

§ 1901. Congressional findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) deaf-blindness is among the most severe of all forms of disabilities, and there is a great and continuing need for services and training to help individuals who are deaf-blind attain the highest possible level of development;

(2) due to the rubella epidemic of the 1960's, the rapidly increasing number of older persons many of whom are experiencing significant losses of both vision and hearing, and recent advances in medical technology that have sustained the lives of many severely disabled individuals, including individuals who are deaf-blind, who might not otherwise have survived, the need for services for individuals who are deaf-blind is even more pressing now than in the past;

(3) helping individuals who are deaf-blind to become self-sufficient, independent, and employable by providing the services and training necessary to accomplish that end will benefit the Nation, both economically and socially;

(4) the Helen Keller National Center for Youths and Adults who are Deaf-Blind is a vital national resource for meeting the needs of individuals who are deaf-blind and no State currently has the facilities or personnel to meet such needs;

(5) the Federal Government has made a substantial investment in capital, equipment, and operating funds for such Center since it was established; and

(6) it is in the national interest to continue to provide support for the Center, and it is a proper function of the Federal Government to be the primary source of such support.

(Pub. L. 98-221, title II, §202, Feb. 22, 1984, 98 Stat. 32; Pub. L. 102-569, title IX, §§901, 908(a), (c)(1), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4482, 4485, 4486.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions for the establishment, operation, and funding of the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, similar to those comprising this chapter, were contained in section 777c of this title prior to the repeal of that section and the enactment of this chapter by Pub. L. 98-221. Prior thereto provisions similar to those comprising this chapter and authorizing appropriations for fiscal years ending June 30, 1974, June 30, 1975, June 30, 1976, Sept. 30, 1977, and Sept. 30, 1978, for the establishment of the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults were contained in former section 305 of Pub. L. 93-112, title III, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 383, as amended by Pub. L. 93-516, title I, §107, Dec. 7, 1974, 88 Stat. 1619; Pub. L. 93-651, title I, §107, Nov. 21, 1974, 89 Stat. 2-4; Pub. L. 94-230, §§7, 11(b)(10), Mar. 15, 1976, 90 Stat. 212, 213; Pub. L. 94-288, §§1, 2, May 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 520, which was classified to section 775 of this title. Section 109(1) of Pub. L. 95-602 redesignated former section 305 as section 313 of Pub. L. 93-112. Section 313 of Pub. L. 93-112, as amended generally by section 116(2) of Pub. L. 95-602, was classified to section 777c of this title.

Prior similar provisions were also contained in former section 42a of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1992—Par. (1). Pub. L. 102-569, §908(a), substituted “individuals who are deaf-blind” for “deaf-blind individuals”.

Par. (2). Pub. L. 102-569, §§901(1), 908(a), inserted “, the rapidly increasing number of older persons many

of whom are experiencing significant losses of both vision and hearing,” after “1960's” and substituted “individuals who are deaf-blind” for “deaf-blind individuals” in two places.

Par. (3). Pub. L. 102-569, §908(a), substituted “individuals who are deaf-blind” for “deaf-blind individuals”.

Par. (4). Pub. L. 102-569, §908(a), (c)(1), substituted “Youths and Adults who are Deaf-Blind” for “Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults” and “individuals who are deaf-blind” for “deaf-blind individuals”.

Par. (5). Pub. L. 102-569, §901(2), substituted “made a substantial investment” for “invested approximately \$10,000,000”.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 98-221, title II, §201, Feb. 22, 1984, 98 Stat. 32, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter, amending section 777 of this title, and repealing section 777c of this title] may be cited as the ‘Helen Keller National Center Act.’”

§ 1902. Continued operation of Center**(a) Administration by Secretary of Education**

The Secretary of Education shall continue to administer and support the Helen Keller National Center for Youths and Adults who are Deaf-Blind in the same manner as such Center was administered prior to February 22, 1984, to the extent such manner of administration is not inconsistent with any purpose described in subsection (b) or any other requirement of this chapter.

(b) Purposes of Center

The purposes of the Center are to—

(1) provide specialized intensive services, or any other services, at the Center or anywhere else in the United States, which are necessary to encourage the maximum personal development of any individual who is deaf-blind;

(2) train family members of individuals who are deaf-blind at the Center or anywhere else in the United States, in order to assist family members in providing and obtaining appropriate services for the individual who is deaf-blind;

(3) train professionals and allied personnel at the Center or anywhere else in the United States to provide services to individuals who are deaf-blind; and

(4) conduct applied research, development programs, and demonstrations with respect to communication techniques, teaching methods, aids and devices, and delivery of services.

(Pub. L. 98-221, title II, §203, Feb. 22, 1984, 98 Stat. 33; Pub. L. 102-569, title IX, §§902, 908, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4482, 4485.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original “this title”, meaning title II of Pub. L. 98-221, Feb. 22, 1984, 98 Stat. 32, which is classified generally to this chapter (§1901 et seq.). For complete classification of this title to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1901 of this title and Tables. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1984 Amendment note set out under section 701 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1992—Pub. L. 102-569, §908(c)(2), amended section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-569, §§902(1)–(3), 908(c)(1), redesignated subsec. (b) as (a), substituted “Youths and