

**AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROEMER
TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A
SUBSTITUTE OFFERED BY MR. GOODLING**

Add at the end of the bill the following:

1 **TITLE VII—PUBLIC SCHOOL**
2 **CHOICE**

3 **SEC. 701. PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE.**

4 Title V of the Act (20 U.S.C. 7201 et seq) is amend-
5 ed by adding at the end the following:

6 **SEC. 5401. SHORT TITLE.**

7 “This title may be cited as the “Public School Choice
8 Act of 1999”.

9 **“SEC. 5402. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

10 “(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

11 “(1) a wide variety of educational opportunities,
12 options, and choices in the public school system is
13 needed to help all children achieve to high stand-
14 ards;

15 “(2) high-quality public school choice programs
16 that are genuinely open and accessible to all stu-
17 dents (including poor, minority, limited English pro-
18 ficient, and disabled students) broaden educational
19 opportunities and promote excellence in education;

20 “(3) current research shows that—

1 “(A) students learn in different ways, ben-
2 efiting from different teaching methods and in-
3 structional settings; and

4 “(B) family involvement in a child’s edu-
5 cation is a key factor supporting student
6 achievement;

7 “(4) public school systems have begun to de-
8 velop a variety of innovative programs that offer ex-
9 panded choices to parents and students; and

10 “(5) the Federal Government should support
11 and expand efforts to give students and parents the
12 high-quality public school choices they seek, to help
13 eliminate barriers to effective public school choice,
14 and to disseminate the lessons learned from high-
15 quality choice programs so that all public schools
16 can benefit from these efforts.

17 “(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this title to iden-
18 tify and support innovative approaches to high-quality
19 public school choice by providing financial assistance for
20 the demonstration, development, implementation, and
21 evaluation of, and dissemination of information about,
22 public school choice projects that stimulate educational in-
23 novation for all public schools and contribute to standards-
24 based school reform efforts.

1 **“SEC. 5403. GRANTS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From funds appropriated under
3 section 5406(a) and not reserved under section 5406(b),
4 the Secretary is authorized to make grants to State and
5 local educational agencies to support programs that pro-
6 mote innovative approaches to high-quality public school
7 choice.

8 “(b) DURATION.—Grants under this title shall not
9 exceed three years.

10 **“SEC. 5404. USES OF FUNDS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL—

12 “(1) PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE.—Funds under
13 this title may be used to demonstrate, develop, im-
14 plement, evaluate, and disseminate information on
15 innovative approaches to promote public school
16 choice, including the design and development of new
17 public school choice options, the development of new
18 strategies for overcoming barriers to effective public
19 school choice, and the design and development of
20 public school choice systems that promote high
21 standards for all students and the continuous im-
22 provement of all public schools.

23 “(2) INNOVATIVE APPROACHES.—Such ap-
24 proaches at the school, local educational agency, and
25 State levels may include—

1 “(A) inter-district approaches to public
2 school choice, including approaches that in-
3 crease equal access to high-quality educational
4 programs and diversity in schools;

5 “(B) public elementary and secondary pro-
6 grams that involve partnerships with institu-
7 tions of higher education and that are located
8 on the campuses of those institutions;

9 “(C) programs that allow students in pub-
10 lic secondary schools to enroll in postsecondary
11 courses and to receive both secondary and post-
12 secondary academic credit;

13 “(D) worksite satellite schools, in which
14 State or local educational agencies form part-
15 nerships with public or private employers, to
16 create public schools at parents’ places of em-
17 ployment; and

18 “(E) approaches to school desegregation
19 that provide students and parents choice
20 through strategies other than magnet schools.

21 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—Funds under this title—

22 “(1) shall supplement, and not supplant, non-
23 Federal funds expended for existing programs;

24 “(2) may not be used for transportation; and

1 “(3) may not be used to fund projects that are
2 specifically authorized under part A of title V, or
3 part C of title X.

4 **“SEC. 54055. GRANT APPLICATION; PRIORITIES.**

5 “(a) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—A State or local edu-
6 cational agency desiring to receive a grant under this title
7 shall submit an application to the Secretary.

8 “(b) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—Each application
9 shall include—

10 “(1) a description of the program for which
11 funds are sought and the goals for such program;

12 “(2) a description of how the program funded
13 under this title will be coordinated with, and will
14 complement and enhance, programs under other re-
15 lated Federal and non-Federal projects;

16 “(3) if the program includes partners, the name
17 of each partner and a description of the partner’s
18 responsibilities;

19 “(4) a description of the policies and procedures
20 the applicant will use to ensure—

21 “(A) its accountability for results, includ-
22 ing its goals and performance indicators; and

23 “(B) that the program is open and acces-
24 sible to, and will promote high academic stand-
25 ards for, all students; and

1 “(5) such other information as the Secretary
2 may require.

3 “(c) PRIORITIES.—

4 “(1) HIGH-POVERTY AGENCIES.—The Secretary
5 shall give a priority to applications for projects that
6 would serve high-poverty local educational agencies.

7 “(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary may give
8 a priority to applications demonstrating that the ap-
9 plicant will carry out its project in partnership with
10 one or more public and private agencies, organiza-
11 tions, and institutions, including institutions of high-
12 er education and public and private employers.

13 **“SEC. 5406. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out
15 this title, there are authorized to be appropriated
16 \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and such sums as may
17 be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

18 “(b) RESERVATION FOR EVALUATION, TECHNICAL
19 ASSISTANCE, AND DISSEMINATION.—From the amount
20 appropriated under subsection (a) for any fiscal year, the
21 Secretary may reserve not more than 5 percent to carry
22 out evaluations under subsection (c), to provide technical
23 assistance, and to disseminate information.

24 “(c) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary may use funds
25 reserved under subsection (b) to carry out one or more

1 evaluations of programs assisted under this title, which
2 shall, at a minimum, address—

3 “(1) how, and the extent to which, the pro-
4 grams supported with funds under this title promote
5 educational equity and excellence; and

6 “(2) the extent to which public schools of choice
7 supported with funds under this title are—

8 “(A) held accountable to the public;

9 “(B) effective in improving public edu-
10 cation; and

11 “(C) open and accessible to all students.

12 **“SEC. 5407. DEFINITIONS.**

13 “For purposes of this title:

14 “(1) **HIGH-POVERTY LOCAL EDUCATIONAL**
15 **AGENCY.**—The term ‘high-poverty local educational
16 agency’ means a local educational agency in which—

17 “(A) the percentage of children, ages 5 to
18 17, from families with incomes below the pov-
19 erty line (as defined by the Office of Manage-
20 ment and Budget and revised annually in ac-
21 cordance with section 673(2) of the Community
22 Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)))
23 applicable to a family of the size involved for
24 the most recent fiscal year for which satisfac-

1 tory data are available is 20 percent or greater;
2 or

3 “(B) the number of such children exceeds
4 10,000.

5 “(2) OTHER TERMS.—Other terms used in this
6 title shall have the meaning given such terms in sec-
7 tion 14101 (20 U.S.C. 8801).

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE AMENDMENT

Summary

Rep. Tim Roemer

The Public School Choice Amendment offered by Rep. Roemer will amend Title V of ESEA to authorize \$20 million for a grant program for the following purpose: “identify and support innovative approaches to high-quality school choice by providing financial assistance for the demonstration, development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of information about public school choice projects that stimulate educational innovation for all public schools and contribute to standards-based school reform efforts.”

State Educational Agencies (SEAs) and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) would be allowed to compete for funds to support public school choice projects.

Grantees are prohibited from supplanting other funds used to promote public school choice, using funds for transportation, and funding Charter School or Magnet School programs.

This is essentially an open-ended program that allows SEAs and LEAs to apply for grants to fund new approaches to public school choice. Some examples of ideas that could be funded would include: work-site schools, partnerships with colleges and universities, and inter-district choice programs.

With an authorization of \$20,000,000, we could fund between 20 and 75 projects, with award ranges from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000.