

# THE NATIONAL PARENTS CORPS ACT OF 2008

On September 27, 2008, Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) introduced, H.R. 7225 the National Parents Corps Act of 2008.

## KEY COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL PARENTS CORPS ACT OF 2008

The National Parents Corps Act of 2008 establishes a national Parents Corps Program through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The federal grants authorized through this program will recruit, hire, train, and employ a full-time parent of a child currently enrolled at each participating school who is tasked with:

- Educating and mobilizing other parents at the school to combat criminal and gang activity;
- Creating scientific-based informational services and training for parents, counselors, and school administrators about the indicators of youth drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse;
- Working with school officials, other parents, and local authorities in conducting training and workshops on treatment, prevention, and reduction efforts in the school; and
- Recruiting and training parent volunteers to improve prevention, outreach, and education.

## BACKGROUND

H.R. 7225 creates a national parent, school, law enforcement network to promote safety, and combat youth violence and drug and alcohol abuse in the nation's public schools.

An estimate 65 percent of parents with school-age children work and have limited time to volunteer in leadership positions at their children's school. The Parents Corps Act addresses this gap by providing the funding to employ a full-time professional parent who acts as a liaison with teachers, administrators, students, social workers, community police, and other parents to build a strong community safety net for their children.

The Parents Corps is a proven model that gives parents the tools to help keep their children safe and drug free. In the three-year pilot program of this initiative, twenty parent leaders recruited more than 8,000 parents in the nineteen participating schools. The result was increased school-parent communication, attendance, grades, and decreases in student drop-outs rates and disciplinary problems.

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