

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3158

To establish a grant program to provide comprehensive eye examinations to children, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2002

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. DEWINE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide comprehensive eye examinations to children, and for other purposes.

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 “Children’s Vision Im-
5 provement and Learning Readiness Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) 80 percent of what children learn is ac-
9 quired through the visual processing of information.

1 (2) Visual impairment is 1 of the 10 most com-
2 mon causes of disability in America. In children, vis-
3 ual impairment is associated with developmental
4 delays and the need for special education, vocational,
5 and social services. At least 20 percent of children
6 with learning disabilities have been found to have
7 prominent visual information processing problems.

8 (3) It is estimated that more than 10,000,000
9 children (from birth to age 10) suffer from vision
10 problems, with 1 in 20 preschoolers and 1 in 4
11 school aged children affected.

12 (4) It is estimated that only 14 percent of chil-
13 dren under the age of 6 receive a comprehensive eye
14 examination. Only $\frac{1}{3}$ of all children have had an eye
15 examination or vision screening prior to entering
16 school.

17 **SEC. 3. GRANTS REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE EYE EXAMI-**
18 **NATIONS FOR CHILDREN.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
20 Human Services (referred to in this section as the
21 “Secretary”) may make grants to States for the purpose
22 of—

23 (1) providing comprehensive eye examinations
24 for children, with priority given to school-based pro-
25 grams for children who are under the age of 9; and

1 (2) developing and disseminating, to parents,
2 teachers, and the public, educational materials with
3 regard to the need and benefits of comprehensive eye
4 examinations for children.

5 (b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall, as appro-
6 priate, coordinate the program under subsection (a) with
7 the program under section 330 of the Public Health Serv-
8 ice Act (relating to health centers) (42 U.S.C. 254b), the
9 program under title XIX of the Social Security Act
10 (relating to the Medicaid program) (42 U.S.C. 1396 et
11 seq.), the program under title XXI of such Act (relating
12 to the State children’s health insurance program) (42
13 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.), and with other Federal or State
14 programs that provide services to children.

15 (c) RELATIONSHIP TO PAYMENTS UNDER OTHER
16 PROGRAMS.—A grant may be made under subsection (a)
17 only if the State involved agrees that the State will not
18 make payments from the grant for any item or service to
19 the extent that payment has been made, or can reasonably
20 be expected to be made, with respect to such item or serv-
21 ice—

22 (1) under any State compensation program,
23 under an insurance policy, or under any Federal or
24 State health benefits program; or

1 (2) by an entity that provides health services on
2 a prepaid basis.

3 (d) EVALUATIONS.—A grant may be made under
4 subsection (a) only if the State involved agrees that, not
5 later than 1 year after the date on which amounts under
6 the grant are first received by the State, and annually
7 thereafter while receiving amounts under the grant, the
8 State will submit to the Secretary an evaluation of the
9 operations and activities carried out under the grant, in-
10 cluding—

11 (1) a description of the health status outcomes
12 of children provided with assistance under the grant;

13 (2) an assessment of the utilization of com-
14 prehensive eye examination services as a result of
15 the activities carried out under the grant;

16 (3) the collection, analysis, and reporting of
17 comprehensive eye examination data according to
18 guidelines prescribed by the Director of the Centers
19 for Disease Control and Prevention; and

20 (4) such other information as the Secretary
21 may require.

22 (e) APPLICATION.—A grant may be made under sub-
23 section (a) only if an application for the grant is submitted
24 to the Secretary and the application is in such form, is
25 made in such manner, and contains such information as

1 the Secretary may require, including a plan for the use
2 of the grant.

3 (f) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
4 term “comprehensive eye examination” includes an assess-
5 ment of a patient’s history, general medical observation,
6 external and ophthalmoscopic examination, and assess-
7 ment of gross visual fields performed by an optometrist
8 or an ophthalmologist.

9 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
10 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
11 to be appropriated \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2003, and
12 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years
13 2004 through 2006.

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