

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 496

Expressing support for the designation of November 8, 2025, as “National First-Generation College Celebration Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of November 8, 2025, as “National First-Generation College Celebration Day”.

Whereas a “first-generation college student” means an individual whose parents did not complete a baccalaureate degree, or in the case of any individual who regularly resided with and received support from only 1 parent, an individual whose parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree;

Whereas November 8 honors the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) by President Lyndon B. Johnson on November 8, 1965;

Whereas the Higher Education Act of 1965 was focused on increasing postsecondary education access and success for students, particularly low-income and first-generation college students;

Whereas the Higher Education Act of 1965 helped usher in programs necessary for low-income, first-generation college students to access, remain in, and complete postsecondary education, including the Federal TRIO programs under chapter 1 of subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11 et seq.) and the Federal Pell Grant program under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a);

Whereas the Federal TRIO programs are the primary national effort supporting underrepresented students in postsecondary education and are designed to identify individuals from low-income backgrounds that would be first-generation college students and prepare them for postsecondary education, provide them support services, and motivate and prepare them for doctoral programs;

Whereas the Federal Pell Grant program under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) is the primary Federal investment in financial aid for low-income college students and is used by students at institutions of higher education of their choice;

Whereas first-generation college students may face additional academic, financial, and social challenges that their peers do not face in pursuing higher education;

Whereas 54 percent of all college students pursuing degrees at the time of the introduction of this resolution are first-generation college students;

Whereas the Council for Opportunity in Education and FirstGen Forward, formerly the Center for First-generation Student Success, jointly launched the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration in 2017; and

Whereas the First-Generation College Celebration has continued to grow, and institutions of higher education, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and elementary and secondary schools now celebrate November 8 as “First-Generation College Celebration Day”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses support for the designation of No-
3 vember 8, 2025, as “National First-Generation Col-
4 lege Celebration Day”; and

5 (2) urges all people of the United States to—

6 (A) celebrate “National First-Generation
7 College Celebration Day” throughout the
8 United States;

9 (B) recognize the important role that first-
10 generation college students play in helping to
11 develop the future workforce; and

12 (C) celebrate the Higher Education Act of
13 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) and its pro-
14 grams that help underrepresented students ac-
15 cess higher education.

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