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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award institutions of higher education grants for teaching English learners.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LANGEVIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to award institutions of higher education grants for teaching English learners.

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 “Reaching English
5 Learners Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TEACHING ENGLISH LEARNERS GRANT.**

2 Part B of title II of the Higher Education Act of
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.) is amended by adding at
4 the end the following:

5 **“Subpart 6—Teaching English Learners Grant**

6 **“SEC. 259. TEACHING ENGLISH LEARNERS GRANT.**

7 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
8 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible part-
9 nerships to improve the preparation of teacher candidates
10 to ensure that such teacher candidates possess the knowl-
11 edge and skills necessary to effectively instruct English
12 learners.

13 “(b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—A grant under this
14 section shall be awarded for a period of not more than
15 5 years.

16 “(c) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—An eligible partnership
17 that receives a grant under this section shall provide not
18 less than 25 percent of the cost of the activities carried
19 out with such grant from non-Federal sources, which may
20 be provided in cash or in kind.

21 “(d) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership that
22 receives a grant under this section shall use the grant to—

23 “(1) develop or strengthen an undergraduate,
24 postbaccalaureate, or master’s teacher preparation
25 program by integrating strategies for teaching

1 English learners into the education curriculum and
2 academic content;

3 “(2) provide teacher candidates participating in
4 a program under paragraph (1) with skills related
5 to—

6 “(A) helping English learners—

7 “(i) achieve at high levels in pre-
8 kindergarten programs, and elementary
9 schools and secondary schools so such
10 English learners can meet the challenging
11 State academic standards adopted under
12 section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and
13 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
14 U.S.C. 6311(b)(1)) by the State of the
15 school attended by the English learners,
16 which all children in the State are expected
17 to meet; and

18 “(ii) attain English proficiency;

19 “(B) appropriately identifying and meeting
20 the specific learning needs of children with dis-
21 abilities who are English learners;

22 “(C) recognizing and addressing the social
23 and emotional needs of English learners; and

1 “(D) promoting parental, family, and com-
2 munity engagement in educational programs
3 that serve English learners;

4 “(3) provide work-based learning opportunities
5 for teacher candidates participating in the program;
6 and

7 “(4) provide teacher candidates with the re-
8 quired coursework to qualify for an English-as-a sec-
9 ond-language endorsement or initial teaching creden-
10 tial, as recognized by the State of the eligible part-
11 nership.

12 “(e) APPLICATION.—An eligible partnership seeking
13 a grant under this section shall submit an application to
14 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
15 taining such information as the Secretary may require.
16 Such application shall include—

17 “(1) a self-assessment by the eligible partner-
18 ship of the existing teacher preparation program at
19 the institution of higher education and the needs re-
20 lated to preparing teacher candidates to instruct
21 English learners in the manner described in sub-
22 section (d)(2); and

23 “(2) a self-assessment by the eligible partner-
24 ship of the personnel needs for teachers who instruct
25 English learners at local, public prekindergarten

1 programs, and elementary schools and secondary
2 schools.

3 “(f) EVALUATIONS.—

4 “(1) REPORT FROM ELIGIBLE PARTNER-
5 SHIPS.—An eligible partnership receiving a grant
6 under this section shall submit to the Secretary the
7 results of an evaluation conducted by the partner-
8 ship at the end of the grant period to determine—

9 “(A) the effectiveness of teachers who com-
10 pleted a program under subsection (d)(1) with
11 respect to instruction of English learners; and

12 “(B) the systemic impact of the activities
13 carried out by such grant on how such partner-
14 ship prepares teachers to provide instruction in
15 prekindergarten programs, and elementary
16 schools and secondary schools.

17 “(2) REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY.—Not
18 later than 180 days after the last day of the grant
19 period under this section, the Secretary shall make
20 available to the authorizing committees and the pub-
21 lic—

22 “(A) the findings of the evaluations sub-
23 mitted under paragraph (1); and

24 “(B) information on best practices related
25 to effective instruction of English learners.

1 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 “(1) CHILD WITH A DISABILITY.—The term
3 ‘child with a disability’ has the meaning given the
4 term in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabil-
5 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

6 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-
7 CATION.—The term ‘eligible institution of higher
8 education’ means an institution of higher education
9 that has a program of study—

10 “(A) that leads to an undergraduate de-
11 gree, a master’s degree, or completion of a
12 postbaccalaureate program required for teacher
13 certification; and

14 “(B) the graduates of which meet the ap-
15 plicable State certification and licensure re-
16 quirements, including any requirements for cer-
17 tification obtained through alternative routes to
18 certification.

19 “(3) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘eligi-
20 ble partnership’ means an eligible institution of
21 higher education in partnership with a high-need
22 local educational agency.

23 “(4) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term ‘English
24 learner’ has the meaning given the term in section

1 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
2 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

3 “(5) WORK-BASED LEARNING.—The term
4 ‘work-based learning’ means learning involving sus-
5 tained interactions with teachers and English learn-
6 ers at public prekindergarten programs, or elemen-
7 tary schools or secondary schools, to the extent prac-
8 ticable, or simulated environments at the eligible in-
9 stitution of higher education involved, that foster in-
10 depth, first-hand engagement with tasks required of
11 a teacher providing instruction to English learners.”.