

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 686

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide greater access to higher education for America’s students, to eliminate educational barriers for participation in a public service career, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2019

Mr. CARDIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide greater access to higher education for America’s students, to eliminate educational barriers for participation in a public service career, and for other purposes.

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 “Strengthening Amer-
5 ican Communities Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 It is the purpose of this Act to provide greater access
8 to higher education for America’s students, to eliminate

1 educational barriers for participation in a public service
 2 career by providing an opportunity for potential public
 3 servants to obtain an undergraduate education, and to es-
 4 tablish an accelerated form of the public service loan for-
 5 giveness program for more immediate loan forgiveness for
 6 existing public servants holding Federal Direct Stafford
 7 Loans, Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, and
 8 Federal Direct PLUS Loans.

9 **TITLE I—AMERICA’S COLLEGE** 10 **PROMISE**

11 **SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.**

12 This title may be cited as the “America’s College
 13 Promise Act of 2019”.

14 **SEC. 102. PURPOSE.**

15 The purpose of this title is to help all individuals of
 16 the United States earn the education and skills the indi-
 17 viduals need—

18 (1) by making 2 years of community college
 19 free, through a new partnership with States and In-
 20 dian Tribes to help the States and Indian Tribes—

21 (A) waive resident community college tui-
 22 tion and fees for eligible students;

23 (B) maintain State and Indian Tribe sup-
 24 port for higher education; and

1 (C) promote key reforms to improve stu-
 2 dent outcomes; and

3 (2) through a new partnership with minority-
 4 serving institutions to—

5 (A) encourage eligible students to enroll
 6 and successfully complete a baccalaureate de-
 7 gree at participating institutions; and

8 (B) promote key reforms to improve stu-
 9 dent outcomes.

10 **Subtitle A—State and Indian Tribe** 11 **Grants for Community Colleges**

12 **SEC. 111. IN GENERAL.**

13 From amounts appropriated under section 117(a) for
 14 any fiscal year, the Secretary shall award grants to eligible
 15 States and Indian Tribes to pay the Federal share of ex-
 16 penditures needed to carry out the activities and services
 17 described in section 115.

18 **SEC. 112. FEDERAL SHARE; NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**

19 (a) FEDERAL SHARE.—

20 (1) FORMULA.—Subject to paragraph (2), the
 21 Federal share of a grant under this subtitle shall be
 22 based on a formula, determined by the Secretary,
 23 that—

24 (A) accounts for the State or Indian
 25 Tribe's share of eligible students; and

1 (B) provides, for each eligible student in
2 the State or Indian Tribe, a per-student
3 amount that is—

4 (i) not less than 300 percent of the
5 per-student amount of the State or Indian
6 Tribe share, determined under subsection
7 (b), subject to clause (ii); and

8 (ii) not greater than 75 percent of—

9 (I) for the 2018–2019 award
10 year, the average resident community
11 college tuition and fees per student in
12 all States for the most recent year for
13 which data are available; and

14 (II) for each subsequent award
15 year, the average resident community
16 college tuition and fees per student in
17 all States calculated under this sub-
18 clause for the preceding year, in-
19 creased by the lesser of—

20 (aa) the percentage by which
21 the average resident community
22 college tuition and fees per stu-
23 dent in all States for the most re-
24 cent year for which data are
25 available increased as compared

1 to such average for the preceding
 2 year; or

3 (bb) 3 percent.

4 (2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN INDIAN
 5 TRIBES.—In any case in which not less than 75 per-
 6 cent of the students at the community colleges oper-
 7 ated or controlled by an Indian Tribe are low-income
 8 students, the amount of the Federal share for such
 9 Indian Tribe shall be not less than 95 percent of the
 10 total amount needed to waive tuition and fees for all
 11 eligible students enrolled in such community col-
 12 leges.

13 (b) STATE OR TRIBAL SHARE.—

14 (1) FORMULA.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The State or Tribal
 16 share of a grant under this subtitle for each fis-
 17 cal year shall be the amount needed to pay 25
 18 percent of the average community college resi-
 19 dent tuition and fees per student in all States
 20 in the 2018–2019 award year for all eligible
 21 students in the State or Indian Tribe, respec-
 22 tively, for such fiscal year, except as provided in
 23 subparagraph (B).

24 (B) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN INDIAN
 25 TRIBES.—In a case in which not less than 5

1 percent of the students at the community col-
2 leges operated or controlled by an Indian Tribe
3 are low-income students, the amount of such
4 Indian Tribe's tribal share shall not exceed 5
5 percent of the total amount needed to waive tui-
6 tion and fees for all eligible students enrolled in
7 such community colleges.

8 (2) NEED-BASED AID.—A State or Indian Tribe
9 may include any need-based financial aid provided
10 through State or Tribal funds to eligible students as
11 part of the State or Tribal share.

12 (3) NO IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—A State or
13 Indian Tribe shall not include in-kind contributions
14 for purposes of the State or Tribal share described
15 in paragraph (1).

16 **SEC. 113. ELIGIBILITY.**

17 To be eligible for a grant under this subtitle, a State
18 or Indian Tribe shall agree to waive community college
19 resident tuition and fees for all eligible students for each
20 year of the grant.

21 **SEC. 114. APPLICATIONS.**

22 (a) SUBMISSION.—For each fiscal year for which a
23 State or Indian Tribe desires a grant under this subtitle,
24 an application shall be submitted to the Secretary at such
25 time, in such manner, and containing such information as

1 the Secretary may require. Such application shall be sub-
 2 mitted by—

3 (1) in the case of a State, the Governor, the
 4 State agency with jurisdiction over higher education,
 5 or another agency designated by the Governor to ad-
 6 minister the program under this subtitle; or

7 (2) in the case of an Indian Tribe, the gov-
 8 erning body of such Tribe.

9 (b) CONTENTS.—Each State or Indian Tribe applica-
 10 tion shall include, at a minimum—

11 (1) an estimate of the number of eligible stu-
 12 dents in the State or Indian Tribe and the cost of
 13 waiving community college resident tuition and fees
 14 for all eligible students for each fiscal year covered
 15 by the grant, with annual increases of an amount
 16 that shall not exceed 3 percent of the prior year's
 17 average resident community college tuition and fees;

18 (2) an assurance that all community colleges in
 19 the State or under the jurisdiction of the Indian
 20 Tribe, respectively, will waive resident tuition and
 21 fees for eligible students in programs that are—

22 (A) academic programs with credits that
 23 can fully transfer via articulation agreement to-
 24 ward a baccalaureate degree or postbaccalaure-

ate degree at any public institution of higher
education in the State; or

(B) occupational skills training programs
that lead to a recognized postsecondary creden-
tial that is in an in-demand industry sector or
occupation in the State;

(3) a description of the promising and evidence-
based institutional reforms and innovative practices
to improve student outcomes, including completion
or transfer rates, that have been or will be adopted
by the participating community colleges, such as—

(A) providing comprehensive academic and
student support services, including mentoring
and advising, especially for low-income, first-
generation, adult, and other underrepresented
students;

(B) providing accelerated learning opportu-
nities, such as dual or concurrent enrollment
programs, including early college high school
programs;

(C) advancing competency-based education;

(D) strengthening remedial education, es-
pecially for low-income, first-generation, adult
and other underrepresented students;

1 (E) implementing course redesigns of high-
2 enrollment courses to improve student outcomes
3 and reduce cost; or

4 (F) utilizing career pathways or degree
5 pathways;

6 (4) a description of how the State or Indian
7 Tribe will promote alignment between its public sec-
8 ondary school and postsecondary education systems,
9 including between 2-year and 4-year public institu-
10 tions of higher education and with minority-serving
11 institutions described in section 371(a) of the High-
12 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)), to
13 expand awareness of and access to postsecondary
14 education, reduce the need for remediation and re-
15 peated coursework, and improve student outcomes;

16 (5) a description of how the State or Indian
17 Tribe will ensure that programs leading to a recog-
18 nized postsecondary credential meet the quality cri-
19 teria established by the State under section 123(a)
20 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
21 (29 U.S.C. 3153(a)) or other quality criteria deter-
22 mined appropriate by the State or Indian Tribe;

23 (6) an assurance that all participating commu-
24 nity colleges in the State or under the authority of
25 the Indian Tribe have entered into program partici-

1 pation agreements under section 487 of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094); and

3 (7) an assurance that, for each year of the
4 grant, the State or Indian Tribe will notify each eli-
5 gible student of the student's remaining eligibility
6 for assistance under this subtitle.

7 **SEC. 115. ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian Tribe shall use
9 a grant under this subtitle only to provide funds to partici-
10 pating community colleges to waive resident tuition and
11 fees for eligible students who are enrolled in—

12 (1) academic programs with credits that can
13 fully transfer via articulation agreement toward a
14 baccalaureate degree or postbaccalaureate degree at
15 any public institution of higher education in the
16 State; or

17 (2) occupational skills training programs that
18 lead to a recognized postsecondary credential that is
19 in an in-demand industry sector or occupation in the
20 State.

21 (b) ADDITIONAL USES.—If a State or Indian Tribe
22 demonstrates to the Secretary that it has grant funds re-
23 maining after meeting the demand for activities described
24 in subsection (a), the State or Indian Tribe may use those
25 funds to carry out one or more of the following:

1 (1) Expanding the waiver of resident tuition
2 and fees at community college to students who are
3 returning students or otherwise not enrolling in
4 postsecondary education for the first time, and who
5 meet the student eligibility requirements of clauses
6 (i) through (v) of section 116(5)(A).

7 (2) Expanding the scope and capacity of high-
8 quality academic and occupational skills training
9 programs at community colleges.

10 (3) Improving postsecondary education readi-
11 ness in the State or Indian Tribe, through outreach
12 and early intervention.

13 (4) Expanding access to dual or concurrent en-
14 rollment programs, including early college high
15 school programs.

16 (5) Improving affordability at 4-year public and
17 private, nonprofit institutions of higher education.

18 (c) USE OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PUR-
19 POSES.—A State or Indian Tribe that receives a grant
20 under this subtitle may not use any funds provided under
21 this subtitle for administrative purposes relating to the
22 grant under this subtitle.

23 (d) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT REQUIRED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian Tribe that
2 receives a grant under this subtitle shall provide,
3 with respect to a fiscal year—

4 (A) for public and private, nonprofit insti-
5 tutions of higher education in such State or In-
6 dian tribe an amount that is equal to or greater
7 than the amount provided for non-capital and
8 non-direct research and development expenses
9 or costs by such State or Indian tribe to such
10 institutions of higher education during the pre-
11 ceding fiscal year for which satisfactory data
12 are available; and

13 (B) for student financial aid for paying
14 costs associated with public and private, non-
15 profit postsecondary education in such State or
16 Indian tribe an amount that is equal to or
17 greater than the amount provided for student
18 financial aid for paying costs associated with
19 public and private, nonprofit postsecondary
20 education by such State or Indian tribe in the
21 preceding fiscal year for which satisfactory data
22 are available.

23 (2) ADJUSTMENTS FOR BIENNIAL APPROPRIA-
24 TIONS.—The Secretary shall take into consideration
25 any adjustments to the calculations under paragraph

1 (1) that may be required to accurately reflect fund-
2 ing levels in States or Indian tribes with biennial ap-
3 propriation cycles.

4 (3) WAIVER.—The Secretary shall waive the re-
5 quirements of paragraph (1) if the Secretary deter-
6 mines that such a waiver would be equitable due to
7 exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances, such as
8 a natural disaster or a precipitous and unforeseen
9 decline in the financial resources of a State or In-
10 dian tribe, as appropriate.

11 (4) VIOLATION OF MAINTENANCE OF EF-
12 FORT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
13 the Secretary shall withhold from any State or In-
14 dian tribe that violates paragraph (1) and does not
15 receive a waiver pursuant to paragraph (3) any
16 amount that would otherwise be available to the
17 State or Indian tribe under this Act until such State
18 or Indian tribe has made significant efforts to cor-
19 rect such violation.

20 (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian Tribe re-
22 ceiving a grant under this subtitle shall submit an
23 annual report to the Secretary describing the uses of
24 grant funds under this subtitle, the progress made
25 in fulfilling the requirements of the grant, and rates

1 of graduation, transfer and attainment of recognized
 2 postsecondary credentials at participating commu-
 3 nity colleges, and including any other information as
 4 the Secretary may require.

5 (2) INCLUSION IN HEA ANNUAL REPORT.—At
 6 the discretion of the Secretary, the information re-
 7 quired in the report under paragraph (1) may be in-
 8 cluded in an annual report on higher education re-
 9 quired under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 10 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

11 (f) REPORTING BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary an-
 12 nually shall—

13 (1) compile and analyze the information de-
 14 scribed in subsection (e); and

15 (2) prepare and submit a report to the Com-
 16 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 17 of the Senate and the Committee on Education and
 18 Labor of the House of Representatives containing
 19 the analysis described in paragraph (1) and an iden-
 20 tification of State and Indian Tribe best practices
 21 for achieving the purpose of this subtitle.

22 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
 23 provide technical assistance to eligible States and Indian
 24 Tribes concerning best practices regarding the promising
 25 and evidence-based institutional reforms and innovative

1 practices to improve student outcomes as described in sec-
 2 tion 114(b)(3) and shall disseminate such best practices
 3 among the States and Indian Tribes.

4 (h) CONTINUATION OF FUNDING.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian Tribe re-
 6 ceiving a grant under this subtitle for a fiscal year
 7 may continue to receive funding under this title for
 8 future fiscal years conditioned on the availability of
 9 budget authority and on meeting the requirements
 10 of the grant, as determined by the Secretary.

11 (2) DISCONTINUATION.—The Secretary may
 12 discontinue funding of the Federal share of a grant
 13 under this subtitle if the State or Indian Tribe has
 14 violated the terms of the grant or is not making ade-
 15 quate progress in implementing the reforms de-
 16 scribed in the application submitted under section
 17 114.

18 **SEC. 116. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this subtitle:

20 (1) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term “career
 21 pathway” has the meaning given the term in section
 22 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
 23 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

24 (2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-
 25 nity college” means a public institution of higher

1 education at which the highest degree that is pre-
 2 dominantly awarded to students is an associate's de-
 3 gree, including 2-year tribally controlled colleges
 4 under section 316 of the Higher Education Act of
 5 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c) and public 2-year State in-
 6 stitutions of higher education.

7 (3) DUAL OR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PRO-
 8 GRAM.—The term “dual or concurrent enrollment
 9 program” has the meaning given the term in section
 10 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
 11 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12 (4) EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL.—The term
 13 “early college high school” has the meaning given
 14 the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-
 15 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

16 (5) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—

17 (A) DEFINITION.—The term “eligible stu-
 18 dent” means a student who—

19 (i)(I) enrolls in a community college
 20 after the date of enactment of this Act; or

21 (II) is enrolled in a community college
 22 as of the date of enactment of this Act;

23 (ii) attends the community college on
 24 not less than a half-time basis;

1 (iii) is maintaining satisfactory
 2 progress, as defined in section 484(c) of
 3 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
 4 U.S.C. 1091(c)), in the student's course of
 5 study;

6 (iv) qualifies for resident tuition, as
 7 determined by the State or Indian Tribe;
 8 and

9 (v) is enrolled in an eligible program
 10 described in section 114(b)(2).

11 (B) SPECIAL RULE.—An otherwise eligible
 12 student shall lose eligibility 3 calendar years
 13 after first receiving benefits under this subtitle.

14 (6) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPA-
 15 TION.—The term “in-demand industry sector or oc-
 16 cupation” has the meaning given the term in section
 17 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
 18 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

19 (7) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe”
 20 has the meaning given the term (without regard to
 21 capitalization) in section 102(2) of the Federally
 22 Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25
 23 U.S.C. 5130(2)).

24 (8) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
 25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (9) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
4 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-
5 tial” has the meaning as described in section 3 of
6 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
7 U.S.C. 3102).

8 (10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
9 means the Secretary of Education.

10 (11) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
11 ing given the term in section 103 of the Higher
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

13 **SEC. 117. APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 (a) AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS.—For
15 the purpose of making grants under this subtitle, there
16 are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appro-
17 priated—

- 18 (1) \$1,515,150,000 for fiscal year 2020;
- 19 (2) \$3,352,200,000 for fiscal year 2021;
- 20 (3) \$4,277,940,000 for fiscal year 2022;
- 21 (4) \$5,988,450,000 for fiscal year 2023;
- 22 (5) \$7,837,710,000 for fiscal year 2024;
- 23 (6) \$8,974,350,000 for fiscal year 2025;
- 24 (7) \$11,302,020,000 for fiscal year 2026;
- 25 (8) \$14,451,090,000 for fiscal year 2027;

1 (9) \$15,077,130,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

2 (10) \$15,729,810,000 for fiscal year 2029 and

3 each succeeding fiscal year.

4 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated under sub-
5 section (a) shall remain available to the Secretary until
6 expended.

7 (c) INSUFFICIENT FUNDS.—If the amount appro-
8 priated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year is not suffi-
9 cient to award each participating State and Indian Tribe
10 a grant under this subtitle that is equal to the minimum
11 amount of the Federal share described in section 112(a),
12 the Secretary may ratably reduce the amount of each such
13 grant or take other actions necessary to ensure an equi-
14 table distribution of such amount.

1 **Subtitle B—Grants to Historically**
 2 **Black Colleges and Universities,**
 3 **Hispanic-Serving Institutions,**
 4 **Asian American and Native**
 5 **American Pacific Islander-Serv-**
 6 **ing Institutions, Tribal Colleges**
 7 **and Universities, Alaska Native-**
 8 **Serving Institutions, Native Ha-**
 9 **waiian-Serving Institutions,**
 10 **Predominantly Black Institu-**
 11 **tions, and Native American-**
 12 **Serving Nontribal Institutions**

13 **SEC. 121. PATHWAYS TO STUDENT SUCCESS FOR HISTORI-**
 14 **CALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
 16 under section 124(a) for any fiscal year, the Secretary
 17 shall award grants to participating 4-year historically
 18 Black colleges or universities that meet the requirements
 19 of subsection (b) to—

20 (1) encourage students to enroll and success-
 21 fully complete a bachelor’s degree at institutions eli-
 22 gible under subsection (b);

23 (2) provide incentives to community college stu-
 24 dents to transfer to institutions eligible under sub-

1 section (b) through strong transfer pathways to
2 complete a bachelor's degree program; and

3 (3) support institutions eligible under sub-
4 section (b) to better serve new and existing students
5 by engaging in reforms and innovations designed to
6 improve completion rates and other student out-
7 comes.

8 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
9 under the program under this section, an institution shall
10 be a historically Black college or university that—

11 (1) has a student body of which not less than
12 35 percent are low-income students;

13 (2) commits to maintaining or adopting and im-
14 plementing promising and evidence-based institu-
15 tional reforms and innovative practices to improve
16 the completion rates and other student outcomes,
17 such as—

18 (A) providing comprehensive academic and
19 student support services, including mentoring
20 and advising;

21 (B) providing accelerated learning opportu-
22 nities and degree pathways, such as dual or
23 concurrent enrollment programs and pathways
24 to graduate and professional degree programs;

1 (C) advancing distance and competency-
2 based education;

3 (D) partnering with employers, industry,
4 nonprofit associations, and other groups to pro-
5 vide opportunities to advance learning outside
6 the classroom, including work-based learning
7 opportunities such as internships or apprentice-
8 ships or programs designed to improve inter-
9 cultural development and personal growth, such
10 as foreign exchange and study abroad pro-
11 grams;

12 (E) reforming remedial education, espe-
13 cially for low-income students, first generation
14 college students, adult students, and other
15 underrepresented students; or

16 (F) implementing course redesigns of high-
17 enrollment courses to improve student outcomes
18 and reduce cost;

19 (3) sets performance goals for improving stu-
20 dent outcomes for the duration of the grant; and

21 (4) if receiving a grant for transfer students,
22 has articulation agreements with community colleges
23 at the national, State, or local level to ensure that
24 community college credits can fully transfer to the
25 institution.

1 (c) GRANT AMOUNT.—

2 (1) INITIAL AMOUNT.—For the first year that
 3 an eligible institution, as described in subsection (b),
 4 participates in the grant program under this section
 5 and subject to paragraph (3), such eligible institu-
 6 tion shall receive a grant in an amount based on the
 7 product of—

8 (A) the actual cost of tuition and fees at
 9 the eligible institution in such year (referred to
 10 in this section as the per-student rebate); multi-
 11 plied by

12 (B) the number of eligible students en-
 13 rolled in the eligible institution for the pre-
 14 ceding year.

15 (2) SUBSEQUENT INCREASES.—For each suc-
 16 ceeding year after the first year of the grant pro-
 17 gram under this section, each eligible institution, as
 18 described in subsection (b), that participate in the
 19 grant program shall receive a grant in the amount
 20 determined under paragraph (1) for such year, ex-
 21 cept that in no case shall the amount of the per-stu-
 22 dent rebate for an eligible institution increase by
 23 more than 3 percent as compared to the amount of
 24 such rebate for the preceding year.

25 (3) LIMITATIONS.—

1 (A) MAXIMUM PER-STUDENT REBATE.—

2 No eligible institution, as described in sub-
 3 section (b), participating in the grant program
 4 under this section shall receive a per-student re-
 5 bate amount for any year that is greater than
 6 the national average of annual tuition and fees
 7 at public 4-year institutions of higher education
 8 for such year, as determined by the Secretary.

9 (B) FIRST YEAR TUITION AND FEES.—

10 During the first year of participation in the
 11 grant program under this section, no eligible in-
 12 stitution, as described in subsection (b), may in-
 13 crease tuition and fees at a rate greater than
 14 any annual increase at the eligible institution in
 15 the previous 5 years.

16 (d) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution, as de-
 17 scribed in subsection (b), that desires a grant under this
 18 section shall submit an application to the Secretary at
 19 such time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
 20 tion as the Secretary may require.

21 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds awarded under this sec-
 22 tion to an eligible institution, as described in subsection
 23 (b), shall be used to waive or significantly reduce tuition
 24 and fees for eligible students in an amount of not more
 25 than up to the annual per-student rebate amount for each

1 student, for not more than the first 60 credits an eligible
 2 student enrolls in the eligible institution.

3 **SEC. 122. PATHWAYS TO STUDENT SUCCESS FOR HISPANIC-**
 4 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS, ASIAN AMERICAN**
 5 **AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER-**
 6 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS, TRIBAL COLLEGES**
 7 **AND UNIVERSITIES, ALASKA NATIVE-SERV-**
 8 **ING INSTITUTIONS, NATIVE HAWAIIAN-SERV-**
 9 **ING INSTITUTIONS, PREDOMINANTLY BLACK**
 10 **INSTITUTIONS, AND NATIVE AMERICAN-SERV-**
 11 **ING NONTRIBAL INSTITUTIONS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
 13 under section 124(a) for any fiscal year, the Secretary
 14 shall award grants to eligible 4-year minority-serving insti-
 15 tutions to—

16 (1) encourage students to enroll and success-
 17 fully complete a bachelor's degree at institutions eli-
 18 gible under subsection (b);

19 (2) provide incentives to community college stu-
 20 dents to transfer to institutions eligible under sub-
 21 section (b) through strong transfer pathways to
 22 complete a bachelor's degree program; and

23 (3) support institutions eligible under sub-
 24 section (b) to better serve new and existing students
 25 by engaging in reforms and innovations designed to

1 improve completion rates and other student out-
2 comes.

3 (b) INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to
4 participate and receive a grant under this section, an insti-
5 tution shall be a minority-serving institution with respect
6 to which the majority of degrees awarded are bacca-
7 laureate degrees or higher that—

8 (1) has a student body of which not less than
9 35 percent are low-income students;

10 (2) commits to maintaining or adopting and im-
11 plementing promising and evidence-based institu-
12 tional reforms and innovative practices to improve
13 the completion rates and other student outcomes,
14 such as—

15 (A) providing comprehensive academic and
16 student support services, including mentoring
17 and advising;

18 (B) providing accelerated learning opportu-
19 nities and degree pathways, such as dual or
20 concurrent enrollment programs and pathways
21 to graduate and professional degree programs;

22 (C) advancing distance and competency-
23 based education;

24 (D) partnering with employers, industry,
25 nonprofit associations, and other groups to pro-

vide opportunities to advance learning outside the classroom, including work-based learning opportunities such as internships or apprenticeships or programs designed to improve intercultural development and personal growth, such as foreign exchange and study abroad programs;

(E) reforming remedial education, especially for low-income students, first generation college students, adult students, and other underrepresented students; and

(F) implementing course redesigns of high-enrollment courses to improve student outcomes and reduce cost;

(3) sets performance goals for improving student outcomes for the duration of the grant; and

(4) if receiving a grant for transfer students, has articulation agreements with community colleges at the national, State, or local levels to ensure that community college credits can fully transfer to the institution.

(c) GRANT AMOUNT.—

(1) INITIAL AMOUNT.—For the first year that an eligible institution, as described in subsection (b), participates in the grant program under this section

1 and subject to paragraph (3), such eligible institu-
 2 tion shall receive a grant in an amount based on the
 3 product of—

4 (A) the actual cost of tuition and fees at
 5 the eligible institution in such year (referred to
 6 in this section as the per-student rebate); multi-
 7 plied by

8 (B) the number of eligible students en-
 9 rolled in the eligible institution for the pre-
 10 ceding year.

11 (2) SUBSEQUENT INCREASES.—For each suc-
 12 ceeding year after the first year of the grant pro-
 13 gram under this section, each eligible institution, as
 14 described in subsection (b), that participate in the
 15 grant program shall receive a grant in the amount
 16 determined under paragraph (1) for such year, ex-
 17 cept that in no case shall the amount of the per-stu-
 18 dent rebate increase by more than 3 percent as com-
 19 pared to the amount of such rebate for the pre-
 20 ceding year.

21 (3) LIMITATIONS.—

22 (A) MAXIMUM PER-STUDENT REBATE.—

23 No eligible institution, as described in sub-
 24 section (b), participating in the grant program
 25 under this section shall receive a per-student re-

bate amount for a grant year greater than the national average of public 4-year institutional tuition and fees, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) FIRST YEAR TUITION AND FEES.—

During the first year of participation in the grant program under this section, no eligible institution, as described in subsection (b), may increase tuition and fees at a rate greater than any annual increase made by the institution in the previous 5 years.

(d) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution, as de-

scribed in subsection (b), shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such a manner, and containing such information as determined by the Secretary.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds awarded under this sec-

tion to an eligible institution, as described in subsection (b), shall be used to waive or significantly reduce tuition and fees for eligible students in an amount of not more than up to the annual per-student rebate amount for each student, for not more than the first 60 credits an eligible student enrolls in the eligible institution.

SEC. 123. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—

(A) DEFINITION.—The term “eligible student” means a student, regardless of age, who—

(i)(I) enrolls in a historically Black college or university, or minority-serving institution; or

(II) transfers from a community college into a historically Black college or university, or minority-serving institution;

(ii) attends the historically Black college or university, or minority serving institution, on at least a half-time basis; and

(iii) is maintaining satisfactory progress, as defined in section 484(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(c)), in the student’s course of study.

(B) SPECIAL RULE.—An otherwise eligible student shall lose eligibility 3 calendar years after first receiving benefits under this subtitle.

(2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or university” means a part B institution described in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

1 (3) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term “low-in-
2 come student”—

3 (A) shall include any student eligible for a
4 Federal Pell Grant under section 401 of the
5 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 1070a); and

7 (B) may include a student ineligible for a
8 Federal Pell Grant under section 401 of the
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
10 1070a) who is determined by the institution of
11 higher education in which the student is en-
12 rolled to be a low-income student based on an
13 analysis of the student’s ability to afford the
14 cost of attendance at the institution.

15 (4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
16 term “minority-serving institution” means any pub-
17 lic or nonprofit institution of higher education—

18 (A) described in paragraphs (2) through
19 (7) of section 371(a) of the Higher Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)); and

21 (B) designated as a minority-serving insti-
22 tution by the Secretary.

23 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
24 the Secretary of Education.

1 **SEC. 124. APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR
3 HBCU AND MSI GRANTS.—For the purpose of carrying
4 out sections 121 and 122, there are authorized to be ap-
5 propriated, and there are appropriated—

- 6 (1) \$61,050,000 for fiscal year 2020;
7 (2) \$199,800,000 for fiscal year 2021;
8 (3) \$1,189,920,000 for fiscal year 2022;
9 (4) \$1,237,650,000 for fiscal year 2023;
10 (5) \$1,287,600,000 for fiscal year 2024;
11 (6) \$1,338,660,000 for fiscal year 2025;
12 (7) \$1,359,750,000 for fiscal year 2026;
13 (8) \$1,449,660,000 for fiscal year 2027;
14 (9) \$1,508,490,000 for fiscal year 2028; and
15 (10) \$1,569,540,000 for fiscal year 2029 and
16 each succeeding fiscal year.

17 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated under sub-
18 section (a) are to remain available to the Secretary until
19 expended.

20 (c) INSUFFICIENT FUNDS.—If the amount appro-
21 priated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year is not suffi-
22 cient to award each participating institution in the grant
23 programs under sections 121 and 122 a grant under this
24 subtitle that is equal to 100 percent of the grant amount
25 determined under sections 121(c) and 122(c), as applica-
26 ble, the Secretary may ratably reduce the amount of each

1 such grant or take other actions necessary to ensure an
 2 equitable distribution of such amount.

3 **TITLE II—NATIONAL PUBLIC**
 4 **SERVICE EDUCATION GRANT**
 5 **PROGRAM**

6 **SEC. 201. NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE EDUCATION GRANT**
 7 **PROGRAM.**

8 Part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of
 9 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.) is amended by adding at
 10 the end the following:

11 **“Subpart 11—National Public Service Education**
 12 **Grant Program**

13 **“SEC. 420T. NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE EDUCATION**
 14 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

15 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 “(1) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘cost of at-
 18 tendance’ means tuition, fees, on-campus room
 19 and board, books and supplies, personal ex-
 20 penses, and transportation.

21 “(B) ON-CAMPUS ROOM AND BOARD.—The
 22 term ‘on-campus room and board’ means—

23 “(i) the cost to a student of a double
 24 room on campus; and

1 “(ii) the cost of a resident student
2 meal plan.

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
4 ble institution’ means a public 4-year institution of
5 higher education or a private, nonprofit 4-year insti-
6 tution of higher education.

7 “(3) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term ‘eligible
8 student’ means a student who—

9 “(A) has received an associate’s degree or
10 has earned not less than 60 credits toward a
11 baccalaureate degree;

12 “(B) is enrolled, at an eligible institution
13 awarded a grant under this section, on a full-
14 time basis in a course of study that will lead to
15 employment in a public service job; and

16 “(C) has submitted a Free Application for
17 Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the Depart-
18 ment.

19 “(4) PUBLIC SERVICE JOB.—The term ‘public
20 service job’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
21 tion 455(m)(3)(B).

22 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
23 shall establish a National Public Service Education Grant
24 program to assist in paying for the cost of attendance for
25 an undergraduate education to students who commit to

1 work for not less than 3 years in a public service job upon
 2 completion of their baccalaureate degree.

3 “(c) GRANTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO ELIGIBLE
 4 INSTITUTIONS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
 6 grants to eligible institutions to enable the eligible
 7 institutions to award grants to eligible students who
 8 commit to work for not less than 3 years in a public
 9 service job upon completion of their baccalaureate
 10 degree.

11 “(2) DURATION.—Grants awarded to eligible
 12 institutions under this subsection shall be 5 years in
 13 duration. Subject to subsection (e), such a grant
 14 may be extended for additional 5-year periods.

15 “(3) AMOUNTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
 17 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall award a
 18 grant to an eligible institution under this sub-
 19 section for a fiscal year in an amount equal to
 20 the lesser of—

21 “(i) the average annual cost of in-
 22 State tuition, fees, and on-campus room
 23 and board in the State in which the insti-
 24 tution is located at a public 4-year institu-
 25 tion of higher education during the fiscal

1 year multiplied by the number of eligible
 2 students enrolled at the institution who
 3 apply for a grant under this section during
 4 the fiscal year; or

5 “(ii) the actual annual cost of tuition,
 6 fees, and on-campus room and board at
 7 the eligible institution during the fiscal
 8 year multiplied by the number of eligible
 9 students enrolled at the institution who
 10 apply for a grant under this section during
 11 the fiscal year.

12 “(B) NONTRADITIONAL CALENDAR.—The
 13 calculation of the cost of tuition, fees, and on-
 14 campus room and board under subparagraph
 15 (A) with respect to an eligible student who ap-
 16 plies for a grant under this section for enroll-
 17 ment during the summer or other nontradi-
 18 tional period shall be the cost of the cost of tui-
 19 tion, fees, and on-campus room and board for
 20 such summer or other nontraditional period.

21 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall de-
 22 sign an application for eligible institutions to partici-
 23 pate in the grant program under this subsection that
 24 includes a description of how the eligible institution,

1 if awarded a grant under this subsection, will pro-
 2 vide services to students as follows:

3 “(A) Provide comprehensive academic and
 4 student support services for eligible students
 5 awarded grants under this section, including
 6 mentoring and advising, particularly for first-
 7 generation and minority students.

8 “(B) Provide accelerated learning opportu-
 9 nities for eligible students awarded grants
 10 under this section to receive their baccalaureate
 11 degree and any required certificate or license to
 12 work in their respective public service job in
 13 less than 2 years if an eligible student seeks to
 14 complete the degree in less than 2 years.

15 “(C) Foster opportunities for eligible stu-
 16 dents awarded grants under this section to con-
 17 nect with potential public service job employers
 18 through the Corporation for National and Com-
 19 munity Service.

20 “(D) Any additional information deter-
 21 mined necessary by the Secretary.

22 “(d) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution
 24 that receives a grant under subsection (c) shall

1 award grants to eligible students enrolled at the in-
2 stitution.

3 “(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible student who
4 desires to receive a grant under this section shall
5 submit an application to the eligible institution that
6 includes the following:

7 “(A) An agreement to work for not less
8 than 3 years in a public service job upon com-
9 pletion of their baccalaureate degree.

10 “(B) Information that demonstrates that
11 the student is an eligible student for purposes
12 of section 484.

13 “(C) Information that demonstrates that
14 the student has received counseling from the
15 Department that explains the terms and condi-
16 tions of the grant award.

17 “(D) Any additional information deter-
18 mined necessary by the Secretary.

19 “(3) GRANT AMOUNT.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
21 subparagraph (B), an eligible institution shall
22 award a grant to an eligible student enrolled at
23 the institution for an academic year in an
24 amount equal to the total grant amount re-
25 ceived by the eligible institution under sub-

1 section (c) for the fiscal year preceding the aca-
 2 demic year divided by the number of students
 3 to whom the eligible institution awards grants
 4 under this subsection for such academic year.

5 “(B) NONTRADITIONAL CALENDAR.—An
 6 eligible institution shall award a grant to an eli-
 7 gible student who applies for a grant under this
 8 section for enrollment during the summer or
 9 other nontraditional period in an amount, from
 10 the total grant amount received by the eligible
 11 institution under subsection (c), that is pro-
 12 rated to reflect the cost of tuition, fees, and on-
 13 campus room and board for such summer or
 14 other nontraditional period.

15 “(4) COST OF ATTENDANCE BEYOND GRANT
 16 AMOUNT.—

17 “(A) AMOUNTS NOT COVERED BY NPSEG
 18 GRANTS.—

19 “(i) PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—

20 “(I) IN GENERAL.—An eligible
 21 institution that is a public institution
 22 of higher education shall cover the ex-
 23 cess costs to meet the difference be-
 24 tween the in-State tuition, fees, and
 25 on-campus room and board at the in-

stitution and the amount awarded to the eligible student through the grant award under paragraph (3), through a combination of grant and work-study awards under this title for which the eligible student may be eligible, campus-based aid programs, State-based merit or need-based aid, or other institutional-based merit- or need-based aid. An eligible institution that is a public institution of higher education may cover, with respect to an eligible student, any amounts of the cost of attendance that are in excess of the total amount awarded to the eligible student through the grant award under paragraph (3) and the amount of excess costs provided under this subclause based on the demonstrated financial need of the student.

“(II) STUDENT CONTRIBUTION.—The eligible student shall be responsible for any amounts of the cost of attendance that are in excess of the total amount awarded to the el-

1 eligible student through the grant
 2 award under paragraph (3) and the
 3 amount of excess costs provided under
 4 subclause (I). The eligible student
 5 may be eligible for Federal student
 6 aid in accordance with subparagraph
 7 (B) for the remaining cost of attend-
 8 ance amount for which the student is
 9 responsible.

10 “(ii) PRIVATE INSTITUTION.—

11 “(I) MATCHING AMOUNT.—

12 “(aa) IN GENERAL.—An eli-
 13 gible institution that is a private,
 14 nonprofit institution of higher
 15 education shall—

16 “(AA) with respect to
 17 an eligible student described
 18 in item (bb), cover excess
 19 costs toward meeting an eli-
 20 gible student’s cost of at-
 21 tendance in an amount
 22 equal to or greater than the
 23 amount of the grant award
 24 to the eligible student de-

1 scribed in paragraph (3);
2 and

3 “(BB) with respect to
4 an eligible student not de-
5 scribed in item (bb), not be
6 obligated to provide addi-
7 tional institutional-based fi-
8 nancial aid to such student.

9 “(bb) ELIGIBLE STU-
10 DENTS.—An eligible student is
11 described in this item if the stu-
12 dent’s (or the student’s parents’
13 in the case of a dependent stu-
14 dent) adjusted gross income for
15 the taxable year that is 1 year
16 prior to the taxable year that
17 ends immediately prior to the be-
18 ginning of the first award year of
19 the program under this section is
20 equal to or less than \$125,000,
21 indexed for inflation by regula-
22 tion of the Secretary.

23 “(cc) SOURCE OF AID.—The
24 required amount described in
25 item (aa)(AA) may be provided

1 through a combination of grant
2 and work-study awards under
3 this title for which the eligible
4 student may be eligible, campus-
5 based aid programs, State-based
6 merit or need-based aid, or other
7 institutional-based merit- or
8 need-based aid.

9 “(II) STUDENT CONTRIBU-
10 TION.—The eligible student shall be
11 responsible for any amounts of the
12 cost of attendance that are in excess
13 of the total amount awarded to that
14 eligible student through the grant
15 award under paragraph (3) and the
16 amount of excess costs provided under
17 subclause (I). The eligible student
18 may be eligible for Federal student
19 aid in accordance with subparagraph
20 (B) for the remaining cost of attend-
21 ance amount for which the student is
22 responsible.

23 “(iii) STUDENT CHOICE.—An eligible
24 student who receives a Federal work-study
25 award by an eligible institution to meet the

1 cost of attendance beyond a grant awarded
2 under this section may choose to decline
3 the Federal work-study award and take
4 out a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Staf-
5 ford Loan. An eligible institution shall be
6 considered to have met the institution's re-
7 sponsibilities if a student chooses to take
8 out such a loan in lieu of a Federal work-
9 study award.

10 “(B) FIRST DOLLAR AWARD.—An eligible
11 institution shall consider the grant award under
12 this subsection as the first dollar award, to be
13 available prior to other funds awarded by the
14 Department of Education under this title, the
15 State involved, or the institution.

16 “(C) HOUSING.—An eligible student who
17 receives a grant under this subsection may use
18 the grant amounts for off-campus housing but
19 the student may not use such grant amounts
20 for any amounts for such off-campus housing
21 that are in excess of the cost of on-campus
22 room and board.

23 “(5) CLASSES IN NONTRADITIONAL CAL-
24 ENDARS.—An eligible student who receives a grant

1 under this subsection may use the grant amounts for
2 enrollment during any period of study.

3 “(e) INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution
5 that receives a grant under subsection (c) shall—

6 “(A) provide comprehensive academic and
7 student support services for eligible students
8 awarded grants under this section, including
9 mentoring and advising, particularly for first-
10 generation and minority students;

11 “(B) provide accelerated learning opportu-
12 nities for eligible students awarded grants
13 under this section to receive their baccalaureate
14 degree and any required certificate or license to
15 work in their respective public service job in
16 less than 2 years if an eligible student seeks to
17 complete the degree in less than 2 years; and

18 “(C) foster opportunities for eligible stu-
19 dents awarded grants under this section to con-
20 nect with potential public service job employers
21 through the Corporation for National and Com-
22 munity Service.

23 “(2) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institu-
25 tion that receives a grant under subsection (c)

1 shall submit a biennial report to the Secretary
2 describing the following:

3 “(i) Academic and student support
4 services offered to eligible students award-
5 ed grants under this section.

6 “(ii) Such students’ progress towards
7 baccalaureate degree completion and grad-
8 uation.

9 “(iii) Outreach to potential public
10 service job employers for the eligible stu-
11 dents awarded grants under this section.

12 “(B) CONTINUING GRANT AWARDS TO ELI-
13 GIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary may con-
14 tinue grant awards to an eligible institution
15 under subsection (c) after the initial 5-year
16 grant period for additional 5-year periods if—

17 “(i) the institution complies with the
18 requirements of paragraph (1); and

19 “(ii) the eligible students awarded
20 grants under this section who are enrolled
21 at the institution have a baccalaureate de-
22 gree graduation rate that meets or exceeds
23 a rate determined appropriate by the Sec-
24 retary.

1 “(C) DISCONTINUING GRANT AWARDS TO
2 ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
4 may discontinue grant awards to an eligi-
5 ble institution under subsection (c) after
6 the initial 5-year grant period based on the
7 outcome of the biennial reports under sub-
8 paragraph (A).

9 “(ii) NOTIFICATION.—Prior to the
10 Secretary discontinuing a grant award
11 under clause (i), the Secretary shall notify
12 the institution, prior to the start of the 5th
13 year of the 5-year grant period, in a pub-
14 lically available format, that the institution
15 is, or is potentially, out of compliance with
16 the requirements of the grant award and
17 may have the institution’s grant awards
18 discontinued.

19 “(iii) MODIFICATIONS.—In the 5th
20 year of the 5-year grant period, an eligible
21 institution may make modifications to the
22 institution’s grant program and appeal to
23 the Secretary for a renewal of the institu-
24 tion’s grant.

1 “(iv) DECISION.—The Secretary, prior
 2 to the conclusion of the 5-year grant pe-
 3 riod, shall render a decision on whether to
 4 continue grant awards to an eligible insti-
 5 tution.

6 “(v) REMAINING RESPONSIBILITY.—If
 7 the Secretary discontinues grant awards to
 8 an eligible institution under subsection (c),
 9 the institution shall be responsible for
 10 maintaining academic and student support
 11 services and providing the full remaining
 12 costs for eligible students awarded a grant
 13 under this section prior to such discontinu-
 14 ation to receive their baccalaureate degree
 15 debt free.

16 “(3) INSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITIONS.—Each eli-
 17 gible institution that receives a grant under sub-
 18 section (c) may not—

19 “(A) use grant funds for administrative
 20 purposes; or

21 “(B) establish different tuition prices be-
 22 tween eligible students who receive grants
 23 under this section and students who do not re-
 24 ceive grants under this section for pursuing the
 25 same course of study.

1 “(f) STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY.—

2 “(1) ENROLLMENT; GPA; SERVICE.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible student
4 awarded a grant under this section shall—

5 “(i) maintain full-time enrollment in
6 order to complete the student’s bacca-
7 laurate degree in not more than 2 years;
8 and

9 “(ii) maintain satisfactory academic
10 progress, defined as a 3.0 grade point av-
11 erage (GPA) or higher, and meet all other
12 institutional standards for academic
13 progress.

14 “(B) TWO WEEKS OF SERVICE.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as other-
16 wise provided in this subparagraph, an eli-
17 gible student awarded a grant under this
18 section shall serve for 80 hours as a partic-
19 ipant in a Corporation for National and
20 Community Service national service project
21 for each year the eligible student receives
22 the grant. The eligible institution shall as-
23 sist in placing the eligible student in such
24 a project relevant to the eligible student’s
25 course of study. Such required hours may

1 be completed at any point during the stu-
 2 dent's enrollment but shall be completed
 3 prior to the date the eligible student re-
 4 ceives the student's baccalaureate degree.

5 “(ii) OTHER PROJECT.—If an eligible
 6 student resides in an area without a local
 7 Corporation for National and Community
 8 Service national service project available,
 9 the student may instead participate in a
 10 service project with a community action
 11 agency, a local government agency, or an
 12 organization described in section 501(c)(3)
 13 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

14 “(iii) MEDICAL EXEMPTION.—The
 15 Secretary may grant an eligible student a
 16 medical exemption from the service com-
 17 mitment under this subparagraph if the
 18 student becomes medically unable to com-
 19 plete the service commitment over the
 20 course of the academic year. An eligible
 21 student granted such an exemption shall
 22 complete the service commitment upon re-
 23 covery without risking eligibility status in
 24 the grant program under this section.

25 “(2) SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.—

1 “(A) AFTER ONE YEAR.—In the case in
2 which an eligible student awarded a grant
3 under this section does not maintain satisfac-
4 tory academic progress, as described in para-
5 graph (1)(A)(ii), after the first academic year
6 for which the student received the grant, the
7 student shall—

8 “(i) serve an additional year in a pub-
9 lic service job beyond the 3-year commit-
10 ment upon receiving the student’s bacca-
11 laureate degree; and

12 “(ii) receive additional academic sup-
13 ports from the eligible institution in which
14 the student is enrolled.

15 “(B) AFTER TWO YEARS.—In the case in
16 which an eligible student awarded a grant
17 under this section does not receive a bacca-
18 laureate degree after the second academic year
19 for which the student received the grant, the
20 total of the grant award amount and remaining
21 funds provided by the institution shall be treat-
22 ed as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford
23 Loan under part D of title IV, and shall be sub-
24 ject to repayment, as described in paragraph
25 (4).

“(C) APPEALS.—In the case in which an eligible student awarded a grant under this section does not maintain satisfactory academic progress, as described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), after the first academic year for which the student received the grant, the student may appeal the decision to serve an additional year, as described in subparagraph (A)(i). The appeal shall be made in writing to the eligible institution and include an academic plan approved by the student’s adviser. The academic plan shall show a clear pathway to graduation within 1 year.

“(3) PUBLIC SERVICE JOB WORK OBLIGATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)(A)(i) and subparagraph (C), an eligible student awarded a grant under this section shall work for not less than 3 years in a public service job after receiving the student’s baccalaureate degree. Such 3 years (or 4 years, in the case of a scenario described in paragraph (2)(A)(i)) may be consecutive or nonconsecutive but shall be completed not later than 5 years (or 6 years, in the case of a scenario described

1 in paragraph (2)(A)(i)) after the date the stu-
2 dent receives the student's baccalaureate de-
3 gree.

4 “(B) NOTIFICATION.—An eligible student
5 awarded a grant under this section shall notify
6 the Department, utilizing a form designed by
7 the Secretary, of the student's compliance or
8 noncompliance with subparagraph (A) annually
9 until such student completes the student's work
10 obligation.

11 “(C) DEFERMENT FOR GRADUATE
12 SCHOOL.—The work obligation described in
13 subparagraph (A) of an eligible student award-
14 ed a grant under this section who enrolls as a
15 full-time student in a post-baccalaureate degree
16 program not later than 3 years after the date
17 the student receives the student's baccalaureate
18 degree shall be deferred during the period of
19 such full-time enrollment. Any years of service
20 completed prior to full-time enrollment in a
21 post-baccalaureate degree program shall count
22 toward such work obligation.

23 “(4) REPAYMENT FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—In
24 the event that an eligible student awarded a grant
25 under this section fails or refuses to comply with the

1 work obligation as described in paragraph (3), or the
2 student does not receive a baccalaureate degree after
3 the second academic year for which the student re-
4 ceived the grant, as described in paragraph (2)(B),
5 the sum of the amounts of any grants received by
6 the student shall, upon a determination of such a
7 failure or refusal in such service obligation or failure
8 to receive a baccalaureate degree, be treated as a
9 Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under
10 part D of title IV, and shall be subject to repay-
11 ment, together with interest thereon accruing from
12 the date of the grant award, in accordance with
13 terms and conditions specified by the Secretary in
14 regulations under this section.

15 “(5) MEDICAL EXEMPTION.—The Secretary
16 may grant an eligible student awarded a grant under
17 this section a medical exemption—

18 “(A) from the requirement of maintaining
19 satisfactory academic progress under paragraph
20 (1)(A)(ii); or

21 “(B) from a term or condition of the work
22 obligation of the student if the student becomes
23 medically unable to complete the student’s stud-
24 ies or public service job work obligation.

1 **“SEC. 420U. NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE EDUCATION**
2 **GRANT PROGRAM FOR MINORITY-SERVING**
3 **INSTITUTIONS AND HBCUS.**

4 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
6 ble institution’ means a minority-serving institution
7 or historically black college or university that is a
8 public 4-year institution of higher education or a
9 private, nonprofit 4-year institution of higher edu-
10 cation.

11 “(2) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term ‘eligible
12 student’ means a student who—

13 “(A) has received an associate’s degree or
14 has earned not less than 60 credits toward a
15 baccalaureate degree;

16 “(B) is enrolled, at an eligible institution
17 awarded a grant under this section, on a full-
18 time basis in a course of study that will lead to
19 employment in a public service job; and

20 “(C) has submitted a Free Application for
21 Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the Depart-
22 ment.

23 “(3) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
24 VERSITY.—The term ‘historically black college or
25 university’ means a part B institution described in
26 section 322(2).

1 “(4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
 2 term ‘minority-serving institution’ means any public
 3 or nonprofit institution of higher education—

4 “(A) described in paragraphs (2) through
 5 (7) of section 371(a); and

6 “(B) designated as a minority-serving in-
 7 stitution by the Secretary.

8 “(5) ON-CAMPUS ROOM AND BOARD.—The term
 9 ‘on-campus room and board’ means—

10 “(A) the cost to a student of a double
 11 room on campus; and

12 “(B) the cost of a resident student meal
 13 plan.

14 “(6) PUBLIC SERVICE JOB.—The term ‘public
 15 service job’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
 16 tion 455(m)(3)(B).

17 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
 18 shall establish a National Public Service Education Grant
 19 program for eligible institutions to provide a debt-free un-
 20 dergraduate education to students who commit to work
 21 for not less than 3 years in a public service job upon com-
 22 pletion of their baccalaureate degree.

23 “(c) GRANTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO ELIGIBLE
 24 INSTITUTIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
 2 grants to eligible institutions to enable the eligible
 3 institutions to award grants to eligible students who
 4 commit to work for not less than 3 years in a public
 5 service job upon completion of their baccalaureate
 6 degree.

7 “(2) DURATION.—Grants awarded to eligible
 8 institutions under this subsection shall be 5 years in
 9 duration. Subject to subsection (e), such a grant
 10 may be extended for additional 5-year periods.

11 “(3) AMOUNTS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
 13 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall award a
 14 grant to an eligible institution under this sub-
 15 section for a fiscal year in an amount equal to
 16 the actual annual cost of in-State tuition, fees,
 17 and on-campus room and board at the eligible
 18 institution during the fiscal year multiplied by
 19 the number of eligible students enrolled at the
 20 institution who apply for a grant under this
 21 section during the fiscal year.

22 “(B) NONTRADITIONAL CALENDAR.—The
 23 calculation of the cost of tuition, fees, and on-
 24 campus room and board under subparagraph
 25 (A) with respect to an eligible student who ap-

1 plies for a grant under this section for enroll-
2 ment during the summer or other nontradi-
3 tional period shall be the cost of the cost of tui-
4 tion, fees, and on-campus room and board for
5 such summer or other nontraditional period.

6 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall de-
7 sign an application for eligible institutions to partici-
8 pate in the grant program under this subsection that
9 includes a description of how the eligible institution,
10 if awarded a grant under this subsection, will pro-
11 vide services to students as follows:

12 “(A) Provide comprehensive academic and
13 student support services for eligible students
14 awarded grants under this section, including
15 mentoring and advising, particularly for first-
16 generation and minority students.

17 “(B) Provide accelerated learning opportu-
18 nities for eligible students awarded grants
19 under this section to receive their baccalaureate
20 degree and any required certificate or license to
21 work in their respective public service job in
22 less than 2 years if an eligible student seeks to
23 complete the degree in less than 2 years.

24 “(C) Foster opportunities for eligible stu-
25 dents awarded grants under this section to con-

1 neet with potential public service job employers
 2 through the Corporation for National and Com-
 3 munity Service.

4 “(D) Any additional information deter-
 5 mined necessary by the Secretary.

6 “(d) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution
 8 that receives a grant under subsection (c) shall
 9 award grants to eligible students enrolled at the in-
 10 stitution.

11 “(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible student who
 12 desires to receive a grant under this section shall
 13 submit an application to the eligible institution that
 14 includes the following:

15 “(A) An agreement to work for not less
 16 than 3 years in a public service job upon com-
 17 pletion of their baccalaureate degree.

18 “(B) Information that demonstrates that
 19 the student is an eligible student for purposes
 20 of section 484.

21 “(C) Information that demonstrates that
 22 the student has received counseling from the
 23 Department that explains the terms and condi-
 24 tions of the grant award.

1 “(D) Any additional information deter-
2 mined necessary by the Secretary.

3 “(3) GRANT AMOUNT.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution
5 shall award a grant to an eligible student en-
6 rolled at the institution for an academic year in
7 an amount equal to the total grant amount re-
8 ceived by the eligible institution under sub-
9 section (c) for the fiscal year preceding the aca-
10 demic year divided by the number of students
11 to whom the eligible institution awards grants
12 under this subsection for such academic year.

13 “(B) NONTRADITIONAL CALENDAR.—An
14 eligible institution shall award a grant to an eli-
15 gible student who applies for a grant under this
16 section for enrollment during the summer or
17 other nontraditional period in an amount, from
18 the total grant amount received by the eligible
19 institution under subsection (c), that is pro-
20 rated to reflect the cost of tuition, fees, and on-
21 campus room and board for such summer or
22 other nontraditional period.

23 “(4) COST OF ATTENDANCE BEYOND GRANT
24 AMOUNT.—

1 “(A) AMOUNTS NOT COVERED BY NPSEG
2 GRANTS.—

3 “(i) PUBLIC INSTITUTION.—An eligi-
4 ble institution that is a public institution
5 of higher education may cover, with re-
6 spect to an eligible student, any amounts
7 of the cost of attendance that are in excess
8 of the total amount awarded to the eligible
9 student through the grant award under
10 paragraph (3), based on the demonstrated
11 financial need of the student. For the re-
12 maining costs, the eligible student enrolled
13 at an eligible institution that is a public in-
14 stitution shall be responsible for any
15 amounts of the cost of attendance that are
16 in excess of the total amount awarded to
17 that eligible student through the grant
18 award under paragraph (3) and any
19 amount provided pursuant to the preceding
20 sentence. The eligible student may be eligi-
21 ble for Federal student aid in accordance
22 with subparagraph (B) for the remaining
23 cost of attendance amount for which the
24 student is responsible.

25 “(ii) PRIVATE INSTITUTION.—

1 “(I) IN GENERAL.—An eligible
2 institution that is a private, nonprofit
3 institution of higher education shall—

4 “(aa) with respect to an eli-
5 gible student described in sub-
6 clause (II), cover excess costs to-
7 ward meeting an eligible stu-
8 dent’s cost of attendance in an
9 amount equal to or greater than
10 the amount of the grant award to
11 the eligible student described in
12 paragraph (3); and

13 “(bb) with respect to an eli-
14 gible student not described in
15 subclause (II), not be obligated
16 to provide additional institu-
17 tional-based financial aid to such
18 student.

19 “(II) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—An
20 eligible student is described in this
21 subclause if the student’s (or the stu-
22 dent’s parents’ in the case of a de-
23 pendent student) adjusted gross in-
24 come for the taxable year that is 1
25 year prior to the taxable year that

1 ends immediately prior to the begin-
2 ning of the first award year of the
3 program under this section is equal to
4 or less than \$125,000, indexed for in-
5 flation by regulation of the Secretary.

6 “(III) SOURCE OF AID.—The re-
7 quired amount described in subclause
8 (I)(aa) may be provided through a
9 combination of grant and work-study
10 awards under this title for which the
11 eligible student may be eligible, cam-
12 pus-based aid programs, State-based
13 merit or need-based aid, or other in-
14 stitutional-based merit- or need-based
15 aid.

16 “(IV) STUDENT CONTRIBU-
17 TION.—The eligible student shall be
18 responsible for any amounts of the
19 cost of attendance that are in excess
20 of the total amount awarded to that
21 eligible student through the grant
22 award under paragraph (3) and the
23 amount of excess costs provided under
24 subclause (I). The eligible student
25 may be eligible for Federal student

1 aid in accordance with subparagraph
2 (B) for the remaining cost of attend-
3 ance amount for which the student is
4 responsible.

5 “(iii) STUDENT CHOICE.—An eligible
6 student who receives a Federal work-study
7 award by an eligible institution to meet the
8 cost of attendance beyond a grant awarded
9 under this section may choose to decline
10 the Federal work-study award and take
11 out a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Staf-
12 ford Loan. An eligible institution shall be
13 considered to have met the institution’s re-
14 sponsibilities if a student chooses to take
15 out such a loan in lieu of a Federal work-
16 study award.

17 “(B) FIRST DOLLAR AWARD.—In calcu-
18 lating an eligible student’s financial need to
19 cover excess costs described in subparagraph
20 (A), the eligible institution shall consider the
21 grant award under this subsection as the first
22 dollar award, to be available prior to other
23 funds awarded by the Department of Education
24 under this title, the State involved, or the insti-
25 tution. If a grant awarded to an eligible student

1 under this section is equal to the cost of tuition,
2 fees, and on-campus room and board for such
3 student, the eligible institution shall not be re-
4 quired to provide additional institutional schol-
5 arship or grant based aid to the eligible stu-
6 dent.

7 “(C) HOUSING.—An eligible student who
8 receives a grant under this subsection may use
9 the grant amounts for off-campus housing but
10 the student may not use such grant amounts
11 for any amounts for such off-campus housing
12 that are in excess of the cost of on-campus
13 room and board.

14 “(5) CLASSES IN NONTRADITIONAL CAL-
15 ENDARS.—An eligible student who receives a grant
16 under this subsection may use the grant amounts for
17 enrollment during any period of study.

18 “(e) INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution
20 that receives a grant under subsection (c) shall—

21 “(A) provide comprehensive academic and
22 student support services for eligible students
23 awarded grants under this section, including
24 mentoring and advising, particularly for first-
25 generation and minority students;

“(B) provide accelerated learning opportunities for eligible students awarded grants under this section to receive their baccalaureate degree and any required certificate or license to work in their respective public service job in less than 2 years if an eligible student seeks to complete the degree in less than 2 years; and

“(C) foster opportunities for eligible students awarded grants under this section to connect with potential public service job employers through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

“(2) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution that receives a grant under subsection (c) shall submit a biennial report to the Secretary describing the following:

“(i) Academic and student support services offered to eligible students awarded grants under this section.

“(ii) Such students’ progress towards baccalaureate degree completion and graduation.

1 “(iii) Outreach to potential public
2 service job employers for the eligible stu-
3 dents awarded grants under this section.

4 “(B) CONTINUING GRANT AWARDS TO ELI-
5 GIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary may con-
6 tinue grant awards to an eligible institution
7 under subsection (c) after the initial 5-year
8 grant period for additional 5-year periods if—

9 “(i) the institution complies with the
10 requirements of paragraph (1); and

11 “(ii) the eligible students awarded
12 grants under this section who are enrolled
13 at the institution have a baccalaureate de-
14 gree graduation rate that meets or exceeds
15 a rate determined appropriate by the Sec-
16 retary.

17 “(C) DISCONTINUING GRANT AWARDS TO
18 ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary
20 may discontinue grant awards to an eligi-
21 ble institution under subsection (c) after
22 the initial 5-year grant period based on the
23 outcome of the biennial reports under sub-
24 paragraph (A).

1 “(ii) NOTIFICATION.—Prior to the
 2 Secretary discontinuing a grant award
 3 under clause (i), the Secretary shall notify
 4 the institution, prior to the start of the 5th
 5 year of the 5-year grant period, in a pub-
 6 lically available format, that the institution
 7 is, or is potentially, out of compliance with
 8 the requirements of the grant award and
 9 may have the institution’s grant awards
 10 discontinued.

11 “(iii) MODIFICATIONS.—In the 5th
 12 year of the 5-year grant period, an eligible
 13 institution may make modifications to the
 14 institution’s grant program and appeal to
 15 the Secretary for a renewal of the institu-
 16 tion’s grant.

17 “(iv) DECISION.—The Secretary, prior
 18 to the conclusion of the 5-year grant pe-
 19 riod, shall render a decision on whether to
 20 continue grant awards to an eligible insti-
 21 tution.

22 “(v) REMAINING RESPONSIBILITY.—If
 23 the Secretary discontinues grant awards to
 24 an eligible institution under subsection (c),
 25 the institution shall be responsible for

1 maintaining academic and student support
2 services and providing the full remaining
3 costs for eligible students awarded a grant
4 under this section prior to such discontinu-
5 ation to receive their baccalaureate degree
6 debt free.

7 “(3) INSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITIONS.—Each eli-
8 gible institution that receives a grant under sub-
9 section (c) may not—

10 “(A) use grant funds for administrative
11 purposes; or

12 “(B) establish different tuition prices be-
13 tween eligible students who receive grants
14 under this section and students who do not re-
15 ceive grants under this section for pursuing the
16 same course of study.

17 “(f) STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY.—

18 “(1) ENROLLMENT; GPA; SERVICE.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible student
20 awarded a grant under this section shall—

21 “(i) maintain full-time enrollment in
22 order to complete the student’s bacca-
23 laureate degree in not more than 2 years;
24 and

1 “(ii) maintain satisfactory academic
2 progress, defined as a 3.0 grade point av-
3 erage (GPA) or higher, and meet all other
4 institutional standards for academic
5 progress.

6 “(B) TWO WEEKS OF SERVICE.—

7 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as other-
8 wise provided in this subparagraph, an eli-
9 gible student awarded a grant under this
10 section shall serve for 80 hours as a partic-
11 ipant in a Corporation for National and
12 Community Service national service project
13 for each year the eligible student receives
14 the grant. The eligible institution shall as-
15 sist in placing the eligible student in such
16 a project relevant to the eligible student’s
17 course of study. Such required hours may
18 be completed at any point during the stu-
19 dent’s enrollment but shall be completed
20 prior to the date the eligible student re-
21 ceives the student’s baccalaureate degree.

22 “(ii) OTHER PROJECT.—If an eligible
23 student resides in an area without a local
24 Corporation for National and Community
25 Service national service project available,

the student may instead participate in a service project with a community action agency, a local government agency, or an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(iii) MEDICAL EXEMPTION.—The Secretary may grant an eligible student a medical exemption from the service commitment under this subparagraph if the student becomes medically unable to complete the service commitment over the course of the academic year. An eligible student granted such an exemption shall complete the service commitment upon recovery without risking eligibility status in the grant program under this section.

“(2) SATISFACTORY PROGRESS.—

“(A) AFTER ONE YEAR.—In the case in which an eligible student awarded a grant under this section does not maintain satisfactory academic progress, as described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), after the first academic year for which the student received the grant, the student shall—

1 “(i) serve an additional year in a pub-
 2 lic service job beyond the 3-year commit-
 3 ment upon receiving the student’s bacca-
 4 laurate degree; and

5 “(ii) receive additional academic sup-
 6 ports from the eligible institution in which
 7 the student is enrolled.

8 “(B) AFTER TWO YEARS.—In the case in
 9 which an eligible student awarded a grant
 10 under this section does not receive a bacca-
 11 laurate degree after the second academic year
 12 for which the student received the grant, the
 13 total of the grant award amount and remaining
 14 funds provided by the institution shall be treat-
 15 ed as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford
 16 Loan under part D of title IV, and shall be sub-
 17 ject to repayment, as described in paragraph
 18 (4).

19 “(C) APPEALS.—In the case in which an
 20 eligible student awarded a grant under this sec-
 21 tion does not maintain satisfactory academic
 22 progress, as described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii),
 23 after the first academic year for which the stu-
 24 dent received the grant, the student may appeal
 25 the decision to serve an additional year, as de-

scribed in subparagraph (A)(i). The appeal shall be made in writing to the eligible institution and include an academic plan approved by the student's adviser. The academic plan shall show a clear pathway to graduation within 1 year.

“(3) PUBLIC SERVICE JOB WORK OBLIGATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)(A)(i) and subparagraph (C), an eligible student awarded a grant under this section shall work for not less than 3 years in a public service job after receiving the student's baccalaureate degree. Such 3 years (or 4 years, in the case of a scenario described in paragraph (2)(A)(i)) may be consecutive or nonconsecutive but shall be completed not later than 5 years (or 6 years, in the case of a scenario described in paragraph (2)(A)(i)) after the date the student receives the student's baccalaureate degree.

“(B) NOTIFICATION.—An eligible student awarded a grant under this section shall notify the Department, utilizing a form designed by the Secretary, of the student's compliance or

1 noncompliance with subparagraph (A) annually
2 until such student completes the student's work
3 obligation.

4 “(C) DEFERMENT FOR GRADUATE
5 SCHOOL.—The work obligation described in
6 subparagraph (A) of an eligible student award-
7 ed a grant under this section who enrolls as a
8 full-time student in a post-baccalaureate degree
9 program not later than 3 years after the date
10 the student receives the student's baccalaureate
11 degree shall be deferred during the period of
12 such full-time enrollment. Any years of service
13 completed prior to full-time enrollment in a
14 post-baccalaureate degree program shall count
15 toward such work obligation.

16 “(4) REPAYMENT FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—In
17 the event that an eligible student awarded a grant
18 under this section fails or refuses to comply with the
19 work obligation as described in paragraph (3), or the
20 student does not receive a baccalaureate degree after
21 the second academic year for which the student re-
22 ceived the grant, as described in paragraph (2)(B),
23 the sum of the amounts of any grants received by
24 the student shall, upon a determination of such a
25 failure or refusal in such service obligation or failure

1 to meet satisfactory academic progress, be treated as
 2 a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under
 3 part D of title IV, and shall be subject to repay-
 4 ment, together with interest thereon accruing from
 5 the date of the grant award, in accordance with
 6 terms and conditions specified by the Secretary in
 7 regulations under this section.

8 “(5) MEDICAL EXEMPTION.—The Secretary
 9 may grant an eligible student awarded a grant under
 10 this section a medical exemption—

11 “(A) from the requirement of maintaining
 12 satisfactory academic progress under paragraph
 13 (1)(A)(ii); or

14 “(B) from a term or condition of the work
 15 obligation of the student if the student becomes
 16 medically unable to complete the student’s stud-
 17 ies or public service job work obligation.”.

18 **TITLE III—DEBT-FREE PUBLIC** 19 **SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS** 20 **PROGRAM**

21 **SEC. 301. DEBT-FREE PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS** 22 **PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 455(m) of the Higher
 24 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)) is amended
 25 by adding at the end the following:

1 “(5) DEBT-FREE PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FOR-
2 GIVENESS PROGRAM.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning after the
4 date of enactment of the Strengthening Amer-
5 ican Communities Act of 2019, after the con-
6 clusion of each employment period in a public
7 service job, as described in subparagraph (B),
8 the Secretary shall cancel the percent specified
9 in such subparagraph of the total amount due
10 on any eligible Federal Direct Loan made after
11 the date of enactment of the Strengthening
12 American Communities Act of 2019 for a bor-
13 rower who—

14 “(i) is employed in such public service
15 job;

16 “(ii) submits an employment certifi-
17 cation form described in subparagraph (C);

18 “(iii) is enrolled in a repayment plan
19 described in paragraph (1)(A); and

20 “(iv) notifies the Department that the
21 borrower seeks loan cancellation under this
22 paragraph.

23 “(B) PERCENT AMOUNT.—The percent of
24 a loan that shall be canceled under subpara-
25 graph (A) is as follows:

1 “(i) In the case of a borrower who
2 completes 2 years of employment in a pub-
3 lic service job, 15 percent of the total
4 amount due on the eligible Federal Direct
5 Loan on the date the borrower commenced
6 employment in such public service job.

7 “(ii) In the case of a borrower who
8 completes 4 years of employment in a pub-
9 lic service job, 15 percent of the total
10 amount due on the eligible Federal Direct
11 Loan on the date the borrower commenced
12 employment in such public service job.

13 “(iii) In the case of a borrower who
14 completes 6 years of employment in a pub-
15 lic service job, 20 percent of the total
16 amount due on the eligible Federal Direct
17 Loan on the date the borrower commenced
18 employment in such public service job.

19 “(iv) In the case of a borrower who
20 completes 8 years of employment in a pub-
21 lic service job, 20 percent of the total
22 amount due on the eligible Federal Direct
23 Loan on the date the borrower commenced
24 employment in such public service job.

1 “(v) In the case of a borrower who
 2 completes 10 years of employment in a
 3 public service job, 30 percent of the total
 4 amount due on the eligible Federal Direct
 5 Loan on the date the borrower commenced
 6 employment in such public service job.

7 “(C) EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION
 8 FORM.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In order to receive
 10 loan cancellation under this paragraph, a
 11 borrower shall submit to the Secretary an
 12 employment certification form that is de-
 13 veloped by the Secretary and includes at
 14 least self-certification of employment, a
 15 separate part for employer certification
 16 that indicates the dates of employment,
 17 and any additional information required by
 18 the Secretary.

19 “(ii) DEFERMENT.—If a borrower
 20 submits to the Secretary the employment
 21 certification form described in clause (i),
 22 during the period in which the borrower is
 23 employed in a public service job for which
 24 loan cancellation is eligible under this

1 paragraph, the borrower's eligible Federal
2 Direct Loan shall be placed in deferment.

3 “(D) INTEREST CANCELED.—If a portion
4 of a loan is canceled under this paragraph for
5 any year, the entire amount of interest on such
6 loan that accrues for such year shall be can-
7 celed.

8 “(E) NO RETROACTIVITY.—A borrower
9 may not receive credit for purposes of loan for-
10 giveness under this paragraph for years of em-
11 ployment in a public service job that occurred
12 before the date of enactment of the Strength-
13 ening American Communities Act of 2019.

14 “(F) LEAVING PUBLIC SERVICE.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If a borrower who
16 receives loan cancellation under this para-
17 graph leaves the public service job, either
18 voluntarily or involuntarily, for which the
19 borrower received loan cancellation before
20 the total amount due on the eligible Fed-
21 eral Direct Loan is canceled under this
22 paragraph, such borrower shall retain eligi-
23 bility for accelerated loan cancellation
24 under this paragraph for such eligible Fed-
25 eral Direct Loan if the borrower com-

1 mences employment in a public service job
2 not later than 3 years after the date the
3 borrower left the public service job for
4 which the borrower received loan cancella-
5 tion.

6 “(ii) ELIGIBILITY STATUS.—If a bor-
7 rower described in clause (i) commences
8 employment in a public service job within
9 the time period described in clause (i),
10 such borrower shall resume eligibility for
11 accelerated loan cancellation under this
12 paragraph for such eligible Federal Direct
13 Loan. Such borrower upon resumption of
14 eligibility shall be considered to have com-
15 pleted the number of years of employment
16 in a public service job at the last completed
17 loan cancellation period described in sub-
18 paragraph (B) for such borrower, even if
19 the borrower had actually completed an ad-
20 ditional year of employment in a public
21 service job.

22 “(iii) LOSS OF ELIGIBILITY.—If a
23 borrower described in clause (i) does not
24 commence employment in a public service
25 job within the time period described in

1 clause (i), such borrower shall no longer be
2 eligible for loan cancellation under this
3 paragraph but may be eligible for loan can-
4 cellation for such loan under paragraph
5 (1).”.

6 (b) NOTIFICATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of
7 Education, in order to inform public servants of the bene-
8 fits of the debt-free public service loan cancellation pro-
9 gram established under section 455(m)(5) of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m))—

11 (1) shall make guidance publicly available to
12 the employers of public servants to make public serv-
13 ants aware of such program; and

14 (2) is encouraged to work in partnership with
15 State licensing agencies to make recently licensed
16 public servants aware of such program.

○