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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program for skills-for-success courses for all first-year students enrolled at certain institutions of higher education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. FOUSHEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program for skills-for-success courses for all first-year students enrolled at certain institutions of higher education.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “College Thriving Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED; APPLICATION RE-**
2 **QUIREMENTS.**

3 (a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
4 of Education shall award grants, on a competitive basis,
5 to eligible institutions to carry out skills-for-success
6 courses for all first-year students enrolled at such institu-
7 tions.

8 (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
9 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible institu-
10 tions that are historically Black colleges and universities.

11 (c) GRANT PERIOD; MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—

12 (1) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded to an el-
13 igible institution under this Act shall be for a 5-year
14 grant period.

15 (2) MINIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
17 graph (B), a grant under this Act shall be
18 awarded in an amount of \$1,000,000 for the 5-
19 year grant period for such grant.

20 (B) RATABLE INCREASES OR DE-
21 CREASES.—The amount specified in subpara-
22 graph (A) shall be ratably increased or de-
23 creased to the extent that funds available under
24 section 5 exceed or are less than (respectively)
25 the amount required to provide the amounts
26 specified in subparagraph (A).

1 (d) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to
2 receive a grant under this Act, an eligible institution shall
3 submit an application at such time, and in such manner,
4 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
5 quire, which shall include a description of—

6 (1) the skills-for-success course that the institu-
7 tion will develop and implement with the grant; and

8 (2) the activities the institution will carry out
9 under each phase described in section 3(b).

10 **SEC. 3. USES OF FUNDS; REPORT.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution receiving
12 a grant under this section shall develop and implement
13 a skills-for-success course by carrying out the activities
14 listed in each of the 4 phases described in subsection (b).

15 (b) PHASES FOR USES OF FUNDS.—

16 (1) PREPARATION PHASE.—During the first
17 year of the grant period, the eligible institution shall
18 use such grant to develop the skills-for-success
19 course and carry out the necessary preparation ac-
20 tivities, which may include—

21 (A) identifying and training instructional
22 staff;

23 (B) obtaining support from faculty, staff,
24 or institution administration for the curricular
25 adaptation;

1 (C) developing infrastructure for imple-
2 mentation, including obtaining necessary course
3 and syllabus approvals;

4 (D) determining how student registration
5 will be handled;

6 (E) establishing a course evaluation model;
7 and

8 (F) designating appropriate classroom
9 space.

10 (2) PILOT PHASE.—During the second year of
11 the grant period, the eligible institution shall use
12 such grant to implement a pilot skills-for-success
13 course, which shall include the piloting of methods
14 for evaluating the course, such as observation and
15 solicitation of feedback from course instructors, stu-
16 dents, and identified campus community leaders.

17 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—During the third,
18 fourth, and fifth years of the grant program, the eli-
19 gible institution shall use such grant to fully imple-
20 ment the skills-for-success course, which—

21 (A) incorporates the improvements identi-
22 fied during the pilot skills-for-success course
23 during the second year of the grant period; and

24 (B) is made available for each first-year
25 student enrolled at the institution, at the begin-

1 ning of such students’ first term of enrollment
2 at such institution, to the extent practicable.

3 (c) REPORT.—Each eligible institution that receives
4 a grant under this Act shall submit to the Secretary a
5 report upon the completion of the 5-year grant period,
6 which shall include—

7 (1) an evaluation of the pilot skills-for-success
8 course, and the skills-for-success course implemented
9 during the third through fifth years of the grant pe-
10 riod; and

11 (2) a description of how such grant was used
12 during each year of the grant period.

13 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-
16 ble institution” has the meaning given the term “in-
17 stitution of higher education” in section 101(a) of
18 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
19 1001(a)) and section 102(a)(1)(B) of such Act (20
20 U.S.C.1002(a)(1)(B)).

21 (2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNI-
22 VERSITIES.—The term “historically Black colleges
23 and universities” has the meaning given the term
24 “part B institution” in section 322 of the Higher
25 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)).

1 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Education.

3 (4) SKILLS-FOR-SUCCESS COURSE.—The term
4 “skills-for-success course” means a course offered by
5 an eligible institution for first-year students (includ-
6 ing transfer students) at the beginning of such stu-
7 dents’ first term of enrollment at such institution
8 that—

9 (A) has a low student-to-teacher ratio;

10 (B) is not graded or is pass-fail; and

11 (C) provides skills for success in college,

12 and includes each of the following topics:

13 (i) Development of connections with
14 campus partners (academic advisors) or
15 engagement with campus resources (cam-
16 pus mental health counselors).

17 (ii) Mental wellbeing.

18 (iii) Time management skills.

19 (iv) Planning and organization skills.

20 (v) Coping with stress and setbacks.

21 (vi) Managing conflict and difference.

22 (vii) Goal setting.

23 (viii) Building and maintaining
24 healthy interpersonal relationships.

25 (ix) Self-care and compassion.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated 50,000,000
3 to carry out this Act, which shall remain available until
4 expended.