



House Committee on Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

# Vote "NO" on H.R. 6951, Republicans' Extreme Bill to Raise College Costs, Return to DeVos Era Deregulation and Chaos

A college degree remains the surest <u>pathway to economic mobility</u> and the American Dream. Unfortunately, the cost of attending college today is <u>more than triple</u> what it cost in 1980. As a result, the rising cost of attendance coupled with state disinvestment in public higher education has forced students and their families to borrow more than ever to attend college.

Instead of working with Democrats on <u>commonsense reforms</u>, Republicans are advancing H.R. 6951, the socalled *College Cost Reduction Act*, which would wreak havoc on our higher education system and inflict pain on students struggling to afford a college degree. Here are the top three reasons to oppose this legislation:

### H.R. 6951 raises costs for students and colleges. Specifically, the bill:

- Caps the total amount of federal student aid students can receive, leaving 50 percent of students seeking a college degree without the federal student aid they need.
- Repeals the Biden Administration's new, generous income-driven repayment plan, the SAVE Plan
- Pushes student loan borrowers into unaffordable repayment plans—potentially forcing some borrowers to have to pay off their loans for the rest of their lives.

### H.R. 6951 limits students' access to quality programs, ultimately making it harder for them to find a good-paying job. Specifically, the bill:

- Repeals the existing regulatory framework that the Biden Administration has strengthened and exposes students and taxpayers to predatory and low-quality institutions. For example, H.R. 6951 repeals the:
  - *Bipartisan 90/10 Rule,* which prevents for-profit colleges from duping veterans out of their hard-fought GI Bill benefits.
  - Gainful Employment Rule, which requires certificate programs to prepare students for gainful employment.
  - *Borrower Defense Rule,* which has provided relief for millions of borrowers defrauded by their schools.
  - *Closed School Discharge Rule,* which provides relief for students whose institutions closed before they completed their program.

## H.R. 6951 fuels divisive culture wars and jeopardizes the credibility of accrediting institutions. Specifically, the bill:

- Modifies requirements of accrediting agencies in ways that could limit academic freedom and, in turn, force colleges and universities to comply with the Republicans' divisive political agenda.
- Creates a hotbed of low-quality schools and programs by establishing untested shortcuts for prospective college accreditors to gain recognition and for unaccredited schools to access federal funding.

#### Don't just take our word for it—<u>here</u> is what advocates and experts have said about H.R. 6951.