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CHAIRMAN ADAM PUTNAM WASHINGTON D.C. 226-2302

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H.R. 362 - 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million Minds Science and Math Scholarship Act

Floor Situation

H.R. 362 is being considered on the floor under a structured rule that provides for one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Science and Technology.

The Rule:

- Provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read.

- Makes in order 1 additional amendment and waives all points of order against the bill except for clauses 9 (earmarks) and 10 (PAYGO) under Rule XXI. Both amendments are debatable for 10 minutes.

- Waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, the amendments that were made in order and the amendment in the nature of a substitute, except for clauses 9 (earmarks) and 10 (PAYGO) under of Rule XXI.

This legislation was introduced by Representative Bart Gordon (D-TN) on January 10, 2007 and was ordered reported from the Committee on Science on April 16, 2007.

**Note: Ranking Member Representative Ralph Hall (R-TX) is an original co-sponsor of this legislation.*

H.R. 362 is expected to be considered on the floor on April 24, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 362 seeks to increase the quantity and quality of math and science teachers in America. The legislation increases the number and amount of grants available to teachers and students who purse continued education in the fields of science and engineering.

The legislation also increases grants within the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program, which is a program administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The scholarship program provides financial aid to students in return for their commitment to

teach for 2 years after college for each year of scholarship awarded. This bill increases the grants received from the program to $10,000, where as previously the amount was $7,500.

It establishes a national review board to examine the teaching materials currently in use in elementary, middle, and high schools to see if the material can be improved.

The Director of NSF will establish a research pilot program called "Partnerships for Access to Laboratory Science". The purpose of this program will be to award grants to partnerships to enhance math and science programs at secondary schools by improving the lab experience for students, through equipment purchases and upgrades and teacher training and development on the use of lab equipment and lab experiments.

Additional grants are made available for Master's programs as well as teacher training for teachers in advance placement fields. The grants will be a minimum of $75,000 with $2 million being the cap for each fiscal year. They will be administered through the NSF.

The legislation also expands the NSF's science, technology, engineering and math Talent Expansion Program (STEP). This program offers grants to institutions of higher education to increase the number of undergraduate students that complete programs in science, technology, engineering or math fields. Grant funding may be used to promote research, interdisciplinary teaching, and other activities such as internships, student advising, and community college bridge programs.

Background

A number of recent reports from various agencies including the National Defense Education and Innovation Initiative, the Council on Competitiveness and The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm", have all come to the conclusion that American students are falling behind in the areas of math, science, technology and engineering. This legislation seeks to remedy the situation by expanding grant programs in these identified fields. It also seeks to hire more teachers each year in the areas of math and science.

Many students have mentioned that due a lack of proper teaching at the elementary levels they chose not to pursue the fields of math and science. It is hoped that by keeping and training better educators in these fields more students will want to attend college in the areas of science, technology or math.

Amendments

Gordon (D-TN) Manager's Amendment. The amendment establishes an additional type of award under NSF's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program to recruit and train science, math and engineering professionals who are interested in becoming science or math teachers. These awards will be made available to schools that opt to work with the private sector, as well as state or local governments to recruit these individuals. In

order to receive the grant, the partnership requesting the grant must provide salary to the graduates of the program during their time teaching. These funds cannot come from a governmental source.

Gordon (D-TN) The amendment requires NSF, to be sure that the recipients are from a variety of types of academic institutions, including Minority Serving Institutions. Additionally it requires a list to kept of high-need schools so the candidates that receive grants can see where they are needed most, before making a decision on where they want to teach.

Cost

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has estimated H.R. 362 would cost $898 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized or estimated to be necessary. H.R. 362 would authorize the appropriation of about $1.5 billion for several new and existing programs within the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy.

Staff Contact

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