

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2212

To support the establishment and operation of Teachers Professional  
Development Institutes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 19, 2007

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. DODD) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-  
cation, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To support the establishment and operation of Teachers  
Professional Development Institutes.

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. TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN-**  
4       **STITUTES.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title II of the Elemen-  
6       tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
7       6601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
8       lowing:

1     **“Subpart 6—Teachers Professional Development**  
 2                                   **Institutes**

3     **“SEC. 2161. SHORT TITLE.**

4             “This subpart may be cited as the ‘Teachers Profes-  
 5     sional Development Institutes Act’.

6     **“SEC. 2162. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7             “(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress makes the following  
 8     findings:

9                 “(1) Teaching is central to the educational  
 10     process and the ongoing professional development of  
 11     teachers in the subjects they teach is essential for  
 12     improved student learning.

13                “(2) Attaining the goal of the No Child Left  
 14     Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–110)—having  
 15     a classroom teacher who is highly qualified in every  
 16     academic subject the teacher teaches—will require  
 17     innovative and effective approaches to improving the  
 18     quality of teaching.

19                “(3) The Teachers Institute Model focuses on  
 20     the continuing academic preparation of school-  
 21     teachers and the application of what they study to  
 22     their classrooms and potentially to the classrooms of  
 23     other teachers.

24                “(4) The Teachers Institute Model was devel-  
 25     oped initially by the Yale-New Haven Teachers In-

1       stitute and has successfully operated there for 30  
2       years.

3               “(5) The Teachers Institute Model has also  
4       been successfully demonstrated over a 3-year period  
5       in a national demonstration project in cities larger  
6       than New Haven.

7       “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subpart is to  
8       provide Federal assistance to support the establishment  
9       and operation of Teachers Institutes for local educational  
10      agencies that serve significant low-income student popu-  
11      lations in States throughout the Nation—

12              “(1) to improve student learning; and

13              “(2) to enhance the quality of teaching and  
14      strengthen the subject matter mastery and the peda-  
15      gogical skills of current teachers through continuing  
16      teacher preparation.

17   **“SEC. 2163. DEFINITIONS.**

18       “In this subpart:

19              “(1) SIGNIFICANT LOW-INCOME POPULATION.—

20      The term ‘significant low-income population’ means  
21      a population of which not less than 25 percent of the  
22      individuals included are from families with incomes  
23      below the poverty line, as determined by the Sec-  
24      retary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory  
25      data.

1           “(2) TEACHERS INSTITUTE.—The term ‘Teach-  
 2       ers Institute’ means a partnership or joint venture  
 3       between 1 or more institutions of higher education,  
 4       and 1 or more local educational agencies with sig-  
 5       nificant low-income populations, that is entered into  
 6       for the purpose of improving the quality of teaching  
 7       and learning through collaborative seminars de-  
 8       signed to enhance both the subject matter and the  
 9       pedagogical resources of the seminar participants.

10 **“SEC. 2164. AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.**

11       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized—

12           “(1) to award grants to encourage the estab-  
 13       lishment and operation of Teachers Institutes; and

14           “(2) to provide technical assistance, either di-  
 15       rectly or through the Yale-New Haven Teachers In-  
 16       stitute, to assist local educational agencies and insti-  
 17       tutions of higher education in preparing to establish  
 18       and in operating Teachers Institutes.

19       “(b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting Teachers  
 20       Institutes for grants under this subpart, the Secretary  
 21       shall consider—

22           “(1) the extent to which the proposed Institute  
 23       will serve a community or communities that have a  
 24       significant low-income population;

1           “(2) the extent to which the proposed Institute  
2 will follow the understandings and necessary proce-  
3 dures that have been developed following the Na-  
4 tional Demonstration Project, as described in section  
5 2166;

6           “(3) the extent to which the local educational  
7 agency has a high percentage of teachers who are  
8 unprepared or underprepared to teach the core aca-  
9 demic subjects they are assigned to teach; and

10           “(4) the extent to which the proposed Teachers  
11 Institute will receive a level of support from the  
12 community and other sources that will ensure the  
13 requisite long-term commitment for the success of a  
14 Teachers Institute.

15           “(c) CONSULTATION.—

16           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating applications  
17 under subsection (b), the Secretary may request the  
18 advice and assistance of the Yale-New Haven Teach-  
19 ers Institute or other Teachers Institutes.

20           “(2) STATE AGENCIES.—If the Secretary re-  
21 ceives 2 or more applications from local educational  
22 agencies within the same State, the Secretary shall  
23 consult with the State educational agency regarding  
24 the applications.

1       “(d) FISCAL AGENT.—For the purpose of this sub-  
2 part, an institution of higher education participating in  
3 a Teachers Professional Development Institute shall serve  
4 as the fiscal agent for the receipt of grant funds under  
5 this subpart.

6       “(e) LIMITATIONS.—A grant under this subpart—

7               “(1) shall provide grant funds for a period not  
8 to exceed 5 years; and

9               “(2) shall not exceed 50 percent of the total  
10 costs of the eligible activities, as determined by the  
11 Secretary.

12 **“SEC. 2165. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.**

13       “(a) IN GENERAL.—Grant funds under this subpart  
14 may be used—

15               “(1) for the planning and development of pro-  
16 posals for the establishment of Teachers Institutes;

17               “(2) for additional assistance to the Teachers  
18 Institutes established during the National Dem-  
19 onstration Project for their further development and  
20 for their support of the planning and development of  
21 proposals under paragraph (1);

22               “(3) for the salary and necessary expenses of a  
23 full-time director to plan and manage the Teachers  
24 Institute and to act as liaison between the local edu-  
25 cational agency or agencies and the institution or in-

stitutions of higher education participating in the  
Institute;

“(4) to provide suitable office space, staff,  
equipment, and supplies, and to pay other operating  
expenses, for the Teachers Institute;

“(5) to provide a stipend for teachers partici-  
pating in collaborative seminars in the sciences and  
humanities and to provide remuneration for mem-  
bers of the faculty of the participating institution of  
higher education leading the seminars; and

“(6) to provide for the dissemination through  
print and electronic means of curriculum units pre-  
pared in the seminars conducted by the Teachers In-  
stitute.

“(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may  
use not more than 50 percent of the funds appropriated  
to carry out this subpart to provide technical assistance  
to facilitate the establishment and operation of Teachers  
Institutes. For the purpose of this subsection, the Sec-  
retary may contract with the Yale-New Haven Teachers  
Institute to provide all or a part of the technical assistance  
under this subsection.

1 **“SEC. 2166. UNDERSTANDINGS AND PROCEDURES.**

2 “A Teachers Institute funded under this subpart  
3 shall abide by the following understandings and proce-  
4 dures:

5 “(1) PARTNERSHIP.—The essential relationship  
6 of a Teachers Institute is a partnership between a  
7 local educational agency and an institution of higher  
8 education. A grantee shall demonstrate a long-term  
9 commitment on behalf of the participating local edu-  
10 cational agency and an institution of higher edu-  
11 cation to the support, including the financial sup-  
12 port, of the work of the Teachers Institute.

13 “(2) SEMINARS.—A Teachers Institute spon-  
14 sors seminars led by faculty of the institution of  
15 higher education partner and attended by teachers  
16 from the local educational agency partner. A grantee  
17 shall provide participating teachers the ability to  
18 play an essential role in planning, organizing, con-  
19 ducting, and evaluating the seminars and in encour-  
20 aging the future participation of other teachers.

21 “(3) CURRICULUM UNIT.—The seminar uses a  
22 collaborative process, in a collegial environment, to  
23 develop a curriculum unit for use by participating  
24 teachers that sets forth the subject matter to be pre-  
25 sented and the pedagogical strategies to be em-  
26 ployed. A grantee shall enable participating teachers



1 to develop a curriculum unit, based on the subject  
 2 matter presented, for use in their classrooms.

3 “(4) ELIGIBILITY AND REMUNERATION.—Semi-  
 4 nars are open to all partnership teachers with teach-  
 5 ing assignments relevant to the seminar topics. Sem-  
 6 inar leaders receive remuneration for their work and  
 7 participating teachers receive an honorarium or sti-  
 8 pend upon the successful completion of the seminar.  
 9 A grantee shall provide seminar leaders and partici-  
 10 pating teachers remuneration to allow them to par-  
 11 ticipate in the Institute.

12 “(5) DIRECTION.—The operations of a Teach-  
 13 ers Institute are managed by a full-time director  
 14 who reports to both partners but is accountable to  
 15 the institution of higher education partner. A grant-  
 16 ee shall appoint a director to manage and coordinate  
 17 the work of the Institute.

18 “(6) EVALUATION.—A grantee shall annually  
 19 review the activities of the Institute and disseminate  
 20 the results to members of the Institute’s partnership  
 21 community.

22 **“SEC. 2167. APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND AGREEMENT.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this  
 24 subpart, a Teachers Institute shall submit an application  
 25 to the Secretary that—

1 “(1) meets the requirement of this subpart and  
2 any regulations under this subpart;

3 “(2) includes a description of how the Teachers  
4 Institute intends to use funds provided under the  
5 grant;

6 “(3) includes such information as the Secretary  
7 may require to apply the criteria described in section  
8 2164(b);

9 “(4) includes measurable objectives for the use  
10 of the funds provided under the grant; and

11 “(5) contains such other information and assur-  
12 ances as the Secretary may require.

13 “(b) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—

14 “(1) promptly evaluate an application received  
15 for a grant under this subpart; and

16 “(2) notify the applicant within 90 days of the  
17 receipt of a completed application of the Secretary’s  
18 determination.

19 “(c) AGREEMENT.—Upon approval of an application,  
20 the Secretary and the applicant shall enter into a com-  
21 prehensive agreement covering the entire period of the  
22 grant.

23 **“SEC. 2168. REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.**

24 “(a) REPORT.—Each Teachers Institute receiving a  
25 grant under this subpart shall report annually to the Sec-

1   retary on the progress of the Institute in achieving the  
2   purpose of this subpart.

3       “(b) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The Sec-  
4   retary shall evaluate the activities funded under this sub-  
5   part and submit an annual report regarding the activities  
6   assisted under this subpart to the Committee on Health,  
7   Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the  
8   Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Rep-  
9   resentatives. The Secretary shall broadly disseminate suc-  
10   cessful practices developed by Teachers Institutes.

11       “(c) REVOCATION.—If the Secretary determines that  
12   a Teachers Institute is not making substantial progress  
13   in meeting the purposes of the grant by the end of the  
14   second year of the grant under this subpart, the Secretary  
15   may take appropriate action, including revocation of fur-  
16   ther payments under the grant, to ensure that the funds  
17   available under this subpart are used in the most effective  
18   manner.

19   **“SEC. 2169. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20       “There are authorized to be appropriated for grants,  
21   including planning grants, and technical assistance under  
22   this subpart—

23               “(1) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

24               “(2) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

25               “(3) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

1 “(4) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

2 “(5) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.”.

3 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
 4 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
 5 U.S.C. 6301 note) is amended by inserting after the item  
 6 relating to section 2151 the following:

“SUBPART 6—TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES

“Sec. 2161. Short title.

“Sec. 2162. Findings and purpose.

“Sec. 2163. Definitions.

“Sec. 2164. Authority to make grants.

“Sec. 2165. Eligible activities.

“Sec. 2166. Understandings and procedures.

“Sec. 2167. Application, approval, and agreement.

“Sec. 2168. Reports and evaluations.

“Sec. 2169. Authorization of appropriations.”.

