

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6011

To authorize the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Labor to make grants to advance treatment, education, and employment programs for youth with serious mental, psychological, behavioral, and emotional difficulties, so that they may obtain professional assistance necessary in order to be successful in their lives and contribute to the economy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2006

Mr. OSBORNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Labor to make grants to advance treatment, education, and employment programs for youth with serious mental, psychological, behavioral, and emotional difficulties, so that they may obtain professional assistance necessary in order to be successful in their lives and contribute to the economy, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Coordinated Youth
3 Education, Employment Training, and Residential Treat-
4 ment Act of 2006”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The United States Surgeon General has re-
8 ported that serious mental, psychological, behavioral,
9 and emotional difficulties affect 1 in 5 United States
10 youth. Moreover, according to the National Institute
11 of Mental Health, no other illnesses affect so many
12 youths so seriously.

13 (2) Youth who suffer from serious mental, psy-
14 chological, behavioral, and emotional difficulties, in-
15 cluding youth who have been abused and neglected,
16 require specialized treatment and care in order to
17 live successful lives, benefit from education and em-
18 ployment training, and avoid delinquent, criminal, or
19 antisocial behaviors. However, there are an insuffi-
20 cient number of effective treatment programs for
21 these youth.

22 (3) As a consequence of the unavailability of
23 appropriate treatment options, youth throughout the
24 country with serious mental, psychological, behav-
25 ioral, and emotional difficulties remain in juvenile
26 detention facilities and jails for long periods waiting

1 for treatment. These youth are in jeopardy of wors-
2 ening mental and psychological disorders as a con-
3 sequence of their confinement. Moreover, even
4 though such confinement often provides no profes-
5 sional, clinically supervised treatment, confinement
6 is the most expensive placement for troubled youth
7 short of hospitalization.

8 (4) Many youth entering residential treatment
9 programs for the first time have already experienced
10 the trauma of multiple placement disruptions and
11 failures in alternative levels of care. Requiring mul-
12 tiple placements prior to residential treatment is
13 predictive of poor outcomes, future disruptions, and
14 problems affecting a youth's educational, emotional,
15 and social growth.

16 (5) Residential treatment programs for youth
17 with serious mental, psychological, behavioral, and
18 emotional difficulties, operated by professionally
19 trained and supervised personnel, provides for a car-
20 ing, therapeutic, and cost effective approach that
21 serves the best interests of the youth. Residential
22 treatment programs are integral components of com-
23 prehensive systems of care promoting responsibility
24 and accountability and providing 24-hour care with
25 professional counseling, therapy, specialized edu-

1 cation, and/or employment training under the super-
2 vision of highly trained staff.

3 (6) Residential treatment programs operated by
4 Boys and Girls Home and Family Services, Inc. pro-
5 vide effective therapeutic and educational programs
6 for youth suffering from serious mental, psycho-
7 logical, behavioral, and emotional problems that neg-
8 atively affect their education and employability. Boys
9 and Girls Home and Family Services, Inc.'s mission
10 of improving the lives of youth and families includes
11 providing youth with professional treatment and spe-
12 cialized education and training so that youth can re-
13 turn to their communities, and avoiding long term
14 institutionalization while holding youth responsible
15 and accountable. Such residential treatment pro-
16 grams offer the potential to help numerous youth
17 throughout the country.

18 (7) Lesser levels of care for youth with serious
19 mental, psychological, behavioral, and emotional
20 problems who require residential treatment can re-
21 sult in multiple failed placements until the proper
22 level of advanced treatment is provided. It is esti-
23 mated that more than one-third of first-time en-
24 trants into residential treatment programs have had

1 11 or more prior placements, with almost 40 percent
2 coming from locked placements.

3 (8) Since its founding in 1892, Boys and Girls
4 Home and Family Services, Inc. has proven to be a
5 trusted and successful provider of a full spectrum of
6 services for youth and families, in collaboration with
7 Federal, State, and local agencies, courts, schools,
8 law enforcement, employment training agencies and
9 employers, faith-based groups, and other community
10 based organizations. A not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) or-
11 ganization, Boys and Girls Home and Family Serv-
12 ices, Inc. has unique experience in operating small,
13 medium, and large facilities and programs to serve
14 youth and families, particularly in rural areas. The
15 organization has demonstrated how to maximize cost
16 efficiencies, and to pass those cost savings on to
17 other providers so as to sustain the viability of col-
18 laborative services. The capability of Boys and Girls
19 Home and Family Services, Inc. to sustain the high-
20 est level of youth services, residential treatment, pro-
21 vides a solid foundation for all lesser levels of care
22 for youth.

23 (9) The lengthy detention and excessive, mul-
24 tiple placement of youth with serious mental, psy-
25 chological, behavioral, and emotional difficulties who

1 are waiting for treatment is a serious problem for
2 the Nation. The costs to society of detention and ex-
3 cessive, multiple placement of youth in need of resi-
4 dential treatment are exorbitant. Efficient and expe-
5 rienced residential treatment programs are needed to
6 offer effective treatment, education, and training op-
7 portunities for youth, with the hope that they may
8 one day be reintegrated into their communities.

9 (10) Boys and Girls Home and Family Serv-
10 ices, Inc., offering services nationwide, is a leading
11 children, youth, and family service agency. The
12 agency has a national reputation for excellence and
13 unique capabilities and experiences that assist com-
14 munities in designing and operating residential
15 treatment programs to serve youth with serious
16 mental, psychological, behavioral, and emotional dif-
17 ficulties. With adequate funding from the public and
18 private sectors, Boys and Girls Home and Family
19 Services, Inc. can assist other agencies and commu-
20 nities in implementing residential treatment pro-
21 grams to offer treatment, specialized education and
22 training, and hope for youth. The result will be an
23 improved ability for youth with serious mental, psy-
24 chological, behavioral, and emotional difficulties to
25 obtain education and employment training in order

1 to lead fulfilling lives and contribute to society and
2 the economy.

3 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
4 lows:

5 (1) To further the important objective of pro-
6 viding exceptional services for youth with serious
7 mental, psychological, behavioral, and emotional dif-
8 ficulties, through residential treatment programs,
9 specialized education and employment training, and
10 other appropriate levels of treatment, so that these
11 youth may become productive citizens to ensure a
12 bright future for themselves and their families.

13 (2) To assist Boys and Girls Home and Family
14 Services, Inc. with the costs of establishing excep-
15 tional residential treatment and specialized edu-
16 cation and employment training programs to address
17 the needs of youth with serious mental, psycho-
18 logical, behavioral, and emotional difficulties, their
19 families and communities.

20 **SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS HOME AND FAM-**
21 **ILY SERVICES, INC.**

22 (a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—Using such funds as
23 may be appropriated pursuant to the authorization of ap-
24 propriations in subsection (c), the Secretary of Education
25 and the Secretary of Labor shall make grants to Boys and

1 Girls Home and Family Services, Inc., to assist with the
2 costs of establishing programs and facilities for residential
3 treatment, specialized education, and employment training
4 and other appropriate levels of service to youth with seri-
5 ous mental, psychological, behavioral, and emotional prob-
6 lems, their families, and communities.

7 (b) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—To receive grants
8 under subsection (a), Boys and Girls Home and Family
9 Services, Inc. shall submit to either the Secretary of Edu-
10 cation or the Secretary of Labor, or to both Secretaries,
11 a proposal for the use of the grant funds, which shall re-
12 late to establishing programs for residential treatment,
13 specialized education, and employment training and other
14 appropriate levels of service to youth who suffer from emo-
15 tional and behavioral difficulties, their families, and com-
16 munities, with the objective of improving the lives of
17 youth, their families, and communities.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Edu-
20 cation and the Secretary of Labor \$15,000,000 to make
21 grants under this section. Amounts so appropriated shall
22 remain available until expended.

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