

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1794

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for innovative teacher retention programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 2011

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, and Mr. WATT) 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 provide grants for innovative teacher retention 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Keep Teachers Teach-
5 ing Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The United States faces an increasing need
2 for high-quality educators.

3 (2) Approximately one-third of teachers leave
4 the profession within 5 years of being hired because
5 of poor working conditions, low pay, low morale, or
6 lack of a pathway for professional advancement. In
7 some schools, the five-year attrition rate reaches 50
8 percent.

9 (3) Effective teacher retention programs to ad-
10 dress this problem are already at work in school dis-
11 tricts around the country, and many more innovative
12 programs could be advanced if additional resources
13 were available.

14 (4) Efforts to address the teacher shortage de-
15 mands a national strategy to support the develop-
16 ment and implementation of innovative teacher re-
17 tention programs.

18 (5) The Department of Education can play an
19 important role in facilitating the identification of the
20 most promising teacher retention approaches and
21 disseminating information about them to States and
22 local educational agencies.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE TEACHER RETENTION**
2 **PROGRAMS.**

3 Section 2151 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6651) is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following:

6 “(g) **TEACHER RETENTION ACTIVITIES.**—

7 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall estab-
8 lish and carry out a teacher retention program to as-
9 sist State educational agencies and local educational
10 agencies in developing and implementing innovative
11 teacher retention programs. The program shall sup-
12 port the development of model programs and best
13 practices in retaining quality teachers in the class-
14 room and shall facilitate the dissemination of inno-
15 vative teacher retention programs to local edu-
16 cational agencies throughout the United States.

17 “(2) **GRANTS.**—The Secretary shall carry out
18 paragraph (1) by making grants to eligible entities
19 to develop and implement innovative teacher reten-
20 tion programs, including activities such as—

21 “(A) professional development programs;

22 “(B) teacher mentoring programs;

23 “(C) advanced certification or advanced
24 credentialing;

25 “(D) research, travel, or fellowship oppor-
26 tunities; and

1 “(E) pairing of teachers with professionals
2 in research or industry.

3 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this subsection,
4 the term ‘eligible entity’ includes—

5 “(A) local educational agencies;

6 “(B) State educational agencies; and

7 “(C) partnerships of local educational
8 agencies, nonprofit organizations, and institu-
9 tions of higher education.

10 “(4) GRANT TERMS.—Grants under this sub-
11 section shall be awarded for periods of not more
12 than 5 years and on a competitive basis. Grants
13 awarded under this subsection may be renewed.

14 “(5) SECRETARY’S DUTY TO IDENTIFY MOST
15 PROMISING TEACHER RETENTION APPROACHES.—

16 The Secretary shall identify the most promising
17 teacher retention approaches, including those al-
18 ready working and those developed through grants
19 funded under this subsection, and disseminate infor-
20 mation about those approaches to States and local
21 educational agencies around the country. The Sec-
22 retary shall transmit to the Committee on Education
23 and the Workforce of the House of Representatives
24 and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
25 and Pensions of the Senate, not later than 9 months

1 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
2 and annually thereafter, a report that describes the
3 methodology by which the most promising teacher
4 retention programs are identified and the Sec-
5 retary's efforts to disseminate information regarding
6 such programs to State departments of education
7 and local educational agencies throughout the
8 United States.”.

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