

# Partnerships for Access to Laboratory Science (PALS)

HR 524

Introduced by Rep. Ruben Hinojosa in 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

## *Section-by-Section Summary*

### **Section 1: Findings**

Expresses the sense that “It is in the national interest for the Federal Government to invest in research and demonstration projects to improve the teaching of laboratory science in the Nation's high schools.

### **Section 2: Grant Program**

The Director shall establish a pilot program designated as ‘Partnerships for Access to Laboratory Science’ to award grants to partnerships to improve laboratories and provide instrumentation as part of a comprehensive program to enhance the quality of mathematics, science, engineering, and technology instruction at the secondary school level. Grants may be used for—

- purchase, rental, or leasing of equipment, instrumentation, and other scientific educational materials;
- maintenance, renovation, and improvement of laboratory facilities;
- professional development and training for teachers;
- development of instructional programs designed to integrate the laboratory experience with classroom instruction and to be consistent with State mathematics and science academic achievement standards;
- training in laboratory safety for school personnel;
- design and implementation of hands-on laboratory experiences to encourage the interest of individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b) in mathematics, science, engineering, and technology and help prepare such individuals to pursue postsecondary studies in these fields; and
- assessment of the activities funded under this subparagraph.

Grants awarded shall be to a partnership that--

- includes an institution of higher education or a community college;
- includes a high-need local educational agency;
- includes a business or eligible nonprofit organization; and
- may include a State educational agency, other public agency, National Laboratory, or community-based organization.

The Federal share of the cost of activities carried out using amounts from a grant shall not exceed 50 percent.

### **Section 3: Establishes Reporting of Research Results**

The National Science Foundation shall prepare a report documenting the results of the pilot program that shall identify best practices and materials developed and demonstrated by grant awardees.

### **Section 4: Authorization of Appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Science Foundation to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years.