

Public Law 100-158
100th Congress

Joint Resolution

Nov. 9, 1987
[H.J. Res. 309]

Providing support for the Civic Achievement Award Program in Honor of the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Education.
Close Up
Foundation.
2 USC 1001 note.

Whereas the continuing strength and vitality of American democratic traditions depend on the civic awareness of future generations;

Whereas there is a need to improve the level of civic literacy of American elementary school students and to better their understanding of American history, government, geography, economics, and current events;

Whereas students in the fifth grade through the eighth grade are at a critical stage for development of values, character, and attitudes;

Whereas school libraries and local libraries, as repositories of the record of American history and democratic traditions, are appropriate focal points for civic literacy education;

Whereas in view of the central role of the House of Representatives in our system of government, it is appropriate, in conjunction with the Bicentennial of the House of Representatives and in honor of the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives, to support a national civic achievement award program for students, classes, and schools;

Whereas the Library of Congress, as a national symbol of learning, literacy, and culture, is an appropriate institution to assist in this endeavor; and

Whereas the Close Up Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit, educational organization for citizen involvement in government, is an appropriate organization to conduct such a program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 USC 1001.

SECTION 1. SUPPORT FOR THE CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PROGRAM IN HONOR OF THE OFFICE OF SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Librarian of Congress is authorized to make disbursements to the Close Up Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. Such disbursements—

Regulations.

(1) shall be made upon application by the Foundation and in such form and manner as the Librarian may prescribe by regulation; and

(2) shall be solely for the purpose of assisting the Foundation in conducting the Civic Achievement Award Program in Honor of the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives described in section 2.

SEC. 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM.

2 USC 1002.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Civic Achievement Award Program in Honor of the Office of Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be conducted by the Close Up Foundation, in cooperation with the National Association of Elementary School Principals. The program—

(1) shall be designed to inspire learning of American history, government, geography, economics and current events in the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades;

(2) shall recognize achievement in civic literacy by students, classes, and schools throughout the Nation;

(3) shall be based upon a specially designed set of learning materials and activities that will allow students to develop and demonstrate civic knowledge and skills; and

(4) may include such program elements as individual and group projects, mastery of academic materials, development of library skills, and community service.

(b) **AWARDS.**—The Close Up Foundation shall provide annual awards for the program. The awards, in the form of certificates signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and other persons designated by the Speaker, shall be presented in the following categories:

(1) Individual students who satisfy award standards.

(2) Classes with a specified percentage of students who satisfy award standards.

(3) Schools with a specified percentage of students who satisfy award standards.

(c) **NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—

Establishment.

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Speaker of the House of Representatives (in consultation with the minority leader of the House of Representatives) shall appoint 11 persons who, together with the Librarian of Congress, one representative of the Close Up Foundation, and one representative of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, shall constitute a national committee to advise the Close Up Foundation on the structure and administration of the program. The 11 persons appointed under the preceding sentence shall serve at the pleasure of the Speaker.

(2) **EXPENSES.**—Members of the committee shall serve without compensation, except that, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the committee, members shall be allowed expenses in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) **PARTICIPATION BY LIBRARIES.**—School libraries and local libraries shall, to the extent practicable, serve as the primary centers for the distribution of materials and the coordination of testing and evaluation for the program.

SEC. 3. AUDITS AND REPORTS.

2 USC 1003.

(a) **AUDITS.**—The Comptroller General shall conduct annual and other necessary audits of the program and shall submit reports of such audits to the House of Representatives and to the Librarian of Congress.

(b) **REPORTS.**—The Close Up Foundation shall submit to the House of Representatives and to the Librarian of Congress semiannual

reports of the activities of the program as follows: (1) not later than July 31 of each year, a report relating to the 6-month period ending on the preceding June 30; and (2) not later than January 31 of each year, a report relating to the 6-month period ending on the preceding December 31.

2 USC 1004.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this joint resolution not more than \$680,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1988 (of which not more than \$100,000 shall be available for reimbursement of expenses of the program incurred during the period beginning on July 1, 1987, and ending on September 30, 1987), and \$680,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1989.

Approved November 9, 1987.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 309:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-221 (Comm. on House Administration).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 100-172 (Comm. on Rules and Administration).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 133 (1987):

July 21, considered and passed House.

Oct. 1, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Oct. 27, House concurred in Senate amendment.