

Union Calendar No. 681

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R. 4795****[Report No. 119–780]**

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit an institution that participates in a nonexpressive commercial boycott of Israel from being eligible for certain funds under that Act, to require an institution that participates in certain programs under that Act to certify that students are not unreasonably obstructed from participating in academic programs in Israel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**JULY 29, 2025**

Ms. FOXX (for herself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

AUGUST 27, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on July 29, 2025]

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit an institution that participates in a nonexpressive commercial boycott of Israel from being eligible for certain funds under that Act, to require an institution that participates in certain programs under that Act to certify that students are not unreasonably obstructed from participating in academic programs in Israel, 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 “Protect Economic and*
 5 *Academic Freedom Act of 2026”.*

6 **SEC. 2. INELIGIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-**
 7 **CATION PARTICIPATING IN CERTAIN NON-**
 8 **EXPRESSIVE COMMERCIAL BOYCOTTS.**

9 *Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965*
 10 *(20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the*
 11 *following:*

12 *“(30)(A) The institution will not engage in a*
 13 *nonexpressive commercial boycott of a major strategic*
 14 *partner of the United States.*

15 *“(B) For purposes of this paragraph:*

16 *“(i) The term ‘major strategic partner’*
 17 *means, with respect to the United States—*

18 *“(I) a country described in section 4 of*
 19 *Public Law 113–296; or*

20 *“(II) an entity licensed or regulated*
 21 *by, or organized under the laws of, such a*
 22 *country.*

23 *“(ii) The term ‘nonexpressive commercial*
 24 *boycott of a major strategic partner’—*

1 “(I) means a commercial action (in-
 2 cluding engaging in refusals to deal and
 3 terminating business activities) that—

4 “(aa) is intended to limit com-
 5 mercial relations with a major stra-
 6 tegic partner; and

7 “(bb) is not based on a valid busi-
 8 ness reason; and

9 “(II) does not include actions described
 10 in regulations issued to provide for the ex-
 11 ceptions described in section 1773(a)(2) of
 12 the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.
 13 4842(a)(2)).”.

14 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR TITLE VI FUNDS.**

15 *Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*
 16 *U.S.C. 1121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the*
 17 *following new sections:*

18 **“SEC. 639. INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATIONS.**

19 *“(a) ANNUAL REQUIREMENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ELI-*
 20 *GIBILITY.—Not later than July 31 of each calendar year*
 21 *beginning on or after the date of enactment of the Protect*
 22 *Economic and Academic Freedom Act of 2026, an institu-*
 23 *tion of higher education participating or applying to par-*
 24 *ticipate in any program under this title shall submit to*
 25 *the Secretary the certification required under subsection (b).*

1 *An institution that does not submit such certification by*
2 *July 31 of a calendar year shall be ineligible to receive any*
3 *funds under this title in the first fiscal year that begins*
4 *after such July 31, including any funds under this title*
5 *that would otherwise have been available to the institution*
6 *in such fiscal year for a grant awarded during a previous*
7 *fiscal year.*

8 “(b) *CERTIFICATION.—An institution shall certify to*
9 *the Secretary that, for the period beginning on the date of*
10 *such certification and ending on July 31 of the following*
11 *year, the institution will—*

12 “(1) *permit students and faculty of the certifying*
13 *institution to participate in academic programs, in-*
14 *cluding conferences, teaching exchanges, cultural ex-*
15 *changes, study abroad programs, joint research, and*
16 *other collaborative educational activities, in a major*
17 *strategic partner (as defined in section 487(a)(30)) of*
18 *the United States in the same manner, and under the*
19 *same terms and conditions, as students and faculty of*
20 *the institution are permitted to participate in aca-*
21 *ademic programs in other foreign countries; and*

22 “(2) *permit students and faculty of postsec-*
23 *ondary educational institutions in such a major stra-*
24 *tegic partner to participate in academic programs of-*
25 *fered by the certifying institution, including con-*

1 *ferences, teaching exchanges, cultural exchanges, study*
2 *abroad programs, joint research, and other collabo-*
3 *rative educational activities, in the same manner,*
4 *and under the same terms and conditions, as students*
5 *and faculty of other foreign postsecondary educational*
6 *institutions that are not in such a major strategic*
7 *partner.*

8 **“SEC. 639A. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

9 *“It is the sense of Congress that limitations on cooper-*
10 *ative efforts by institutions of higher education, consortia*
11 *of such institutions, or partnerships between nonprofit edu-*
12 *cational organizations and institutions of higher education*
13 *with a major strategic partner (as defined in section*
14 *487(a)(30)) of the United States do not serve the security,*
15 *stability, and economic vitality of the United States.”.*

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