



An affinity group of the National Human Services Assembly

Federal Youth Coordination Act (H.R. 4703)

Background:

The White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth was directed by President Bush to assess federal youth policy and develop recommendations to strengthen the federal response to the needs of children and youth, with a focus on coordination and accountability. The Task Force developed two reports and was dissolved after the completion of its work. Its primary finding is that federal youth policy, administered across 12 departments, lacks coordination and focus.

H.R. 4703, introduced by Representatives Tom Osborne (R-NE), Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) and Harold Ford (D-TN) responds to the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth by implementing several of its key recommendations, including:

- Create a federal coordinating body to facilitate interagency coordination and collaboration, coordinate federal research, and identify and replicate model programs
- Support State-level coordination efforts

Legislation:

H.R. 4703 establishes a Federal Youth Development Council

- Duties:
 - Ensure communication among federal agencies serving youth
 - Assess youth needs and the quantity and quality of federal supports to help meet these needs
 - Set quantifiable goals/objectives for federal youth programs and develop a plan to reach these goals
 - Develop demonstration projects to focus on special populations of youth
 - Conduct research and identify and replicate model programs
- Membership:
 - 16 federal agency Secretaries
 - Representatives from youth serving nonprofits and faith based organizations
 - Youth
- Annual report to the President and Congress, including:
 - An assessment of the needs and well-being of youth
 - Recommendations for better integration and coordination of federal, State, and local policies affecting youth
 - A report on the Council's work to facilitate interagency collaboration and the results of the collaboration
- Support to States:
 - Provide technical assistance and, subject to the availability of appropriations, make grants to States to support State-level coordination efforts
 - Priority will be given to States that have already initiated an interagency coordination effort focused on youth and demonstrate the inclusion of faith-based and community organizations in their coordination efforts