program activities
23 funded under this section.

24 “(h) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may
25 not award a grant to a local educational agency under this

1 section unless the local educational agency agrees that,
2 with respect to costs to be incurred by the agency in car-
3 rying out activities for which the grant was awarded, the
4 agency shall provide (directly or through donations from
5 public or private entities) non-Federal contributions in an
6 amount equal to 25 percent of the amount of the grant
7 awarded to the agency.

8 “(i) REPAYMENT OF FUNDS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any program
10 under this section in which assistance is provided to
11 a teacher to pay the National Board for Professional
12 Teaching Standard board certification fee to become
13 board certified, assistance may only be provided if
14 the teacher makes agreements as follows:

15 “(A) The teacher will enter and complete
16 the National Board for Professional Teaching
17 Standards board certification program to be-
18 come board certified.

19 “(B) After completion of such program
20 (whether or not successfully), the teacher will
21 teach in the public school system for a period
22 of not less than 2 years.

23 “(2) BREACH OF AGREEMENTS.—A teacher re-
24 ceiving assistance described in paragraph (1) is lia-
25 ble to the local educational agency that provides

1 such assistance for the amount of the certification
2 fee described in paragraph (1) if such teacher—

3 “(A) voluntarily withdraws or terminates
4 the certification program before taking the ex-
5 amination for board certification; or

6 “(B) is dismissed from the certification
7 program before taking such examination.

8 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
10 \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2002 through
11 2006.”.

○