

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend part B of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend part B of title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

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 “21st Century Commu-
5 nity Learning Centers Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) More than 28,000,000 children in the
9 United States have parents who work outside the

1 home and 14,300,000 children in the United States
2 are unsupervised after the school day ends.

3 (2) 6,500,000 children are in after school pro-
4 grams but an additional 15,300,000 would partici-
5 pate if such a program were available.

6 (3) After school programs inspire learning. In
7 academic year 2003–2004, 45 percent of all 21st
8 Century Community Learning Centers program par-
9 ticipants had improved their reading grades, and 41
10 percent improved their mathematics grades.

11 (4) In academic year 2003-2004 teachers re-
12 ported that a majority of students who participated
13 in 21st Century Community Learning Centers pro-
14 grams demonstrated improved student behavior, par-
15 ticularly in the areas of academic performance,
16 homework completion, and class participation.

17 (5) A growing body of research also suggests
18 that children who participate in after school pro-
19 grams attend school more regularly, are more likely
20 to stay in school, and are better prepared for college
21 and careers.

22 (6) Benefits of after school programs extend be-
23 yond the classroom. Communities with after school
24 programs have reported reduced vandalism and juve-
25 nile crime.

1 (7) After school programs help working fami-
2 lies. One study estimates that decreased worker pro-
3 ductivity due to stress and absenteeism caused by
4 issues related to after school care arrangements
5 costs employers \$496 to \$1,984 per employee, per
6 year, depending on the annual salary of the em-
7 ployee. The total cost to the business industry is es-
8 timated to be between \$50,000,000,000 and
9 \$300,000,000,000 annually in lost job productivity.

10 (8) While students in the United States are
11 falling behind in science, technology, engineering,
12 and mathematics (STEM), more than 90 percent of
13 after school programs funded by 21st Century Com-
14 munity Learning Centers offer STEM activities, pro-
15 viding more time for children and youth to gain
16 skills and build interest in the STEM fields. Evalua-
17 tions of after school programs offering STEM activi-
18 ties to students have found increases in the reading,
19 writing, and science skills proficiency of these stu-
20 dents. Children who participate in such programs
21 show more interest in science careers, and are more
22 likely to have engaged in science activities just for
23 fun.

24 (9) Data from 73 after school studies indicate
25 that after school programs employing evidence-based

1 approaches to improving students' personal and so-
2 cial skills were consistently successful in producing
3 multiple benefits for students, including improve-
4 ments in students' personal, social, and academic
5 skills, as well as students' self-esteem.

6 (10) Teens who do not participate in after
7 school programs are nearly 3 times more likely to
8 skip classes than teens who do participate. The teens
9 who do not participate are also 3 times more likely
10 to use marijuana or other drugs, and are more likely
11 to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, and engage in
12 sexual activity. In general, self care and boredom
13 can increase the likelihood that a young person will
14 experiment with drugs and alcohol by as much as 50
15 percent.

16 (11) A 2006 study predicts that by the year
17 2010 more than 46 percent of school-age children in
18 the Americas will be overweight and 1 in 7 such chil-
19 dren will be obese. A study of after school program
20 participants in 3 elementary schools found that after
21 school participants were significantly less likely to be
22 obese at the 3-year follow-up physical exam and
23 were more likely to have increased acceptance among
24 their peers. After school programs provide children

1 and youth with opportunities to engage in sports
2 and other fitness activities.

3 (12) After school programs have been identified
4 as effective venues for improving nutrition, nutrition
5 education, and physical activity at a time when just
6 20 percent of youth in grades 9 through 12 consume
7 the recommended daily servings of fruits and vegeta-
8 bles.

9 (13) After school programs also provide chil-
10 dren and youth with opportunities for service learn-
11 ing, a teaching and learning approach that inte-
12 grates student-designed service projects that address
13 community needs with academic studies. With struc-
14 tured time to reflect on their service experience,
15 these projects can strengthen student engagement,
16 enhance students' academic achievement, lower
17 school drop out and suspension rates, and help de-
18 velop important workforce skills that employers are
19 looking for, including leadership skills, critical think-
20 ing, teamwork, and oral and written communication.

21 **SEC. 3. REFERENCES.**

22 Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in
23 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
24 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
25 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a

1 section or other provision of the Elementary and Sec-
2 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301).

3 **SEC. 4. 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS.**

4 (a) PURPOSE.—Section 4201 (20 U.S.C. 7171) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

7 (A) by inserting “service learning and nu-
8 trition education,” after “youth development ac-
9 tivities,”; and

10 (B) by striking “recreation programs” and
11 inserting “physical fitness and wellness pro-
12 grams”; and

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

15 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and
16 (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

17 (b) ALLOTMENTS TO STATES.—Section 4202 (20
18 U.S.C. 7172) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) by striking paragraph (1); and

21 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and
22 (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively; and

23 (2) in subsection (c)(3)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
2 (A), by striking “3 percent” and inserting “5
3 percent”; and

4 (B) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(E) Supporting State-level efforts and in-
6 frastructure to ensure the quality and avail-
7 ability of after school programs.”.

8 (c) AWARD DURATION.—Section 4204(g) (20 U.S.C.
9 7174(g)) is amended by striking the period and inserting
10 “, and are renewable for a period of not less than 3 years
11 and not more than 5 years based on grant performance.”.

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
13 4206 (20 U.S.C. 7176) is amended to read as follows:

14 **“SEC. 4206. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
16 this part such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
17 2008 and each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.