

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 547

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish an award program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2011

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish an award program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

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 “The Annual National
5 Classified School Employee of the Year Award Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Classified school employees provide valuable
2 service to public schools in the United States.

3 (2) Classified school employees provide essential
4 services, such as transportation, facilities maintenance and operations, food service, safety, and
5 health care.
6

7 (3) Classified school employees play a vital role
8 in providing for the welfare and safety of students.

9 (4) Classified school employees strive for excellence in all areas of service to the education community.
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12 (5) Exemplary classified school employees
13 should be recognized for their outstanding contributions to quality education in the United States.
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15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) **CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE.**—The term
18 “classified school employee” means a public employee of a State or of any political subdivision of a
19 State, who works in any grade from prekindergarten
20 State, who works in any grade from prekindergarten
21 through higher education in any of the following 9
22 occupational specialties:

23 (A) Paraprofessional services.

24 (B) Clerical and administrative services.

25 (C) Transportation services.

1 (D) Food and nutrition services.

2 (E) Custodial and maintenance services.

3 (F) Security services.

4 (G) Health and student services.

5 (H) Technical services.

6 (I) Skilled trades.

7 (2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in
8 this Act have the meaning given the terms in section
9 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
10 Act 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

11 **SEC. 4. RECOGNITION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall
13 establish a national recognition program to be known as
14 the “National Classified School Employee of the Year
15 Award program”. The purpose of the program shall be
16 to recognize and promote the commitment and excellence
17 exhibited by classified school employees in public schools
18 who provide exemplary service to students in pre-kinder-
19 garten through higher education.

20 (b) AWARD.—Prior to March 31 of each year (begin-
21 ning with the second calendar year that begins after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act), the National Classified
23 School Employee Award program shall recommend to the
24 Secretary a classified school employee to receive the Na-
25 tional Classified School Employee Award for the year.

1 (c) SELECTION PROCESS.—

2 (1) NOMINATION PROCESS.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Novem-
4 ber 1 of each year (beginning with the first cal-
5 endar year that begins after the date of the en-
6 actment of this Act), the Secretary shall solicit
7 nominations of classified school employees in
8 public schools from the occupational specialties
9 described in section 3(1) from the chief State
10 school officer of each State.

11 (B) NOMINATION SUBMISSIONS.—In order
12 for individuals in a State to be eligible to re-
13 ceive recognition under this section, the chief
14 State school officer of the State shall consider
15 nominations submitted by the following:

16 (i) Local educational agencies.

17 (ii) School administrators.

18 (iii) Professional associations.

19 (iv) Labor organizations.

20 (v) Educational service agencies.

21 (vi) Any other group determined ap-
22 propriate by the National Classified School
23 Employee Award program.

24 (2) DEMONSTRATION.—Each chief State school
25 officer of a State who desires individuals in the

1 State to receive recognition under this section shall
2 submit the nominations described in paragraph (1)
3 to the Secretary in such manner as may be required
4 by the National Classified School Employee Award
5 program. Each such nomination shall contain, at a
6 minimum, demonstrations of excellence in the fol-
7 lowing areas:

8 (A) Work performance.

9 (B) School and community involvement.

10 (C) Leadership and commitment.

11 (D) Local support.

12 (E) Enhancement of classified school em-
13 ployees' image in the community and schools.

14 (F) Any other area of superior perform-
15 ance, such as health and safety promotion or ef-
16 ficient use of energy or other resources.

17 (3) SELECTION.—The National Classified
18 School Employee Award program shall develop uni-
19 form national guidelines for evaluating nominations
20 submitted under paragraph (2) in order to select the
21 most deserving nominees based on the demonstra-
22 tions made in the areas described in such paragraph.

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