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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish a grant program to ensure that students in high-need schools have equal access to a quality education delivered by an effective, diverse workforce.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Ms. JUDY CHU of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To establish a grant program to ensure that students in high-need schools have equal access to a quality education delivered by an effective, diverse workforce.

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 “Equal Access to Qual-  
5       ity Education Act of 2017”.

1   **SEC. 2. EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION GRANT**  
2                   **PROGRAM.**

3           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall  
4   make grants on a competitive basis to eligible partnerships  
5   in high-need areas to—

6               (1) develop and strengthen high-quality path-  
7       ways for the teaching and education leadership pro-  
8       fessions;

9               (2) create professional induction programs for  
10      the teaching profession; and

11              (3) provide a stable and collaborative learning  
12      environment for educators and students.

13          (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the grant program  
14   established under this section shall be to—

15              (1) increase the percentage of profession-ready  
16      teachers in States, including teachers from under  
17      represented minority groups and teachers with dis-  
18      abilities;

19              (2) close the achievement gap for students with-  
20      in subgroups that are not showing expected perform-  
21      ance;

22              (3) decrease shortages of profession-ready  
23      teachers in poor urban and rural areas;

24              (4) decrease high turnover rates for educators  
25      in high-need schools;

1           (5) increase the number of profession-ready  
2 teachers in shortage areas, including special edu-  
3 cation, bilingual education, and education for  
4 English language learners, and in science, mathe-  
5 matics, engineering, and technology;

6           (6) increase opportunities for enhanced and on-  
7 going professional development that—

8               (A) improves the academic content knowl-  
9 edge of teachers in the subject areas in which  
10 teachers are certified or licensed to teach or in  
11 which the teachers are working toward certifi-  
12 cation or licensure to teach;

13               (B) promotes strong teaching skills, includ-  
14 ing instructional strategies that address diverse  
15 needs, the use of data to inform instruction,  
16 and strategies to improve student achievement;  
17 and

18               (C) provides time for teachers to share  
19 their knowledge and innovation; and

20           (7) provide all educators with the knowledge  
21 base and professional skills to meet the needs of di-  
22 verse learners, including English language learners  
23 and students with disabilities.

24           (c) APPLICATION.—

1           (1) APPLICATIONS REQUIRED.—An eligible  
2       partnership that desires to receive a grant under  
3       this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary  
4       at such time, in such manner, and containing such  
5       information as the Secretary may require.

6           (2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted  
7       under paragraph (1) include—

8           (A) a description of—

9               (i) how the eligible partnership will  
10       meet the purposes under subsection (b);

11               (ii) how the partnership will carry out  
12       the activities required under subsection  
13       (d), including—

14               (I) how the partnership will de-  
15       sign, implement, or enhance a year-  
16       long and rigorous teaching residency  
17       program component; and

18               (II) how the partnership will de-  
19       sign, implement, or enhance a rig-  
20       orous teacher induction and retention  
21       program;

22               (iii) a description of the partnership's  
23       plan for continuing the activities carried  
24       out under a grant received under this Act  
25       after the grant funding ceases;

1 (iv) how the grant will increase the  
2 number of profession-ready teachers —

3 (I) in high-need schools operated  
4 by high-need local educational agen-  
5 cies (in urban or rural school dis-  
6 tricts); and

7 (II) in high-need academic sub-  
8 jects; and

9 (v) with respect to the teacher induc-  
10 tion and retention program that will be  
11 carried out using the grant—

12 (I) the partnership's capability  
13 and commitment to, and the accessi-  
14 bility to and involvement of teachers  
15 in, the use of empirically based prac-  
16 tice and scientifically valid research on  
17 teaching and learning;

18 (II) a description of how the  
19 partnership will design and implement  
20 an induction program to support,  
21 through not less than the first 2 years  
22 of teaching, all new teachers who are  
23 prepared by the teacher preparation  
24 program in the partnership and who  
25 teach in the high-need local edu-

1 cational agency in the partnership,  
2 and, to the extent practicable, all new  
3 teachers who teach in such high-need  
4 local educational agency, in the fur-  
5 ther development of the new teachers'  
6 teaching skills, including the use of  
7 mentors who are trained and com-  
8 pensated by such program for the  
9 mentors' work with new teachers.

10 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

11 (1) REQUIRED USES.—An eligible partnership  
12 that receives a grant under this section shall use the  
13 funds to carry out the following:

14 (A) Establish or support a teacher prepa-  
15 ration program that—

16 (i) requires participants in the pro-  
17 gram to complete at least one year of resi-  
18 dency at a high-need school in the local  
19 educational agency participating in the eli-  
20 gible partnership;

21 (ii) requires participants in the pro-  
22 gram to teach in a high-need school in  
23 such local educational agency for at least 3  
24 years after completing such residency; and

1 (iii) awards a teaching credential, an  
2 undergraduate degree, or a Masters degree  
3 that meets State requirements for a teach-  
4 ing license or certification upon completion  
5 of the program.

6 (B) Establish or support a teacher induc-  
7 tion and retention program that provides sup-  
8 port and advances the retention of beginning  
9 teachers and principals during not less than the  
10 first 2 years of participation in such program,  
11 which promotes effective teaching and leader-  
12 ship skills and includes—

13 (i) high-quality mentoring;

14 (ii) periodic, structured time for col-  
15 laboration and classroom observation op-  
16 portunities with teachers in the same de-  
17 partment or field, including mentor teach-  
18 ers, as well as time for information-sharing  
19 among teachers, principals, administrators,  
20 other appropriate educators, and partici-  
21 pating faculty in the partner institution of  
22 higher education;

23 (iii) the application of empirically  
24 based practice and scientifically valid re-  
25 search on instructional practices;

1 (iv) opportunities for new teachers  
2 and principals to draw directly on the ex-  
3 pertise of mentors, faculty, local edu-  
4 cational agency personnel, and researchers  
5 to support the integration of empirically  
6 based practice and scientifically valid re-  
7 search with practice;

8 (v) the development of skills in in-  
9 structional and behavioral interventions de-  
10 rived from empirically based practice, and  
11 where applicable, scientifically valid re-  
12 search;

13 (vi) faculty who—

14 (I) model the integration of re-  
15 search and practice in the classroom;  
16 and

17 (II) assist new teachers and prin-  
18 cipals with the effective use and inte-  
19 gration of technology in instruction.

20 (C) Otherwise fulfill the purposes described  
21 in subsection (b).

22 (2) AUTHORIZED USES.—In addition to the ac-  
23 tivities described in paragraph (1), a partnership  
24 that receives a grant under this section may use the  
25 funds for any of the following:



1 (A) Providing support to each mentor  
2 teacher working with new teachers.

3 (B) Providing preparation in effective, evi-  
4 dence-based instructional assessment practices  
5 and classroom management strategies for gen-  
6 eral education teachers serving students with  
7 disabilities and students with limited English  
8 proficiency.

9 (C) Enabling teachers to engage in study  
10 groups, professional learning communities, and  
11 other collaborative activities and collegial inter-  
12 actions regarding instruction assessment.

13 (D) Paying for release time and substitute  
14 teachers in order to enable teachers to partici-  
15 pate in professional development and mentoring  
16 activities.

17 (E) Creating libraries of professional mate-  
18 rial, catalogues of expert instruction, and edu-  
19 cation technology.

20 (F) Providing high-quality professional de-  
21 velopment for other instructional staff, such as  
22 paraprofessionals, librarians, and counselors.

23 (G) Developing partnerships with busi-  
24 nesses and community-based organizations.

1                   (H) Providing tuition assistance, scholar-  
2                   ships, or student loan repayment to teachers.

3                   (I) Providing stipends or another financial  
4                   incentive to participants in the teacher prepara-  
5                   tion program under paragraph (1)(A).

6                   (J) Providing support for home visitation,  
7                   parenting education, and family engagement,  
8                   especially for parents who have limited English  
9                   proficiency.

10       (e) REPAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish  
11 such requirements as the Secretary determines to be ap-  
12 propriate to ensure that each participant of a teacher  
13 preparation program under this Act who receives a stipend  
14 or other financial incentive as described in subsection  
15 (d)(2)(I), but fails to complete the participant's teaching  
16 obligation under subsection (d)(1)(A)(ii), repays all or a  
17 portion of such stipend or incentive to the eligible partner-  
18 ship that awarded such stipend or incentive.

19       (f) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
20 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible partner-  
21 ships that meet the requirements of one of the following  
22 paragraphs:

23                   (1) Demonstrating—

1 (A) a plan to recruit teachers from among  
2 minority and local candidates and from individ-  
3 uals with disabilities; and

4 (B) the use of a valid and reliable teacher  
5 performance assessment.

6 (2) Meeting the requirements of paragraph  
7 (1)(B) and including in the partnership—

8 (A) an institution of higher education that  
9 is an “eligible institution” for purposes of the  
10 TEACH Grant program under subpart 9 of  
11 part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act  
12 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g et seq.);

13 (B) a Tribal College or University, as de-  
14 fined in section 316(b)(3) of such Act (20  
15 U.S.C. 1059c(b)(3));

16 (C) an Asian American and Native Amer-  
17 ican Pacific Islander-serving institution, as de-  
18 fined in section 320(b) of such Act (20 U.S.C.  
19 1059g(b));

20 (D) a Hispanic-serving institution, as de-  
21 fined in section 502(a)(5) of such Act (20  
22 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5)); or

23 (E) a historically Black college and univer-  
24 sity, as defined in section 631(a)(5) of such Act  
25 (20 U.S.C. 1132(a)(5)).

1 (g) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

2 (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
3 the cost of any activities funded by a grant received  
4 under this section shall not exceed 75 percent.

5 (2) PAYMENT OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The  
6 non-Federal share may be paid in cash or in kind,  
7 fairly evaluated, including services.

8 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.—The term “eligi-  
10 ble partnership” means a partnership—

11 (A) between a high-need local educational  
12 agency and an institution of higher education;  
13 and

14 (B) that may include a teacher organiza-  
15 tion or a nonprofit educational organization.

16 (2) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.—The term “family  
17 engagement” means a shared responsibility of fami-  
18 lies and schools for student success, in which schools  
19 and community-based organizations are committed  
20 to reaching out to engage families, especially parents  
21 of non-Native English speakers, in meaningful ways  
22 that encourage the families to actively support their  
23 children’s learning and development, as well as the  
24 learning and development of other children. The  
25 shared responsibility is continuous from birth

1 through young adulthood and reinforces learning  
2 that takes place in the home, school, and commu-  
3 nity.

4 (3) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-  
5 CY.—The term “high-need local educational agency”  
6 means a local educational agency—

7 (A)(i) that serves not fewer than 10,000  
8 low-income children;

9 (ii) for which not less than 20 percent of  
10 the children served by the agency are low-in-  
11 come children;

12 (iii) that meets the eligibility requirements  
13 for receiving funding under the Rural Edu-  
14 cation Achievement Program under part B of  
15 title V of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
16 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7341 et seq.); or

17 (iv) that has a percentage of low-income  
18 children that is in the highest quartile among  
19 such agencies in the State; and

20 (B)(i) for which one or more schools served  
21 by the agency is persistently low achieving; or

22 (ii) for which one or more schools served  
23 by the agency has a high teacher turnover rate.

24 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher  
2 Education Act of 1965.

3 (5) LOW-INCOME CHILDREN.—The term “low-  
4 income children” means—

5 (A) children from families with incomes  
6 below the poverty line (as defined by the Office  
7 of Management and Budget and revised annu-  
8 ally in accordance with section 673(2) of the  
9 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981)  
10 applicable to a family of the size involved; or

11 (B) children who are eligible for free or re-  
12 duced price lunches under the Richard B. Rus-  
13 sell National School Lunch Act.

14 (6) MENTOR TEACHER.—The term “mentor  
15 teacher” means a teacher who—

16 (A) is profession-ready;

17 (B) has a minimum of 3 years of teaching  
18 experience;

19 (C) is recommended by the principal and  
20 other current master and mentor teachers on  
21 the basis of—

22 (i) instructional excellence through ob-  
23 servations and other evidence of classroom  
24 practice, including standards-based evalua-  
25 tions, such as certification by the National

1 Board for Professional Teaching Stand-  
2 ards;

3 (ii) an ability, as demonstrated by evi-  
4 dence of student learning in high-need  
5 schools, to increase student learning; and

6 (iii) excellent instruction and commu-  
7 nication with an understanding of how to  
8 facilitate growth in other teachers, includ-  
9 ing new teachers; and

10 (D) participates in training and ongoing  
11 professional development on how to—

12 (i) help teachers learn to improve stu-  
13 dent achievement;

14 (ii) help teachers learn to improve in-  
15 struction; and

16 (iii) facilitate mentor-to-mentor col-  
17 laboration and coaching.

18 (7) PROFESSION-READY.—The term “profes-  
19 sion-ready”, when used with respect to a teacher,  
20 means a teacher who—

21 (A) has completed a teacher preparation  
22 program and is fully certified and licensed to  
23 teach by the State in which the teacher teaches;

24 (B) has demonstrated content knowledge  
25 in the subject or subjects the teacher teaches;

1 (C) has demonstrated the ability to work  
2 with students who are culturally and linguis-  
3 tically diverse; and

4 (D) has demonstrated teaching skills, such  
5 as through—

6 (i) a teacher performance assessment;

7 or

8 (ii) other measures of teaching skills,  
9 as determined by the State.

10 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
11 the Secretary of Education.

12 (9) TEACHER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT.—

13 The term “teacher performance assessment” means  
14 a program, based on State or national professional  
15 teaching standards, that will measure teachers’ cur-  
16 riculum planning, instruction, and assessment of  
17 students, including appropriate plans and adapta-  
18 tions for English language learners and students  
19 with disabilities, and multiple sources of evidence  
20 about student learning. Such assessment will be vali-  
21 dated against professional assessment standards and  
22 reliably scored by trained external evaluators with  
23 appropriate auditing of scoring to ensure consist-  
24 ency.



1           (10)   TEACHING   CREDENTIAL.—The   term  
2       “teaching credential” means a program of instruc-  
3       tion for individuals who have completed a bacca-  
4       laureate degree, that does not lead to a graduate de-  
5       gree, and that consists of courses required by a  
6       State for a teacher candidate to receive a profes-  
7       sional certification or license that is required for em-  
8       ployment as a teacher in an elementary school or  
9       secondary school in that State.