

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1600

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to reserve funds to provide special training, technical assistance, and professional development to eligible entities implementing Even Start programs and to the staff of such programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California 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 reserve funds to provide special training, technical assistance, and professional development to eligible entities implementing Even Start programs and to the staff of such programs, 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 “Even Start Quality
5 Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESERVATION FOR SPECIAL TRAINING AND TECH-**
2 **NICAL ASSISTANCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1232(b) of Elementary
4 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 6381a(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(3) SPECIAL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL AS-
7 SISTANCE.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For the first fiscal
9 year after fiscal year 2003 for which the
10 amount appropriated under section 1002(b)(3)
11 exceeds the amount appropriated under such
12 section for the preceding fiscal year by
13 \$8,000,000 or more, the Secretary shall reserve
14 from such excess amount \$5,000,000. The Sec-
15 retary shall use such reserved amount to pro-
16 vide special training, technical assistance, and
17 professional development to eligible entities im-
18 plementing Even Start programs, and to the
19 staff of such programs, in order to improve the
20 quality of services for eligible participants, and
21 to assist personnel in meeting the professional
22 development requirements described in section
23 1235(5).

24 “(B) GRANT OR CONTRACT.—The Sec-
25 retary shall carry out subparagraph (A) by en-
26 tering into a grant or contract with not less

1 than 2 eligible organizations with experience
2 and expertise in the provision of training, tech-
3 nical assistance, and professional development
4 to family literacy providers, particularly eligible
5 organizations with experience in the provision of
6 such services to Even Start programs. Such en-
7 tities may include the National Even Start As-
8 sociation, the National Center for Family Lit-
9 eracy, and the William F. Goodling Institute for
10 Research in Family Literacy. In awarding
11 grants or contracts under this subparagraph,
12 the Secretary shall give priority to eligible orga-
13 nizations that work cooperatively with other eli-
14 gible organizations.

15 “(C) ACTIVITIES.—Activities carried out
16 with amounts reserved under this paragraph
17 shall include—

18 “(i) training and technical assistance;

19 “(ii) assistance to personnel in meet-
20 ing the professional development require-
21 ments described in section 1235(5); and

22 “(iii) training and the development of
23 materials to ensure that instructional pro-
24 grams are based on scientifically based
25 reading research.

1 “(D) IDENTIFICATION OF PROGRAMS.—
2 States shall identify, based on the indicators of
3 program quality developed by the State under
4 section 1240 and other information available to
5 the State, a list of the Even Start programs in
6 the State that are in need of training, technical
7 assistance, and professional development.

8 “(E) APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE.—
9 Even Start programs identified under subpara-
10 graph (D) may submit an application for assist-
11 ance under this paragraph to the Secretary.
12 Based on need and the quality of the applica-
13 tion, the Secretary shall select the programs to
14 be assisted and refer each approved application
15 to an eligible organization described in subpara-
16 graph (B) that has expertise and experience in
17 providing the type of assistance required by
18 such Even Start programs.

19 “(F) CONSULTATION.—In providing serv-
20 ices under this paragraph, eligible organizations
21 shall consult with the National Institute of
22 Child Health and Human Development and the
23 National Institute for Literacy for guidance in
24 identifying—

1 “(i) literacy and reading instructional
2 approaches and practices that are based on
3 scientifically based reading research; and
4 “(ii) best practices for serving adult
5 learners.”.

6 (b) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—Section
7 1232(e)(2) of Elementary and Secondary Education Act
8 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381a(e)(2)) is amended by inserting
9 “the National Even Start Association,” after “Center for
10 Family Literacy,”.

11 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF EVEN START PARTICIPANTS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall contract with
13 a qualified entity (such as a private organization, govern-
14 mental agency, or institution of higher education) with ex-
15 perience and expertise in family literacy services (as de-
16 fined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary
17 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) to conduct a
18 study of—

19 (1) children who participated in the program
20 known as the “William F. Goodling Even Start
21 Family Literacy Program” (authorized, on the date
22 of the enactment of this Act, under subpart 3 of
23 part B of title I of the Elementary and Secondary
24 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6381–6381k))
25 and are in the 3rd or 4th grade during the study;

1 (2) the parents of such children; and

2 (3) other adults who participated with such
3 children in such program.

4 (b) ASSESSING RESULTS OF CHILDREN'S PARTICIPA-
5 TION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The study shall assess the
7 impact of participation by such children in such pro-
8 gram with respect to—

9 (A) whether or not such children are read-
10 ing on grade level and otherwise performing on
11 a level equal to or better than their peers;

12 (B) school attendance; and

13 (C) whether or not such children have been
14 retained for more than 1 year in any grade and
15 the reasons for such retention, if applicable.

16 (2) PARENTAL CONSENT.—The consent of a
17 child's parent (as defined in section 9101 of the Ele-
18 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
19 U.S.C. 7801)) shall be obtained prior to commencing
20 any effort to obtain data under paragraph (1) with
21 respect to the child.

22 (c) ASSESSING RESULTS OF ADULTS' PARTICIPA-
23 TION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The study shall also assess
25 the long-term impact of participation by parents (or

1 other adults) in such program, through methods
2 such as—

3 (A) personal interviews; and

4 (B) testing of such individuals for retained
5 or improved literacy skills (but only in cases in
6 which there are baseline test results for an indi-
7 vidual available for comparison that were ob-
8 tained just prior to the individual's commencing
9 or ceasing participation in such program).

10 (2) INFORMATION INCLUDED.—The study shall
11 gather information regarding adult participants' cur-
12 rent educational and employment endeavors and the
13 perceived impact of participation in such program on
14 the adult's ability to participate in their child's edu-
15 cation.

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