

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 683

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to authorize the Secretary of Labor to provide grants to the National Urban League for an Urban Jobs Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2011

Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. RANGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to authorize the Secretary of Labor to provide grants to the National Urban League for an Urban Jobs Program, 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 “Urban Jobs Act of
5 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

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

1 (1) One-third of minority youth are unem-
2 ployed.

3 (2) The labor force participation rate for per-
4 sons without a high school diploma is 20 percentage
5 points lower than the labor force participation rate
6 for high school graduates.

7 (3) Nationally, approximately 70 percent of all
8 students graduate from high school, but African-
9 American and Hispanic students have a 55 percent
10 or less chance of graduating from high school.

11 (4) High school dropouts from the class of
12 2004 will cost the Nation more than \$325 billion in
13 lost wages, taxes, and productivity over their life-
14 times.

15 (5) Only 52 percent of students in the 50 larg-
16 est cities in the United States graduate from high
17 school. That rate is below the national high school
18 graduation rate of 70 percent, and also falls short
19 of the 60 percent average for urban districts across
20 the Nation.

21 (6) Over his or her lifetime, a high school drop-
22 out earns, on average, about \$260,000 less than a
23 high school graduate, and about \$1 million less than
24 a college graduate.

1 (7) Approximately 75 percent of State prison
2 inmates and 59 percent of Federal prison inmates
3 have not completed high school. Increasing the high
4 school completion rate by 1 percent for all men ages
5 20 to 60 would save the United States \$1.4 billion
6 annually in reduced costs associated with crime.

7 (8) According to a recent study, a 10-percent
8 increase in the male high school graduation rate
9 would reduce arrest rates for murder and assault by
10 about 20 percent, motor vehicle theft by 13 percent,
11 and arson by 8 percent.

12 (9) The National Urban League is a historic
13 civil rights organization dedicated to economic em-
14 powerment in order to elevate the standard of living
15 in historically underserved urban communities.
16 Founded in 1910 and headquartered in New York
17 City, the National Urban League spearheads the ef-
18 forts of its local affiliates through the development
19 of programs, public policy research, and advocacy.

20 (10) There are more than 100 local affiliates of
21 the National Urban League located in 36 States and
22 the District of Columbia, providing direct services
23 that impact and improve the lives of more than 2
24 million people nationwide. Local National Urban
25 League affiliates operate programs that focus on

1 education, job training and placement, housing, busi-
2 ness development, and many other important initia-
3 tives.

4 (11) The National Urban League has a history
5 of success in implementing national programs
6 through its local affiliate network. From 2007 to
7 2010, 27 local National Urban League affiliates
8 served at-risk young adults by providing job skills
9 training, community service opportunities, and em-
10 ployment for over 3,500 young adults ages 18 to 24.

11 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to pro-
12 vide adequate resources for the National Urban League
13 (acting through local National Urban League affiliates) to
14 reduce the disproportionate incarceration of minority
15 youth and to prepare eligible young adults for entry into
16 the world of work by providing a comprehensive set of
17 services that includes job training, education, and support
18 services.

19 **SEC. 3. URBAN JOBS PROGRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title I of the Work-
21 force Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2911 et seq.)
22 is amended—

23 (1) by redesignating section 174 as section 175;

24 (2) in section 173, by striking “174” each place
25 it appears and inserting “175”; and

1 (3) by inserting after section 173A the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **“SEC. 174. URBAN JOBS PROGRAM.**

4 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor
6 may make grants to the National Urban League for
7 the purpose of operating an Urban Jobs Program
8 through local National Urban League affiliates.

9 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds from a grant
10 made under paragraph (1) shall be used by the Na-
11 tional Urban League to provide a comprehensive set
12 of services and activities for eligible young adults, to
13 be implemented by local National Urban League af-
14 filiates. Services and activities eligible for assistance
15 include the following:

16 “(A) Case management services to help
17 program participants effectively use the activi-
18 ties and services offered under the program.

19 “(B) Educational offerings, including skill
20 assessment, reading and math remediation,
21 educational enrichment, General Education De-
22 velopment credential preparation, and post-sec-
23 ondary education.

24 “(C) Employment and job readiness activi-
25 ties, including mentoring, placement in commu-

1 nity service opportunities, internships, on-the-
2 job training, occupational skills training, job
3 placement in unsubsidized jobs, and personal
4 development.

5 “(D) Support services, including health
6 and nutrition referral, housing assistance, train-
7 ing in interpersonal and basic living skills,
8 transportation, child care, clothing, and other
9 assistance as needed.

10 “(3) REPORT.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than May 1
12 of each fiscal year for which amounts are made
13 available to carry out this section, the Secretary
14 shall submit to Congress a report regarding—

15 “(i) the progress made under this sec-
16 tion by the National Urban League and
17 local National Urban League affiliates in
18 implementing the program; and

19 “(ii) the effectiveness of the program
20 in improving General Educational Develop-
21 ment credential attainment and job place-
22 ment in unsubsidized jobs for program
23 participants.

1 “(B) INAPPLICABILITY OF SECTION 172.—

2 The program shall not be subject to evaluations
3 required under section 172.

4 “(b) NATIONAL JOBS COUNCIL ADVISORY COM-
5 MITTEE.—

6 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
7 tablish a committee to be known as the National
8 Jobs Council Advisory Committee.

9 “(2) DUTIES.—The committee shall advise the
10 Secretary concerning—

11 “(A) the design and operation of the pro-
12 gram;

13 “(B) long-term strategic priorities for the
14 program; and

15 “(C) the formulation and application of
16 guidelines related to activities carried out under
17 the program.

18 “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The committee shall be
19 comprised of 11 members, to be appointed by the
20 Secretary as follows:

21 “(A) Three individuals from the private
22 sector who are senior human resources or diver-
23 sity executives with national or regional respon-
24 sibilities and experience in oversight that in-

1 includes hiring, employee training, or employee
2 relations.

3 “(B) Five representatives of employers in
4 high-impact, high-growth industries, as defined
5 by the Secretary.

6 “(C) One National Urban League Work-
7 force Development staff member.

8 “(D) Two representatives from the Depart-
9 ment of Labor.

10 “(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING LOCAL ADVI-
11 SORY COMMITTEES.—It is the sense of Congress that a
12 local National Urban League affiliate receiving funding
13 under this section should establish a local jobs council ad-
14 visory committee, the membership of which should include
15 representatives from not fewer than 5 employers from
16 high-growth industries in the locality, to aid in estab-
17 lishing support from the local community for and guiding
18 the local implementation of the program.

19 “(d) FUNDING.—

20 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this section—

23 “(A) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

24 “(B) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2013;

25 “(C) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;

1 “(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;

2 and

3 “(E) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.

4 “(2) LIMITATION.—Not more than 2 percent of
5 funds appropriated for any fiscal year under para-
6 graph (1) may be used for expenses associated with
7 carrying out the requirements of subsection (b).

8 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE YOUNG ADULTS.—The term ‘eli-
10 gible young adults’ means individuals ages 18 to 24
11 who—

12 “(A) are not enrolled in secondary or post-
13 secondary school; or

14 “(B) are or have been subject to any stage
15 of the criminal justice process.

16 “(2) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means
17 the Urban Jobs Program established under sub-
18 section (a).

19 “(3) UNSUBSIDIZED JOB.—The term ‘unsub-
20 sidized job’ means employment for which the wages
21 are provided by an employer that does not receive
22 public funds for the creation and maintenance of the
23 employment position.”.

24 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
25 tents contained in section 1(b) of such Act is amended—

1 (1) by inserting a period at the end of the item
2 relating to section 173A; and

3 (2) by striking the item relating to section 174
4 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 174. Urban jobs program.

“Sec. 175. Authorization of appropriations.”.

