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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish and carry out a grant program to make grants to eligible institutions to plan and implement programs that provide comprehensive support services and resources designed to increase transfer and graduation rates at community colleges, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish and carry out a grant program to make grants to eligible institutions to plan and implement programs that provide comprehensive support services and resources designed to increase transfer and graduation rates at community colleges, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Community College  
3 Student Success Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS GRANT**  
5 **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

6 From the amounts appropriated under section 10, the  
7 Secretary of Education shall establish and carry out the  
8 community college student success grant program to  
9 award grants under sections 3 and 4, on a competitive  
10 basis, to eligible institutions to plan and implement com-  
11 munity college student success programs designed to in-  
12 crease—

13 (1) the rate at which eligible students graduate  
14 from a program of study at such eligible institution  
15 within 150 percent of the normal time for gradua-  
16 tion; and

17 (2) transfer rates of eligible students.

18 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO PLAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT**  
19 **SUCCESS PROGRAMS.**

20 (a) **PLANNING GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—From the  
21 amounts appropriated to carry out this section under sec-  
22 tion 10 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall award plan-  
23 ning grants for such fiscal year, on a competitive basis,  
24 to eligible institutions to develop plans for community col-  
25 lege student success programs.

1 (a) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this section  
2 shall be for a 1-year period.

3 (b) PEER REVIEW PROCESS; PRIORITY.—In award-  
4 ing grants under this section for a fiscal year, the Sec-  
5 retary shall—

6 (1) carry out a peer review process that—

7 (A) requires that each application sub-  
8 mitted under subsection (d) be peer reviewed by  
9 a panel of readers composed of individuals se-  
10 lected by the Secretary, which shall include—

11 (i) not less than 50 percent of read-  
12 ers—

13 (I) who are not employees of the  
14 Federal Government; and

15 (II) who have relevant research  
16 or practical experience with respect to  
17 student support programs designed to  
18 increase graduation rates and transfer  
19 rates at public 2-year institutions of  
20 higher education; and

21 (ii) to the maximum extent prac-  
22 ticable, individuals who are members of  
23 groups underrepresented in higher edu-  
24 cation, including African Americans, His-  
25 panics, Native Americans, Alaska Natives,

1 Asian Americans, and Native American  
2 Pacific Islanders (including Native Hawai-  
3 ians); and

4 (B) ensures that no individual assigned  
5 under subparagraph (A) to review an applica-  
6 tion has any conflict of interest with regard to  
7 that application that may make the individual  
8 unable to impartially conduct such review; and  
9 (2) give priority to eligible institutions that are  
10 eligible to receive funding under title III or V of the  
11 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051 et  
12 seq.).

13 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution desiring a  
14 grant under this section shall submit an application to the  
15 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing  
16 such information as the Secretary may require, which shall  
17 include—

18 (1) the graduation rate and transfer rate for  
19 the most recent academic year for which data are  
20 available for eligible students and all students, re-  
21 spectively;

22 (2) an analysis of how implementing a commu-  
23 nity college student success program may improve  
24 the graduation rate or transfer rate for eligible stu-  
25 dents; and

1           (3) an analysis of the methods the eligible insti-  
2           tution has previously used to improve the graduation  
3           rate or transfer rate with respect to eligible students  
4           and all students, respectively.

5           (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that re-  
6           ceives a grant under this section shall use the grant to  
7           develop a plan to implement a community college student  
8           success program at the eligible institution.

9           (e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
10          on which an eligible institution receives a grant under this  
11          section, such eligible institution shall submit to the Sec-  
12          retary a report that includes—

13           (1) a plan for implementing a community col-  
14          lege student success program at the eligible institu-  
15          tion, including—

16           (A) the ambitious outcome goals for  
17          achieving significant improvements in gradua-  
18          tion rates and transfer rates for eligible stu-  
19          dents and all students, respectively, as such  
20          rates are defined by the eligible institution, in  
21          consultation with the Secretary, before the end  
22          of the grant period;

23           (B) the number of such eligible students  
24          who will participate in such program, including  
25          how such eligible students will be identified, re-

1           ferred, and selected, in cases where the interest  
2           in the program is larger than the budget for the  
3           program;

4           (C) the demographics (including income,  
5           race, and gender) of such eligible students; and

6           (D) based on the most recent academic  
7           year for which data are available, disaggregated  
8           by eligible students and all students—

9           (i) graduation rates;

10          (ii) transfer rates;

11          (iii) retention rates;

12          (iv) rates of completion of remedial  
13          courses for students required to complete  
14          such courses; and

15          (v) average number of credits at-  
16          tempted and average number of credits  
17          earned;

18          (E) an analysis of the financial needs of  
19          the eligible students described in subparagraph  
20          (B);

21          (F) an analysis of how the eligible institu-  
22          tion will collaborate across departments at the  
23          institution and with external partners to imple-  
24          ment a community college student success pro-  
25          gram, including the detailed roles and respon-

1 sibilities of each potential external partner (in-  
2 cluding each investor, State or local government  
3 entity, or other stakeholder);

4 (G) a description of how the eligible insti-  
5 tution will effectively staff a community college  
6 student success program; and

7 (H) a timeline for the implementation of  
8 such program;

9 (2) a budgetary analysis that includes—

10 (A) a description of how the eligible insti-  
11 tution will—

12 (i) provide non-Federal funds for such  
13 program under subsection (d) of section 4;  
14 and

15 (ii) meet the requirement of sub-  
16 section (b)(3) of such section; and

17 (B) a description of how the eligible insti-  
18 tution will continue to fund such program after  
19 the end of the grant period for the grant  
20 awarded to the institution under section 4;

21 (3) a description of the data system the eligible  
22 institution will use to track and evaluate the  
23 progress of eligible students participating in such  
24 program;



1 institution submits an application under subsection  
2 (e).

3 (2) The eligible institution submits an applica-  
4 tion under subsection (e).

5 (3) The eligible institution demonstrates, on the  
6 date of the application described in subsection (e),  
7 the availability of non-Federal funding for the  
8 matching funds required under subparagraphs (A),  
9 (B), and (C) of subsection (d)(1).

10 (c) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this section  
11 shall be for a 5-year period.

12 (d) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
14 graph (2), an eligible institution awarded a grant  
15 under this section shall contribute in cash from non-  
16 Federal sources, the following:

17 (A) For the second year of the grant pe-  
18 riod, an amount equal to 20 percent of the cost  
19 of carrying out the community college student  
20 success program at the institution for such  
21 year.

22 (B) For the third year of the grant period,  
23 an amount equal to 40 percent of the cost of  
24 carrying out such program for such year.

1 (C) For the fourth year of the grant pe-  
2 riod, an amount equal to 60 percent of the cost  
3 of carrying out such program for such year.

4 (D) For the fifth year of the grant period,  
5 an amount equal to 80 percent of the cost of  
6 carrying out such program for such year.

7 (2) EXCEPTION.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-  
9 graph (1), with respect to an exempt institution  
10 awarded a grant under this section, for each  
11 year of the grant period beginning with the sec-  
12 ond year through the fifth year, the Secretary  
13 shall not require the institution to make a cash  
14 contribution from non-Federal sources in an  
15 amount that is greater than the amount equal  
16 to 5 percent of the cost of carrying out the  
17 community college student success program at  
18 the institution for such year.

19 (B) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this  
20 paragraph:

21 (i) EXEMPT INSTITUTION.—The term  
22 “exempt institution” means an eligible in-  
23 stitution that is a—

24 (I) Tribal college or university; or

1 (II) an institution located in the  
2 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam,  
3 American Samoa, the United States  
4 Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of  
5 the Northern Mariana Islands, the  
6 Republic of the Marshall Islands, the  
7 Federated States of Micronesia, or the  
8 Republic of Palau.

9 (ii) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVER-  
10 SITY.—The term “Tribal college or univer-  
11 sity” has the meaning given the term in  
12 section 316 of the Higher Education Act  
13 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c).

14 (e) APPLICATION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution desir-  
16 ing a grant under this section shall submit an appli-  
17 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such man-  
18 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
19 retary may require, which shall include a copy of the  
20 report described in section 3(e).

21 (2) REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE INSTITU-  
22 TIONS THAT REAPPLY.—An institution that submits  
23 an application under paragraph (1) that is not the  
24 first application submitted by such institution under

1 such paragraph shall include the following in such  
2 application:

3 (A) The number of applications such eligi-  
4 ble institution has submitted under paragraph  
5 (1) and the dates on which such applications  
6 were submitted.

7 (B) A description of the changes the eligi-  
8 ble institution has made since the most recent  
9 application submitted under paragraph (1) to  
10 improve the plan to implement a community  
11 college student success program at such eligible  
12 institution.

13 (3) REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after re-  
14 ceiving an application under this subsection, the Sec-  
15 retary shall approve or deny such application.

16 (f) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institu-  
17 tion that receives a grant under this section shall use the  
18 grant funds to—

19 (1) implement a community college student suc-  
20 cess program;

21 (2) regularly review—

22 (A) data to monitor the academic progress  
23 of eligible students participating in such pro-  
24 gram; and

1 (B) the meeting and program participation  
2 requirements described in section 9(1); and

3 (3) cover the employment of administrators for  
4 the program whose sole job shall be to administer  
5 the program, without regard to whether the employ-  
6 ment is full-time or less than full-time.

7 (g) PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible insti-  
8 tution that receives a grant under this section may use  
9 the grant to—

10 (1) establish or expand a data tracking system  
11 that includes early alerts to complete the regular re-  
12 views required under subsection (f)(2);

13 (2) provide eligible students participating in the  
14 community college student success program for  
15 which the grant is awarded with financial assistance  
16 to cover the costs described in paragraph (2), (3), or  
17 (8) of section 472 of the Higher Education Act of  
18 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll);

19 (3) establish or expand career development  
20 services for such students, such as career workshops  
21 or career counseling;

22 (4) establish or expand tutoring services for  
23 such students; and

24 (5) provide financial support for eligible stu-  
25 dents participating in such program to enroll in

1 courses offered during enrollment periods that are  
2 outside the fall and spring semesters (or equivalent  
3 terms).

4 (h) REPORTS.—An eligible institution that receives a  
5 grant under this section shall—

6 (1) not less than once for each year of the  
7 grant period, submit to the Secretary an annual per-  
8 formance report for such year of the grant period,  
9 and when data is available, compares such year with  
10 the each of the 2 years preceding the date on which  
11 the grant was awarded—

12 (A) the demographics of the eligible stu-  
13 dents participating in the community college  
14 student success program;

15 (B) the average number of credits at-  
16 tempted and average number of credits earned,  
17 rate of retention, rate of degree completion, and  
18 transfer rates of such eligible students;

19 (C) the graduation rate of such eligible  
20 students within—

21 (i) 100 percent of the normal time for  
22 graduation;

23 (ii) 150 percent of the normal time  
24 for graduation; and

1 (iii) 200 percent of the normal time  
2 graduation;

3 (D) an analysis of the implementation and  
4 progress of such program based on the ambi-  
5 tious outcome goals described in the report sub-  
6 mitted by the institution under section  
7 3(e)(1)(A), including challenges to and changes  
8 made to such program; and

9 (E) if according to the analysis under sub-  
10 paragraph (D), the program is not on track to  
11 meet such ambitious outcome goals, a descrip-  
12 tion of the plans to adjust the program to im-  
13 prove the performance of the program; and

14 (F) the participation of such eligible stu-  
15 dents in tutoring, career services, and meetings  
16 with program advisors;

17 (G) for the report for the third year of the  
18 grant period, the plan to meet the non-Federal  
19 contribution requirement under subsection  
20 (d)(1)(D);

21 (H) for the report for the fourth year of  
22 the grant period, a description of—

23 (i) the source of the funds to meet the  
24 non-Federal contribution requirement  
25 under subsection (d)(1)(D);

1 (ii) the plans to continue to fund such  
2 program after the grant period ends; and

3 (iii) the plans to use this program as  
4 a catalyst for institution-wide reform with  
5 respect to graduation rates and transfer  
6 rates for all students; and

7 (2) not later than 6 years after the date on  
8 which the eligible institution received such grant,  
9 submit a final report to the Secretary that includes  
10 an analysis of—

11 (A) the factors that contributed to the suc-  
12 cess or failure of the community college student  
13 success program in meeting the ambitious out-  
14 come goals described in the report submitted by  
15 the institution under section 3(e)(1)(A);

16 (B) the challenges faced in attempting to  
17 implement such program;

18 (C) information on how to improve such  
19 program;

20 (D) whether the program has created an  
21 institution-wide reform with respect to graduate  
22 rates and transfer rates for all students, and if  
23 so, how such reform was created; and

1 (E) how the eligible institution will con-  
2 tinue to fund such program after the end of the  
3 grant period.

4 **SEC. 5. EVALUATIONS.**

5 (a) INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS.—Before finalizing  
6 which eligible institutions will receive grants under section  
7 4 for a fiscal year, the Secretary, acting through the Di-  
8 rector of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall enter  
9 into a contract with an independent evaluator—

10 (1) to consult with the Secretary on which eligi-  
11 ble institutions should receive the grants; and

12 (2) to use the What Works Clearinghouse  
13 Standards (without reservations) to evaluate,  
14 throughout the duration of the grant period of such  
15 grants—

16 (A) each community college student suc-  
17 cess program for which such grant is awarded,  
18 including whether the program met its ambi-  
19 tious outcome goals described in the report sub-  
20 mitted by the institution under section  
21 3(e)(1)(A);

22 (B) the average impact of community col-  
23 lege student success programs on graduation  
24 rates and transfer rates for eligible students;

1 (C) the variation in program impacts  
2 across eligible institutions with respect to such  
3 rates; and

4 (D) whether such programs lead to higher  
5 graduation rates and transfer rates of eligible  
6 students per dollar spent for such students by  
7 such institutions compared with such rates at  
8 eligible institutions without such programs.

9 (b) RESULTS OF EVALUATIONS.—The results of the  
10 evaluations under subsection (a) shall be made publicly  
11 available on the website of the Department of Education.

12 (c) FUNDING FOR EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary  
13 may reserve not more than 15 percent of the funds appro-  
14 priated under section 10 for a fiscal year to carry out this  
15 section for such fiscal year.

16 **SEC. 6. OUTREACH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

17 (a) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct out-  
18 reach activities to notify eligible institutions of the avail-  
19 ability of grants under this Act.

20 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall  
21 provide technical assistance—

22 (1) to eligible institutions that may be inter-  
23 ested in applying for grants under this Act, includ-  
24 ing assistance with applications for such grants; and

1           (2) to eligible institutions awarded grants under  
2 this Act, including assistance with—

3           (A) establishing ambitious outcome goals  
4 described in section 3(e)(1)(A); and

5           (B) the implementation of a community  
6 college student success program.

7       (c) **FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR**  
8 **EVALUATIONS.**—The Secretary may reserve not more  
9 than 7 percent of the funds appropriated under section  
10 10 for a fiscal year for technical assistance under this sec-  
11 tion for such fiscal year.

12 **SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

13       Not later than 1 year after the date on which the  
14 Secretary receives the final evaluation results under sec-  
15 tion 5 for eligible institutions that were awarded grants  
16 under section 4 for the same fiscal year, the Secretary  
17 shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

18           (1) the number of grants awarded under section  
19 4 for such fiscal year, and the amount of such  
20 grants; and

21           (2) the number of grants awarded under section  
22 3 to eligible institutions that received or would have  
23 been eligible for the grants described in paragraph  
24 (1), and the amount of such grants; and

25           (3) such final evaluation results.

1 **SEC. 8. SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.**

2 Funds awarded to an eligible institution under this  
3 Act shall be used only to supplement the amount of funds  
4 that would, in the absence of the Federal funds provided  
5 under this Act, be made available from non-Federal  
6 sources or other Federal sources to carry out the activities  
7 under this Act, and not to supplant such funds.

8 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) **COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS**  
11 **PROGRAM.**—The term “community college student  
12 success program” means a program carried out by  
13 an eligible institution under which the institution  
14 carries out the following:

15 (A) Provides eligible students participating  
16 in such program with an amount that covers  
17 the cost of tuition and fees that are not covered  
18 by any Federal, State, or institutional financial  
19 assistance received by the student.

20 (B) Requires eligible students participating  
21 in such program to—

22 (i) be enrolled in the eligible institu-  
23 tion and carry a full-time academic work-  
24 load during each fall and spring semester  
25 (or equivalent terms) during which the stu-  
26 dent participates in such program;

1 (ii) if the eligible student is referred  
2 to remedial courses or on academic proba-  
3 tion, meet, on at least a weekly basis, with  
4 a tutor, except that in the case of an eligi-  
5 ble student who is academically struggling,  
6 but who is not referred to remedial courses  
7 or on academic probation, the student may  
8 meet with a tutor as often as the program  
9 advisor for such student requires;

10 (iii) meet with a program advisor—

11 (I) twice each month during the  
12 first semester (or equivalent term) of  
13 participation in such program; and

14 (II) as directed by the program  
15 advisor in subsequent semesters (or  
16 equivalent terms) under subparagraph  
17 (C)(ii); and

18 (iv) meet with an on-campus career  
19 advisor or participate in a career services  
20 event once each semester (or equivalent  
21 term).

22 (C) Provides a program advisor to each eli-  
23 gible student participating in such program  
24 who—

1 (i) provides comprehensive academic  
2 and personal advising to the eligible stu-  
3 dent, including—

4 (I) the creation and implementa-  
5 tion of an academic plan for the stu-  
6 dent to graduate from a program of  
7 study at the eligible institution within  
8 150 percent of the normal time for  
9 graduation from such program;

10 (II) if an eligible student is re-  
11 ferred to remedial courses, encour-  
12 aging such student to complete such  
13 courses as quickly as possible; and

14 (III) assisting the eligible student  
15 with developing and achieving aca-  
16 demic goals, including creating strong  
17 transfer pathways that demonstrate  
18 programmatic transfer for students  
19 interested in transferring to a 4-year  
20 institution of higher education;

21 (ii) after the eligible student partici-  
22 pating in such program completes a semes-  
23 ter (or equivalent term), creates for the eli-  
24 gible student a needs-based advising sched-  
25 ule that indicates, based on the eligible

1 student's academic performance, the fre-  
2 quency with which such eligible student  
3 shall be required to meet with a program  
4 advisor for each subsequent semester (or  
5 equivalent term) of program participation;

6 (iii) has a caseload of not more than  
7 150 eligible students;

8 (iv) tracks the attendance of the eligi-  
9 ble student at the meetings described in  
10 clauses (ii), (ii), and (iv) of subparagraph  
11 (B);

12 (v) monitors the academic progress of  
13 the eligible student; and

14 (vi) provides each eligible student who  
15 meets the requirements of subparagraph  
16 (B), on at least a monthly basis, with fi-  
17 nancial incentives, such as a transportation  
18 pass or a gas card.

19 (D) Provides free tutoring and career serv-  
20 ices to eligible students participating in such  
21 program, and may reserve places in select  
22 courses for such eligible students in order to  
23 create community within cohorts of eligible stu-  
24 dents.

1           (2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term “eligi-  
2           ble institution” means a public 2-year institution of  
3           higher education.

4           (3) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term “eligible  
5           student” means a student enrolled at an eligible in-  
6           stitution who—

7                   (A) on the date such eligible student would  
8                   begin participation in a community college stu-  
9                   dent success program at such eligible institu-  
10                  tion—

11                           (i) is enrolled in a program of study  
12                           leading to an associate degree;

13                           (ii) is enrolled at such institution and  
14                           carrying a full-time academic workload  
15                           during each fall and spring semester (or  
16                           equivalent terms) during which the student  
17                           participates in such program;

18                           (iii) is—

19                                   (I) a first-time undergraduate  
20                                   student; or

21                                   (II) a continuing or transfer stu-  
22                                   dent with not more than 15 credits  
23                                   and a minimum grade point average  
24                                   of 2.0 (or its equivalent); and

1 (iv) is considered by the eligible insti-  
2 tution to need no more than two remedial  
3 courses; and

4 (B) if the student is eligible for financial  
5 aid under title IV of the Higher Education Act  
6 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), has com-  
7 pleted the Free Application for Federal Student  
8 Aid or other common financial reporting form  
9 under section 483(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C.  
10 1090(a)); and

11 (C) meets any other requirements estab-  
12 lished by the institution.

13 (4) FULL-TIME ACADEMIC WORKLOAD.—The  
14 term “full-time academic workload”, when used with  
15 respect to an semester or equivalent term, means at  
16 least 12 credits (or the equivalent).

17 (5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
18 term “institution of higher education” has the  
19 meaning given the term under section 101 of the  
20 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

21 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
22 the Secretary of Education.

23 (7) TRANSFER RATE.—The term “transfer  
24 rate”, when used with respect to students enrolled in  
25 a program of study at an eligible institution, means

1       the rate at which such students transfer to a 4-year  
2       institution of higher education.

3       **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4       There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
5 this Act \$10,000,000,000 for fiscal years 2018 through  
6 2028, to be available until expended.