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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST 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.—From the
4 amounts available under section 5, the Secretary of Edu-
5 cation shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligi-
6 ble institutions to carry out skills-for-success courses for
7 all first-year students enrolled at such institutions.

8 (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
9 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible institu-
10 tions in which at least 50 percent of all students enrolled
11 during the most recent academic year were eligible to re-
12 ceive a Federal Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) for the award
14 year applicable to such academic year.

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

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

19 (2) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant awarded to an
20 eligible institution under this Act shall be awarded
21 in such an amount as determined necessary by the
22 Secretary for the institution to carry out the activi-
23 ties described in section 3.

24 (d) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to
25 receive a grant under this Act, an eligible institution shall
26 submit an application at such time, and in such manner,

1 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
2 quire, which shall include a

3 (1) description of—

4 (A) the skills-for-success course that the
5 institution will develop and implement with the
6 grant; and

7 (B) the activities the institution will carry
8 out under each phase described in section 3(b);
9 and

10 (2) a request for a specific grant amount, and
11 a justification for such amount.

12 (e) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall,
13 upon request, provide technical assistance to eligible insti-
14 tutions in applying for a grant under this Act. In pro-
15 viding such technical assistance, the Secretary shall
16 prioritize eligible institutions described in subsection (b).

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

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

22 (b) **PHASES FOR USES OF FUNDS.**—

23 (1) **PREPARATION PHASE.**—During the first
24 year of the grant period, the eligible institution shall
25 use such grant to develop the skills-for-success

1 course and carry out the necessary preparation ac-
2 tivities, which may include—

3 (A) the promotion of relationship building
4 among students who have similar dates of en-
5 rollment;

6 (B) identifying and training instructional
7 staff;

8 (C) obtaining support from faculty, staff,
9 or institution administration for the curricular
10 adaptation;

11 (D) developing infrastructure for imple-
12 mentation, including obtaining necessary course
13 and syllabus approvals;

14 (E) determining how student registration
15 will be handled;

16 (F) establishing a course evaluation model;
17 and

18 (G) designating appropriate classroom
19 space.

20 (2) PILOT PHASE.—During the second year of
21 the grant period, the eligible institution shall use
22 such grant to implement—

23 (A) a pilot skills-for-success course; and

24 (B) a pilot of methods for evaluating the
25 course that includes an evaluation of the impact

1 of such course on student behavior and other
2 impacts, such as observation and solicitation of
3 feedback from course instructors, students, and
4 identified campus community leaders.

5 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—During the third,
6 fourth, and fifth years of the grant program, the eli-
7 gible institution shall use such grant to—

8 (A) fully implement the skills-for-success
9 course that—

10 (i) is made available for each first-
11 year student enrolled at the institution, at
12 the beginning of such students' first term
13 of enrollment at such institution, to the ex-
14 tent practicable; and

15 (ii) incorporates the improvements
16 identified—

17 (I) in the case of the third year
18 of the grant program, during the pilot
19 skills-for-success course; or

20 (II) in the case of the fourth and
21 fifth years of the grant program, dur-
22 ing the evaluation of the course dur-
23 ing the preceding grant year; and

1 (B) evaluate the full implementation of
2 such course using the methods identified as
3 being most effective for such an evaluation—

4 (i) in the case of the third year of the
5 grant program, during the pilot skills-for-
6 success course; or

7 (ii) in the case of the fourth and fifth
8 years of the grant program, during the
9 preceding grant year.

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

14 (1) an evaluation of the pilot skills-for-success
15 course, and each of the evaluations completed pursu-
16 ant to subsection (b)(3)(B); and

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

19 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-
22 ble institution” has the meaning given the term “in-
23 stitution of higher education” in section 101(a) of
24 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.

1 1001(a)) and section 102(a)(1)(B) of such Act (20
2 U.S.C.1002(a)(1)(B)).

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

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

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

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

13 (C) provides skills for success in college,
14 and includes each of the following topics:

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

19 (ii) Mental wellbeing.

20 (iii) Time management skills.

21 (iv) Planning and organization skills.

22 (v) Coping with stress and setbacks.

23 (vi) Managing conflict and difference.

24 (vii) Goal setting.

1 (viii) Building and maintaining
2 healthy interpersonal relationships.

3 (ix) Self-care and compassion.

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000
6 to carry out this Act, which shall remain available until
7 expended.