

[COMMITTEE PRINT]

(SHOWING H.R. 507 AS REPORTED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
ON JULY 19, 2007)

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 507

To establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. ENGEL, Mr.
SULLIVAN, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) introduced the fol-
lowing bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Com-
merce

A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide vision care 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 “Vision Care for Kids
5 Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Millions of children in the United States
2 suffer from vision problems, many of which go unde-
3 tected. Because children with vision problems can
4 struggle developmentally, resulting in physical, emo-
5 tional, and social consequences, good vision is essen-
6 tial for proper physical development and educational
7 progress.

8 (2) Vision problems in children range from
9 common conditions such as refractive errors, ambly-
10 ophia, strabismus, ocular trauma, and infections, to
11 rare but potentially life- or sight-threatening prob-
12 lems such as retinoblastoma, infantile cataracts, con-
13 genital glaucoma, and genetic or metabolic diseases
14 of the eye.

15 (3) Since many serious ocular conditions are
16 treatable if identified in the preschool and early
17 school-aged years, early detection provides the best
18 opportunity for effective treatment and can have far-
19 reaching implications for vision.

20 (4) Various identification methods, including vi-
21 sion screening and comprehensive eye examinations
22 required by State laws, can be helpful in identifying
23 children needing services. A child identified as need-
24 ing services through vision screening should receive
25 a comprehensive eye examination followed by subse-

1 quent treatment as needed. Any child identified as
2 needing services should have access to subsequent
3 treatment as needed.

4 (5) There is a need to increase public awareness
5 about the prevalence and devastating consequences
6 of vision disorders in children and to educate the
7 public and health care providers about the warning
8 signs and symptoms of ocular and vision disorders
9 and the benefits of early detection, evaluation, and
10 treatment.

11 **SEC. 3. GRANTS REGARDING VISION CARE FOR CHILDREN.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
13 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
14 retary”), acting through the Director of the Centers for
15 Disease Control and Prevention, may award grants to
16 States on the basis of an established review process for
17 the purpose of complementing existing State efforts for—

18 (1) providing comprehensive eye examinations
19 by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist for chil-
20 dren who have been previously identified through a
21 vision screening or eye examination by a licensed
22 health care provider or vision screener as needing
23 such services, with priority given to children who are
24 under the age of 9 years;

1 (2) providing treatment or services, subsequent
2 to the examinations described in paragraph (1), nec-
3 essary to correct vision problems; and

4 (3) developing and disseminating, to parents,
5 teachers, and health care practitioners, educational
6 materials on recognizing signs of visual impairment
7 in children.

8 (b) CRITERIA AND COORDINATION.—

9 (1) CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in consultation
10 with appropriate professional and patient organiza-
11 tions including individuals with knowledge of age ap-
12 propriate vision services, shall develop criteria—

13 (A) governing the operation of the grant
14 program under subsection (a); and

15 (B) for the collection of data related to vi-
16 sion assessment and the utilization of follow up
17 services.

18 (2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall, as
19 appropriate, coordinate the program under sub-
20 section (a) with the program under section 330 of
21 the Public Health Service Act (relating to health
22 centers) (42 U.S.C. 254b), the program under title
23 XIX of the Social Security Act (relating to the Med-
24 icaid program) (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the pro-
25 gram under title XXI of such Act (relating to the

1 State children's health insurance program) (42
2 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.), and with other Federal or
3 State programs that provide services to children.

4 (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
5 under subsection (a), a State shall submit to the Secretary
6 an application in such form, made in such manner, and
7 containing such information as the Secretary may require,
8 including—

9 (1) information on existing Federal, Federal-
10 State, or State-funded children's vision programs;

11 (2) a plan for the use of grant funds, including
12 how funds will be used to complement existing State
13 efforts (including possible partnerships with non-
14 profit entities);

15 (3) a plan to determine if a grant eligible child
16 has been identified as provided for in subsection (a);
17 and

18 (4) a description of how funds will be used to
19 provide items or services, only as a secondary
20 payer—

21 (A) for an eligible child, to the extent that
22 the child is not covered for the items or services
23 under any State compensation program, under
24 an insurance policy, or under any Federal or
25 State health benefits program; or

1 (B) for an eligible child, to the extent that
2 the child receives the items or services from an
3 entity that provides health services on a prepaid
4 basis.

5 (d) EVALUATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
6 under subsection (a), a State shall agree that, not later
7 than 1 year after the date on which amounts under the
8 grant are first received by the State, and annually there-
9 after while receiving amounts under the grant, the State
10 will submit to the Secretary an evaluation of the oper-
11 ations and activities carried out under the grant, includ-
12 ing—

13 (1) an assessment of the utilization of vision
14 services and the status of children receiving these
15 services as a result of the activities carried out
16 under the grant;

17 (2) the collection, analysis, and reporting of
18 children's vision data according to guidelines pre-
19 scribed by the Secretary; and

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

22 (e) LIMITATIONS IN EXPENDITURE OF GRANT.—A
23 grant may be made under subsection (a) only if the State
24 involved agrees that the State will not expend more than
25 20 percent of the amount received under the grant to

1 carry out the purpose described in paragraph (3) of such
2 subsection.

3 (f) MATCHING FUNDS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the costs of
5 the activities to be carried out with a grant under
6 subsection (a), a condition for the receipt of the
7 grant is that the State involved agrees to make
8 available (directly or through donations from public
9 or private entities) non-Federal contributions toward
10 such costs in an amount that is not less than 25
11 percent of such costs.

12 (2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIB-
13 UTED.—Non-Federal contributions required in para-
14 graph (1) may be in cash or in kind, fairly evalu-
15 ated, including plant, equipment, or services.
16 Amounts provided by the Federal Government, or
17 services assisted or subsidized to any significant ex-
18 tent by the Federal Government, may not be in-
19 cluded in determining the amount of such non-Fed-
20 eral contributions.

21 (g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
22 term “comprehensive eye examination” includes an assess-
23 ment of a patient’s history, general medical observation,
24 external and ophthalmoscopic examination, visual acuity,
25 ocular alignment and motility, refraction, and as appro-

1 piate, binocular vision or gross visual fields, performed
2 by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist.

3 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
4 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
5 to be appropriated \$65,000,000 for the period of fiscal
6 years 2009 through 2013.