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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to States to empower public institutions of higher education in the States to provide student support services to students from low-income backgrounds, historically underrepresented students, first-generation college enrollees, parenting students, students with disabilities, and student veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STANSBURY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to States to empower public institutions of higher education in the States to provide student support services to students from low-income backgrounds, historically underrepresented students, first-generation college enrollees, parenting students, students with disabilities, and student veterans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “College Completion
3 Fund Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. HIGHER EDUCATION COLLEGE COMPLETION FUND**
5 **PROGRAM.**

6 (a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to sup-
7 port completion and retention activities designed to ensure
8 the postsecondary success of students from low-income
9 backgrounds, historically underrepresented students, first-
10 generation college enrollees, parenting students, students
11 with disabilities, and student veterans in public institu-
12 tions of higher education serving a significant number of
13 such students.

14 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

15 (1) COMPLETION RATE.—The term “completion
16 rate” means—

17 (A) the percentage of students from an ini-
18 tial cohort enrolled at a public institution of
19 higher education in the State that is a 2-year
20 institution who have graduated from the insti-
21 tution or transferred to a 4-year institution of
22 higher education; or

23 (B) the percentage of students from an ini-
24 tial cohort enrolled at a public institution of
25 higher education in the State that is a 4-year

1 institution who have graduated from the insti-
2 tution.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE INDIAN ENTITY.—The term “eli-
4 gible Indian entity” means the entity responsible for
5 the governance, operation, or control of a Tribal Col-
6 lege or University.

7 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
8 term “institution of higher education” has the
9 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

11 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of Education.

13 (5) STATE SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term
14 “State service provider” means a nonprofit organiza-
15 tion that receives Federal funding or State funding
16 to provide services commensurate with guidelines for
17 those services and is in good standing with regard
18 to such funding.

19 (6) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The
20 term “Tribal College or University” has the meaning
21 given the term in section 316(b)(3) of the Higher
22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)(3)).

23 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF COMPLETION FUND.—

24 (1) RESERVATION OF FUNDS FOR ELIGIBLE IN-
25 DIAN ENTITIES.—From the total amount appro-

1 priated to carry out this section for a fiscal year, the
2 Secretary shall reserve 2 percent for grants to eligi-
3 ble Indian entities to increase participation and com-
4 pletion rates of students from low-income back-
5 grounds, historically underrepresented students,
6 first-generation college enrollees, parenting students,
7 students with disabilities, and student veterans.

8 (2) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary
9 shall make grants, from allotments under paragraph
10 (3), to States to enable the States to distribute
11 funds to participating public institutions of higher
12 education in the State to provide student support
13 services to increase participation, retention, and
14 completion rates of students from low-income back-
15 grounds, historically underrepresented students,
16 first-generation college enrollees, parenting students,
17 students with disabilities, and student veterans.

18 (3) DETERMINATION OF ALLOTMENT.—

19 (A) AMOUNT OF ALLOTMENT.—From the
20 total amount appropriated to carry out this sec-
21 tion for a fiscal year and not reserved under
22 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allot to each
23 State having an application approved under this
24 section an amount, subject to subparagraph
25 (B), that shall be equal to the sum of—

1 (i) the amount that bears the same
2 relation to 50 percent of the amount ap-
3 propriated and not reserved for such fiscal
4 year as the number of residents in the
5 State aged 5 through 17 who are living
6 below the poverty line applicable to the
7 resident's family size (as determined under
8 section 673(2) of the Community Services
9 Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)))
10 bears to the total number of such residents
11 in all States; and

12 (ii) the amount that bears the same
13 relation to 50 percent of the amount ap-
14 propriated and not reserved for such fiscal
15 year as the number of residents in the
16 State aged 15 through 44 who are living
17 below the poverty line applicable to the in-
18 dividual's family size (as determined under
19 section 673(2) of the Community Services
20 Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)))
21 bears to the total number of such residents
22 in all States.

23 (B) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—The allotment
24 for each State under this section for a fiscal
25 year shall not be an amount that is less than

1 1.0 percent of the total amount appropriated to
2 carry out this section for the fiscal year and not
3 reserved under paragraph (1).

4 (4) SET ASIDES.—

5 (A) EVIDENCE-BASED STUDENT SUCCESS
6 PROGRAMS.—Each State that receives a grant
7 under this section shall set aside not less than
8 20 percent of grant funds for evidence-based
9 student success programs, which are programs
10 designed to improve persistence, credit accumu-
11 lation, completion, or career success, carried out
12 by an institution and that—

13 (i) meet—

14 (I) the requirements for evalua-
15 tion as described in subsection
16 (a)(2)(B) of section 4611 of the Ele-
17 mentary and Secondary Education
18 Act, as amended (20 U.S.C.
19 7261(a)(2)(B)); or

20 (II) the requirements for evalua-
21 tion as described in subsection
22 (a)(2)(C) of section 4611 of the Ele-
23 mentary and Secondary Education
24 Act, as amended (20 U.S.C.
25 7261(a)(2)(C)); and

1 (ii) provide students with a program
2 advisor to each eligible student partici-
3 pating in such program who provides com-
4 prehensive academic and personal advising
5 to the eligible student, including moni-
6 toring of academic progress of the eligible
7 student, and may provide each eligible stu-
8 dent with financial incentives, such as tui-
9 tion assistance, transportation assistance
10 or a gas card, free tutoring and career
11 services (which can include benefit coun-
12 seling) to eligible students in order to cre-
13 ate a community with eligible student par-
14 ticipating in such program.

15 (B) PERMISSIVE.—Each State that re-
16 ceives a grant under this section may set
17 aside—

18 (i) not more than 5 percent of grant
19 funds for administration, capacity building,
20 research, evaluation, and reporting; and

21 (ii) not more than 2 percent of grant
22 funds for technical assistance to State
23 service providers.

24 (d) STATE STRATEGIC PLANS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State that desires to re-
2 ceive a grant under this section shall submit an ap-
3 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
4 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
5 retary may require, including a State strategic plan.

6 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF STATE STRATEGIC
7 PLAN.—Each State strategic plan shall be developed
8 with input from each of the following:

9 (A) 2-year public institutions of higher
10 education in the State.

11 (B) 4-year public institutions of higher
12 education in the State.

13 (C) The State workforce development
14 board established under section 101 of the
15 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
16 U.S.C. 3111).

17 (D) A Tribal College or University with a
18 campus located in the State.

19 (E) State service providers.

20 (F) The State department with jurisdiction
21 over children, youth, and family services.

22 (3) CONTENT OF STATE STRATEGIC PLAN.—
23 Each State strategic plan shall include the following:

1 (A) Information on the state of the public
2 institutions of higher education in the State, in-
3 cluding the following:

4 (i) A description of the distribution of
5 funds to be provided from the grant to
6 participating public institutions of higher
7 education in the State.

8 (ii) A strategy for adopting a diverse
9 portfolio of promising and evidence-based
10 practices.

11 (iii) Annual benchmarks for student
12 outcomes.

13 (iv) Information about the evaluation
14 of interventions proposed to be funded by
15 the grant.

16 (v) A description of the State's plan
17 for an equity audit of higher education fi-
18 nancing.

19 (vi) Rates of enrolled students who re-
20 ceived a Federal Pell Grant under subpart
21 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Edu-
22 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et
23 seq.).

24 (vii) Demographics of enrolled stu-
25 dents, including students from low-income

1 backgrounds, historically underrepresented
2 students, first-generation college enrollees,
3 parenting students, students with disabili-
4 ties, and student veterans.

5 (B) A plan to increase student attainment
6 and completion rates or graduation rates of all
7 students enrolled at public institutions of higher
8 education in the State, with a particular focus
9 on students from students from low-income
10 backgrounds, historically underrepresented stu-
11 dents, first-generation college enrollees, par-
12 enting students, students with disabilities, and
13 student veterans through student support serv-
14 ices, cross-agency engagement, and collabora-
15 tion among 2-year programs, 4-year programs,
16 and workforce systems.

17 (e) INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION.—

18 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—A public institution of high-
19 er education that desires to receive assistance under
20 a grant made under this section shall submit to the
21 State in which the institution is located a notifica-
22 tion that the institution desires to opt into participa-
23 tion under this section.

24 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—A
25 State that desires to receive a grant under this sec-

1 tion shall solicit input from public institutions of
2 higher education in the State in the development of
3 the State strategic plan.

4 (3) INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT.—A State that re-
5 ceives a grant under this section shall not limit stu-
6 dent support services to students enrolled at public
7 institutions of higher education in the State that
8 participated in the development of the State stra-
9 tegic plan, but shall provide student support services
10 to students enrolled in participating public institu-
11 tions of higher education in the State.

12 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a grant
13 under this section shall distribute funds to participating
14 institutions of higher education in the State for evidence-
15 based and promising practices in improving retention and
16 completion rates, including the following:

17 (1) Student support services to support reten-
18 tion, completion, and success, including—

19 (A) faculty and peer counseling;

20 (B) use of real-time data on student
21 progress; and

22 (C) incentives for students to stay on
23 track.

24 (2) Direct student support services, including—

25 (A) transportation accessibility;

- 1 (B) room and board or assistance to ad-
2 dress housing instability;
- 3 (C) addressing food instability;
- 4 (D) remedial education;
- 5 (E) tutoring, academic supports, and en-
6 richment services; and
- 7 (F) emergency financial assistance.
- 8 (3) Access to health care and mental health
9 services on or near campus.
- 10 (4) Support helping students enroll in public
11 benefits.
- 12 (5) Issues with respect to dependents of stu-
13 dents, including—
- 14 (A) high-quality daycare and prekindergarten
15 access during traditional school hours;
- 16 (B) childcare access during non-traditional
17 hours; and
- 18 (C) prenatal and early childhood education
19 classes.
- 20 (6) Development of soft skills.
- 21 (7) Career coaching, career counseling and
22 planning services, and efforts to lower student to ad-
23 visor ratios, including—

1 (A) networking and work-based learning
2 opportunities to support the development of
3 skills and relationships; and

4 (B) boosting experiences necessary to ob-
5 tain and succeed in high-quality jobs.

6 (8) Reforms to developmental education, includ-
7 ing—

8 (A) utilizing career pathways; and

9 (B) improving transfer student success.

10 (9) Efforts to recruit, retain, and develop di-
11 verse faculty and other instructional staff.

12 (g) EVALUATION AND REPORTING.—

13 (1) DESIGNATION OF INDEPENDENT AGENCY.—

14 The State department with jurisdiction over higher
15 education in each State that receives a grant under
16 this section shall designate an independent agency to
17 compile and evaluate data linked to institutional pro-
18 grams and student outcomes funded with grant
19 funds.

20 (2) COMPILATION OF INFORMATION.—Each
21 independent agency designated under paragraph (1)
22 shall compile longitudinal data tracking student par-
23 ticipant outcomes, including the following:

24 (A) Graduation rates, disaggregated by age
25 (25-years of age and younger, and older than

1 25-years of age), gender, income, race and eth-
2 nicity, and first-generation college status—

3 (i) at 100 percent of the normal time
4 for graduation;

5 (ii) at 150 percent of the normal time
6 for graduation; and

7 (iii) at 200 percent of the normal time
8 for graduation.

9 (B) Transfer out rates, disaggregated by
10 age (25-years of age and younger, and older
11 than 25-years of age), gender, income, race and
12 ethnicity, and first-generation college status.

13 (C) Withdrawal rates, including rates of
14 students who withdraw to seek employment in
15 a related field of study.

16 (D) The percentage of students who con-
17 tinue enrollment at the institution after the
18 first year of enrollment.

19 (E) The median time to degree completion.

20 (F) Career outcomes and employment
21 data, which may include earnings, within 1 year
22 of completion, within 3 years of completion, and
23 within 5 years of completion.

24 (G) Career outcomes and employment data
25 for student participants who did not complete

1 the program in which the student was enrolled
2 within 1 year of leaving the program, within 3
3 years of leaving the program, and within 5
4 years of leaving the program.

5 (3) TECHNIQUES.—Each independent agency
6 designated under paragraph (1) shall evaluate the
7 academic outcomes using quasi-experimental tech-
8 niques.

9 (4) REPORT.—Each independent agency des-
10 ignated under paragraph (1) shall submit to the
11 State department with jurisdiction over higher edu-
12 cation a report that includes findings of the data
13 compiled under paragraph (2).

14 (5) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Each State de-
15 partment with jurisdiction over higher education
16 that receives a report under paragraph (4) shall sub-
17 mit the report to the Department of Education and
18 the authorizing committees, as defined in section
19 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
20 U.S.C. 1003), at such time and in such matter as
21 the Secretary of Education determines appropriate.

22 (6) EXCLUSIONS.—Each independent agency
23 designated under paragraph (1) shall not track data
24 with respect to individuals who transfer, move, or
25 seek employment outside of the State.

1 (h) MAINTAINING NET STATE OPERATING SUPPORT
2 FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a
4 grant under this section shall maintain net State op-
5 erating support for higher education for each fiscal
6 year for which the State receives a grant under this
7 section at a level that is not less than the level that
8 is equal to the average of such net State operating
9 support for higher education for the 3 fiscal years
10 preceding such fiscal year.

11 (2) WAIVERS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
13 grant a waiver to a State from the requirement
14 under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year if the
15 State demonstrates that—

16 (i) the net State operating support for
17 higher education for such fiscal year as a
18 percentage of total revenue available to the
19 State that will fund higher education for
20 such fiscal year is not less than such per-
21 centage for the previous fiscal year; and

22 (ii) unexpected or uncontrollable cir-
23 cumstances prevent the State from main-
24 taining such State support.

1 (B) NO REDUCTION FOR SUBSEQUENT FIS-
2 CAL YEAR.—If the Secretary grants a State a
3 waiver under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal
4 year, a determination of the required level of
5 net State operating support for higher edu-
6 cation for subsequent fiscal years shall exclude
7 the fiscal year for which the waiver was grant-
8 ed.

9 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 \$62,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2023
12 through 2032.