

112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3748

To establish a grant program for stipends to assist in the cost of compensation paid by employers to certain recent college graduates and to provide funding for their further education in subjects relating to mathematics, science, engineering, and technology.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON (for herself, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To establish a grant program for stipends to assist in the cost of compensation paid by employers to certain recent college graduates and to provide funding for their further education in subjects relating to mathematics, science, engineering, and technology.

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 “America Realizing the  
5       Informational Skills and Initiative of New Graduates Act  
6       of 2011” or “America RISING Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) According to the Bureau of Labor Statis-  
4 tics, in the third quarter of 2009 the national unem-  
5 ployment rate for persons graduating from college in  
6 2008 was 10.6 percent, which is more than twice the  
7 national rate for college graduates aged 25 years  
8 and older. Because the typical college graduate  
9 leaves college owing an average of \$23,200 in stu-  
10 dent loan debt, the current job market offers exceed-  
11 ingly few opportunities for college graduates to ob-  
12 tain employment at a salary adequate to service  
13 their student loan debt or personal financial obliga-  
14 tions.

15 (2) There are more than 26 million small busi-  
16 nesses in the United States. In the current economic  
17 climate, these small businesses are experiencing dif-  
18 ficulty in finding the resources needed to increase  
19 sales, modernize operations, and hire new employees.

20 (3) Recent college graduates need the experi-  
21 ence that can be obtained only in the workplace to  
22 refine their skills and develop the entrepreneurial  
23 qualities that can lead to the creation of new busi-  
24 nesses and jobs.

25 (4) Existing small businesses, and companies  
26 will benefit from the information and technology

1 skills possessed by many of the Nation’s recent col-  
2 lege graduates.

3 (5) Enabling recent college graduates to obtain  
4 employment with small businesses benefits the na-  
5 tional economy by providing such businesses the  
6 human capital and technical expertise needed to  
7 compete and win in the global economy of the 21st  
8 century.

9 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF AMERICA RISING PROGRAM.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Labor shall  
11 establish a program under which—

12 (1) grants are to paid to eligible employers to  
13 defray the cost of compensation paid by such em-  
14 ployers to recent college graduates; and

15 (2) grants are paid to recent college graduates  
16 to enable such individuals to defray the cost of un-  
17 dertaking further education for up to 24 months in  
18 subjects relating to mathematics, science, engineer-  
19 ing, or technology.

20 (b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A grant under this  
21 section may be made on such terms and conditions as the  
22 Secretary may determine.

23 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER.—The term “eligible  
25 employer” means an employer that is a small busi-

1       ness concern (as such term is defined in section 3  
2       of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

3               (2) RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE.—

4                       (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “recent col-  
5       lege graduate” means an individual who—

6                               (i) who has received a baccalaureate  
7       or associate degree from an institution of  
8       higher education within the past 24  
9       months; and

10                              (ii) who has not previously received  
11       any such baccalaureate or associate degree.

12                       (B) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-  
13       CATION.—In subparagraph (A), the term “insti-  
14       tution of higher education” has the meaning  
15       given such term in section 101 of the Higher  
16       Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

17       (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18                       (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
19       appropriated to carry out this Act \$100,000,000 for  
20       each of the fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014.

21                       (2) AVAILABILITY.—Funds appropriated under  
22       paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

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