

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 963

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to educational organizations to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2007

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

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to educational organizations to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust.

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 “Simon Wiesenthal Hol-
5 ocaust Education Assistance Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following
8 findings:

9 (1) The Holocaust was an historical event that
10 resulted in the systemic, state-sponsored mass mur-

1 ders by Nazi Germany of approximately 6,000,000
2 Jews, along with millions of others, in the name of
3 racial purity.

4 (2) Six States (California, Florida, Illinois,
5 Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York) now
6 mandate that the Holocaust be taught in the edu-
7 cational curriculum, 11 States (Connecticut, Geor-
8 gia, Indiana, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Penn-
9 sylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and
10 Washington) recommend teaching the Holocaust but
11 do not provide sufficient funds to assist in the train-
12 ing and educating of teachers, and 3 States (Ala-
13 bama, Mississippi, and West Virginia) have estab-
14 lished councils or commissions that promote Holo-
15 caust education.

16 (3) The Holocaust is a sensitive and difficult
17 issue about which to teach, and to do so effectively,
18 educators need appropriate teaching tools and train-
19 ing to increase their knowledge to enhance the edu-
20 cational experience.

21 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are the fol-
22 lowing:

23 (1) To educate Americans so that they can—
24 (A) explore the lessons that the Holocaust
25 provides for all people; and

1 (B) be less susceptible to the falsehood of
2 Holocaust denial and to the destructive mes-
3 sages of hate that arise from Holocaust denial.

4 (2) To provide resources and support for edu-
5 cation programs that—

6 (A) portray accurate historical information
7 about the Holocaust;

8 (B) sensitize communities to the cir-
9 cumstances that gave rise to the Holocaust;

10 (C) convey the lessons that the Holocaust
11 provides for all people; and

12 (D) by developing curriculum guides and
13 providing training, help teachers incorporate
14 into their mainstream disciplines the study of
15 the Holocaust and its lessons.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**

17 From any amounts made available to carry out this
18 Act, the Secretary may make grants under this Act to edu-
19 cational organizations to carry out proposed or existing
20 Holocaust education programs.

21 **SEC. 4. USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—An educational organization re-
23 ceiving grant amounts under this Act shall use such grant
24 amounts only to carry out the Holocaust education pro-
25 gram for which the grant amounts were provided.

1 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—An educational organization
2 receiving grant amounts under this Act shall comply with
3 the following requirements:

4 (1) CONTINUATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—The edu-
5 cational organization shall, throughout the period
6 that the educational organization receives and uses
7 such grant amounts, continue to be an educational
8 organization.

9 (2) SUPPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING FUNDS.—
10 The educational organization shall ensure that such
11 grant amounts are used to supplement, and not sup-
12 plant, non-Federal funds that would otherwise be
13 available to the educational organization to carry out
14 the Holocaust education program for which the
15 grant amounts were provided.

16 (c) ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may
17 require additional terms and conditions in connection with
18 the use of grant amounts provided under this Act as the
19 Secretary considers appropriate.

20 **SEC. 5. SELECTION CRITERIA.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grant
22 amounts under this Act in accordance with competitive
23 criteria to be established by the Secretary.

24 (b) CONSULTATION WITH HOLOCAUST EDU-
25 CATORS.—In establishing the competitive criteria under

1 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with a variety
2 of individuals, to be determined by the Secretary, who are
3 prominent educators in the field of Holocaust education.

4 **SEC. 6. APPLICATION.**

5 The Secretary may award grant amounts under this
6 Act only to an educational organization that has submitted
7 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
8 ner, and containing such information as the Secretary may
9 require.

10 **SEC. 7. REVIEW AND SANCTIONS.**

11 (a) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall review at
12 least annually each educational organization receiving
13 grant amounts under this Act to determine the extent to
14 which the educational organization has complied with the
15 provisions of this Act.

16 (b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The Secretary may
17 impose sanctions on an educational organization for any
18 failure of the educational organization to comply substan-
19 tially with the provisions of this Act. The Secretary shall
20 establish the sanctions to be imposed for a failure to com-
21 ply substantially with the provisions of this Act.

22 **SEC. 8. ANNUAL REPORT.**

23 Not later than February 1 of each year, the Secretary
24 shall submit to the Senate and House of Representatives
25 a report describing the activities carried out under this

1 Act and containing any related information that the Sec-
2 retary considers appropriate.

3 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

4 For purposes of this Act, the following definitions
5 shall apply:

6 (1) **EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term
7 “educational organization” means an entity—

8 (A) described in section 501(c)(3) of the
9 Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

10 (B) exempt from tax under section 501(a)
11 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

12 (C) organized and operated for cultural,
13 literary, or educational purposes.

14 (2) **HOLOCAUST EDUCATION PROGRAM.**—The
15 term “Holocaust education program” means a pro-
16 gram that—

17 (A) has as its specific and primary purpose
18 to improve awareness and understanding of the
19 Holocaust; and

20 (B) to achieve such purpose, furnishes one
21 or more of the following:

22 (i) Classes, seminars, or conferences.

23 (ii) Educational materials.

24 (iii) Teacher training.

1 (iv) Any other good or service de-
2 signed to improve awareness and under-
3 standing of the Holocaust.

4 (3) HOLOCAUST.—The term “Holocaust”
5 means the historical event that resulted in the sys-
6 temic, state-sponsored mass murders by Nazi Ger-
7 many of approximately 6,000,000 Jews, along with
8 millions of others, in the name of racial purity.

9 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Education.

11 **SEC. 10. REGULATIONS.**

12 The Secretary shall issue any regulations necessary
13 to carry out this Act.

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

15 For grants under this Act, there is authorized to be
16 appropriated to the Secretary \$2,000,000 each fiscal year
17 for five fiscal years, beginning with the first fiscal year
18 to commence after the date of enactment of this Act, to
19 remain available until expended.

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