

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5524

AN ACT

To amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to
authorize appropriations, 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 “Reconnecting Home-
3 less Youth Act of 2008”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Section 302 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 5701) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and
8 (5) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively, and

9 (2) inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

10 “(3) services to such young people should be de-
11 veloped and provided using a positive youth develop-
12 ment approach that ensures the young person a
13 sense of—

14 “(A) safety and structure;

15 “(B) belonging and membership;

16 “(C) self-worth and social contribution;

17 “(D) independence and control over one’s
18 life; and

19 “(E) closeness in interpersonal relation-
20 ships;”.

21 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.**

22 Section 311 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
23 (42 U.S.C. 5711) is amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)(2)(B)(i) by inserting be-
25 fore the semicolon the following:

1 “provided for a continuous period not to
2 exceed 15 days, except that such shelter
3 may be provided for a continuous period
4 not to exceed 21 days if the State where
5 the center is located has an applicable
6 State or local law or regulation that per-
7 mits a length of stay in excess of such 15
8 days in compliance with licensure require-
9 ments for child and youth serving facili-
10 ties”,

11 (2) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) by striking “The” and inserting
14 “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph
15 (B) and to the extent that sufficient funds
16 are available, the”,

17 (ii) by striking “\$100,000” and in-
18 sserting “\$150,000”,

19 (iii) by striking “\$45,000” and insert-
20 ing “\$70,000”, and

21 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(B) For fiscal years 2009 and 2010, the
24 amount allotted under paragraph (1) with respect to
25 a State for a fiscal year shall be not less than the

1 amount allotted with respect to such State for fiscal
2 year 2008.”,

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
4 paragraph (4), and

5 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
6 following:

7 “(3) Whenever the Secretary determines that
8 any part of the amount allotted under paragraph (1)
9 with respect to a State will not be obligated before
10 the end of the fiscal year, the Secretary shall reallocate
11 such part under paragraph (1) with respect to the
12 remaining States for obligation for such fiscal
13 year.”.

14 **SEC. 4. BASIC CENTER GRANT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.**

15 Section 312(b) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 5712(b)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (11) by striking “and” at the
18 end,

19 (2) in paragraph (12) by striking the period at
20 the end and inserting “; and”, and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(13) shall develop an adequate emergency pre-
23 paredness and management plan.”.

1 **SEC. 5. TRANSITIONAL LIVING GRANT PROGRAM ELIGI-**
2 **BILITY.**

3 Section 322(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 2714-2(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) by striking “indirectly” the 1st place it
7 appears and inserting “by contract”, and

8 (B) by striking “and services” and insert-
9 ing “, and to provide, directly or indirectly,
10 services”,

11 (2) in paragraph (2)—

12 (A) by striking “except that a youth” and
13 inserting the following:

14 “except that in the case of—

15 “(i) a youth”,

16 (B) by inserting “such youth may” after
17 “program,”, and

18 (C) by striking “period;” and inserting the
19 following:

20 “period; and

21 “(ii) a program that is located in a
22 State that has an applicable State or local
23 law or regulation that permits a length of
24 stay in excess of such 540-day period in
25 compliance with licensure requirements for
26 child and youth serving facilities, a youth

1 may remain in such program throughout a
2 continuous period not to exceed 635
3 days;”,

4 (3) in paragraph (14) by striking “and” at the
5 end,

6 (4) in paragraph (15) by striking the period at
7 the end and inserting “; and”, and

8 (5) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(16) to develop an adequate emergency pre-
10 paredness and management plan.”.

11 **SEC. 6. RESEARCH, EVALUATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND**
12 **SERVICE PROJECTS.**

13 Section 343 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 5714-23) is amended—

15 (1) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

17 (1)—

18 (i) by striking “special consideration”
19 and inserting “priority”, and

20 (ii) by striking “relating to” and in-
21 serting “focused on”,

22 (B) in paragraph (8)—

23 (i) by inserting “quality” after “ac-
24 cess to”,

1 (ii) by striking “mental” and inserting
2 “behavioral”, and

3 (iii) by striking “and” at the end,

4 (C) in paragraph (9) by striking the period
5 at the end and inserting the following:

6 “, including educational and workforce programs
7 with outcomes such as decreasing the secondary
8 school drop-out rate, increasing diploma or equiva-
9 lent attainment rates, or increasing placement and
10 retention in postsecondary education or advanced
11 workforce training; or”, and

12 (D) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(10) programs, including innovative programs,
14 that assist youth in obtaining and maintaining safe
15 and stable housing, and may include programs with
16 supportive services that continue after program com-
17 pletion.”, and

18 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
19 lows:

20 “(c) In selecting among applicants for grants under
21 subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

22 “(1) give priority to applicants who have experi-
23 ence working with runaway youth or homeless youth;
24 and

25 “(2) ensure that the applicants selected—

1 “(A) are geographically representative of
2 different regions of the United States; and

3 “(B) carry out projects that serve diverse
4 populations of runaway or homeless youth.”.

5 **SEC. 7. ESTIMATE OF INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF**
6 **YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.**

7 Part D of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42
8 U.S.C. 5714-21–5714-24) is amended by adding at the
9 end the following:

10 **“SEC. 345. PERIODIC ESTIMATE OF INCIDENCE AND PREVA-**
11 **LENCE OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.**

12 “(a) PERIODIC ESTIMATE.—Not later than 2 years
13 after the effective date of this section, and at 5-year inter-
14 vals thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the
15 United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, shall
16 prepare and submit to the Committee on Education and
17 Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee
18 on Judiciary of the Senate, and make public, a report—

19 “(1) by using the best quantitative and quali-
20 tative social science research method available, con-
21 taining an estimate of the incidence and prevalence
22 of runaway and homeless individuals who are less
23 than 26 years of age and not less than 13 years of
24 age; and

1 “(2) that includes with such estimate an assess-
2 ment of the characteristics of such individuals.

3 “(b) CONTENT.—The report required by subsection
4 (a) shall include—

5 “(1) the results of conducting a survey of, and
6 direct interviews with, a representative sample of
7 runaway and homeless individuals who are less than
8 26 years of age and not less than 13 years of age,
9 to determine past and current—

10 “(A) socioeconomic characteristics of such
11 individuals;

12 “(B) barriers to such individuals obtain-
13 ing—

14 “(i) safe, quality, and affordable hous-
15 ing;

16 “(ii) comprehensive and affordable
17 health insurance and health services; and

18 “(iii) incomes, public benefits, sup-
19 portive services, and connections to caring
20 adults; and

21 “(C) such other information that the Sec-
22 retary determines, in consultation with States,
23 units of local government, and national non-
24 governmental organizations concerned with
25 homelessness, may be useful.

1 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—If the Secretary enters into
 2 any contract with a non-Federal entity for purposes of car-
 3 rying out subsection (a), such entity shall be a nongovern-
 4 mental organization, or an individual, determined by the
 5 Secretary to have appropriate expertise in quantitative
 6 and qualitative social science research.”.

7 **SEC. 8. SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM.**

8 Section 351(b) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth
 9 Act (42 U.S.C. 5714–41(b)) is amended by inserting
 10 “public and” after “priority to”.

11 **SEC. 9. NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS CAM-**
 12 **PAIGN.**

13 The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C.
 14 5701 et seq.) is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating part F as part G, and

16 (2) by inserting after part E the following:

17 **“PART F—NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH**
 18 **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

19 **“SEC. 361. NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS CAM-**
 20 **PAIGN.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, directly or
 22 through grants or contracts, conduct a national homeless
 23 youth awareness campaign (referred to in this section as
 24 the ‘national awareness campaign’) in accordance with
 25 this section for purposes of—

1 “(1) increasing awareness of individuals of all
2 ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and geographic lo-
3 cations, of the issues facing runaway and homeless
4 youth, the resources available for these youth, and
5 the tools available for the prevention of youth run-
6 away and homeless situations; and

7 “(2) encouraging parents, guardians, educators,
8 health care professionals, social service professionals,
9 law enforcement officials, and other community
10 members to seek to prevent runaway youth and
11 youth homelessness by assisting youth in averting or
12 resolving runaway and homeless situations.

13 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to carry
14 out this section for the national awareness campaign may
15 be used only for the following:

16 “(1) The dissemination of educational informa-
17 tion and materials through various media, including
18 television, radio, the Internet and related tech-
19 nologies, and emerging technologies.

20 “(2) Partnerships, including outreach activities,
21 with national organizations concerned with youth
22 homelessness, community-based youth service orga-
23 nizations (including faith-based organizations), and
24 government organizations related to the national
25 awareness campaign.

1 “(3) In accordance with applicable laws and
2 regulations, the development and placement of public
3 service announcements in telecommunications media,
4 including the Internet and related technologies and
5 emerging technologies, that educate the public on
6 the issues facing runaway and homeless youth (or
7 youth considering running away) and on the oppor-
8 tunities that adults have to assist such youth.

9 “(4) Evaluation of the effectiveness of the na-
10 tional awareness campaign.

11 “(c) PROHIBITIONS.—None of the funds made avail-
12 able under subsection (b) may be obligated or expended
13 for any of the following:

14 “(1) To supplant pro bono public service time
15 donated by national or local broadcasting networks,
16 advertising agencies, production companies, or other
17 pro bono work for the national awareness campaign.

18 “(2) For partisan political purposes, or express
19 advocacy in support of or to defeat any clearly iden-
20 tified candidate, clearly identified ballot initiative, or
21 clearly identified legislative or regulatory proposal.

22 “(3) To fund advertising that features any
23 elected officials, persons seeking elected office, cabi-
24 net level officials, or other Federal employees em-
25 ployed in positions in schedule C of part 213 of title

1 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations (January 1,
2 2008), as amended from time to time.

3 “(4) To fund advertising that does not contain
4 a primary message intended to educate the public on
5 the issues facing runaway and homeless youth (or
6 youth considering running away) or on the opportu-
7 nities for adults to help such youth.

8 “(5) To fund advertising that solicits contribu-
9 tions to support the national awareness campaign.

10 “(d) FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE ACCOUNT-
11 ABILITY.—The Secretary shall perform—

12 “(1) audits and reviews of costs of the national
13 awareness campaign pursuant to section 304C of the
14 Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of
15 1949 (41 U.S.C. 254d); and

16 “(2) an audit to determine whether the costs of
17 the national awareness campaign are allowable
18 under section 306 of such Act (41 U.S.C. 256).

19 “(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in each
20 report submitted under section 382 a summary of the na-
21 tional awareness campaign that describes—

22 “(1) the activities undertaken by the national
23 awareness campaign;

24 “(2) steps taken to ensure that the national
25 awareness campaign operates in an effective and ef-

1 ficient manner consistent with the overall strategy
2 and focus of the national awareness campaign; and
3 “(3) each grant made to, or contract entered
4 into with, a particular corporation, partnership, or
5 individual working on the national awareness cam-
6 paign.”.

7 **SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

8 Section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 5732a) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (3)(A)—

11 (A) in clause (i)—

12 (i) by striking “not more than” each
13 place it appears and inserting “less than”,
14 and

15 (ii) by inserting after “age” the last
16 place it appears the following:

17 “, or until attaining a higher maximum
18 age if the State where the center is located
19 has an applicable State or local law or reg-
20 ulation that permits such higher maximum
21 age in compliance with licensure require-
22 ments for child and youth serving facili-
23 ties”, and

24 (B) in clause (ii) by striking “age;” and in-
25 serting the following:

1 “age and either—
2 “(I) less than 22 years of age; or
3 “(II) an age exceeding 22 years
4 of age as of the expiration of the max-
5 imum period of stay permitted under
6 section 322(a)(2)(ii) if such individual
7 commences such stay before attaining
8 22 years of age;”, and

9 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
10 (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8), respectively.

11 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12 Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth
13 Act (42 U.S.C. 5751(a)) is amended—

14 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
15 lows:

16 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to
17 be appropriated to carry out this title (other than
18 parts E and F, and section 345) \$150,000,000 for
19 fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary
20 for fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.”,

21 (2) by amending paragraph (4) to read as fol-
22 lows:

23 “(4) PART E.—There are authorized to be ap-
24 propriated to carry out part E \$30,000,000 for fis-

1 cal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary
2 for fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.”, and

3 (3) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(5) PART F.—There is authorized to be appro-
5 priated to carry out part F \$3,000,000 for each of
6 the fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.

7 “(6) SECTION 345.—There are authorized to be
8 appropriated to carry out section 345 such sums as
9 may be necessary for fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011,
10 2012, and 2013.”.

11 **SEC. 12. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

12 The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C.
13 5701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
14 lowing:

15 **“SEC. 390. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.**

16 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PERFORMANCE STAND-
17 ARDS.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of
18 this section, the Secretary shall establish by rule perform-
19 ance standards applicable to public and nonprofit private
20 entities and agencies that receive grants under sections
21 311, 321, and 351.

22 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE STAND-
23 ARDS.—The Secretary shall integrate performance stand-
24 ards established under subsection (a) into the Secretary’s

1 processes for grant-making, monitoring, and evaluation
2 for programs under sections 311, 321, and 351.

3 “(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult
4 with representatives of public and private entities and
5 agencies that receive grants under this title, statewide and
6 regional nonprofit organizations (and combinations of
7 such organizations) that receive grants under this title,
8 and national nonprofit organizations concerned with youth
9 homelessness in developing the performance standards re-
10 quired by subsection (a).

11 “(d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall pro-
12 vide an opportunity for public comment concerning the es-
13 tablishment of the performance standards required by sub-
14 section (a) before issuing rules to establish such stand-
15 ards, and shall maintain an official record of such public
16 comment.”.

17 **SEC. 13. GAO STUDY AND REPORT.**

18 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General shall conduct
19 a study of, and make findings and recommendations relat-
20 ing to, the process for making grants under parts A, B,
21 and E of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, with re-
22 spect to—

23 (1) the written responses made by the Secretary
24 of Health and Human Services to (and any other
25 methods for communicating with) grant applicants

1 who are do not receive a grant under part A, B, or
2 E of such Act, to determine if the information pro-
3 vided in such responses to such applicants is con-
4 veyed clearly,

5 (2) the structure of the grant application and
6 associated documents (including announcements that
7 grants are available under such parts), to determine
8 if such application is structured so that the appli-
9 cant has a clear understanding of what is required
10 in each provision to successfully complete the appli-
11 cation, including a clear explanation of terminology
12 required to be used by the applicant throughout the
13 document,

14 (3) the peer review process (if any) used to re-
15 view grant applications (including the selection of
16 peer reviewers) and the oversight of the peer review
17 process by employees of the Department of Health
18 and Human Services, as well as the extent to which
19 such employees make funding determinations based
20 on the comments and scores of the individuals who
21 perform peer reviews,

22 (4) the typical time frame and the process used
23 by such employees, including employee responsibil-
24 ities, for responding to applicants and the efforts
25 taken to communicate with applicants when there is

1 a delay of decisions on applications or when funds
2 to carry out this title are not appropriated before
3 the beginning of the then current fiscal year, and

4 (5) the plans for and implementation of, where
5 practicable, the new training and technical assist-
6 ance programs and their effect on the grant applica-
7 tion process.

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
9 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
10 submit a report to the Committee on Education and Labor
11 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
12 Judiciary of the Senate, containing a summary of the re-
13 sults of the study conducted under subsection (a), together
14 with the findings and recommendations made by the
15 Comptroller General based on such results.

Passed the House of Representatives June 9, 2008.

Attest:

Clerk.

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