

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 772

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to identify and mentor college eligible high school students and their parents or legal guardians, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to identify and mentor college eligible high school students and their parents or legal guardians, 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 “Access to Aid Act of

5 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

2 Title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education
3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8001 et seq.) is amended by add-
4 ing at the end the following new part:

5 **PART L—ACCESS AID ACT**

6 **“SEC. 10995A. INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AUTHORIZED.**

7 “(a) PURPOSES OF ACCESS AID ACT.—The Secretary
8 is authorized, in accordance with the requirements of this
9 part, to establish a demonstration program with the fol-
10 owing purposes:

11 “(1) Encourage nonprofit organizations work-
12 ing with local school districts to establish a program
13 that identifies and mentors college eligible students
14 and their families on college selection, college admis-
15 sions, and college funding. Such program shall serve
16 students no later than the end of grade 10 and shall
17 continue to support them until the end of their 4-
18 or 5-year college career. Nonprofit organizations
19 shall provide comprehensive mentoring, supportive
20 services, and outreach to students and others and
21 schools participating under this part to promote en-
22 rollment of first generation, low-income students and
23 others in colleges and universities across the Nation.

24 “(2) Shift the cost of programs established
25 under this part from the Federal Government to the
26 private sector after 24 months to ensure that pro-

1 grams created under this part continue without Fed-
2 eral funds.

3 “(3) A nonprofit organization selected to receive
4 assistance under this part shall involve parents or
5 legal guardians of students in every aspect of college
6 selection and college admissions in the financial aid
7 process.

8 “(b) COUNSELING COMPONENT; INDIVIDUAL SERV-
9 ICES.—The primary focus of the counseling services under
10 this part shall be college selection, college admissions, and
11 college funding. Such counseling shall involve the stu-
12 dents' parents or legal guardians and shall be conducted
13 on an individual and confidential basis. The program shall
14 enable students to evaluate and select a college based on
15 the student's interest level and qualifications not cost.
16 Such support programs ensures a higher rate of college
17 graduation.

18 “(c) EMERGENCY GRANT COMPONENT.—Programs
19 under this part may provide participating students small
20 grants to underwrite the costs of college visits or to pur-
21 chase books and equipment required by (but not included
22 in) the student budget of the college. In addition, emer-
23 gency grants may be used when a student's demonstrated
24 need is not fully funded by the postsecondary institution.

1 In every case, emergency grants will be made pursuant
2 to the purposes outlined in this part.

3 “(d) WORKSHOPS COMPONENT.—In addition to individual
4 counseling of students and scholars, the organization
5 shall provide outreach support to each participating
6 school’s guidance or career counseling staff and provide
7 workshops relating to college admissions, college funding,
8 and financial aid from completion to the general population
9 of each participating school or other interested
10 schools. At each project site, the organization shall provide
11 no less than 10 workshops in participating and surrounding
12 school districts.

13 **“SEC. 10995B. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM.**

14 “(a) IDENTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS.—The students selected for assistance under this part shall be nominated for the program by the staffs of the participating high schools. The primary standard for selection relates to college eligible, first generation, low-income students, with no student served by TRIO or GEAR UP eligible for the program under this part.

21 “(b) SCOPE OF ACCESS AID.—Students shall be selected for assistance under this part in each State.

23 “(c) QUALIFYING ORGANIZATIONS.—In order to qualify for a grant under this part, the applicant shall—

1 “(1) be a tax-exempt not-for-profit organiza-
2 tion;

3 “(2) not be affiliated with a public or private
4 educational institution;

5 “(3) not sell a financial product of any kind;

6 “(4) demonstrate experience in the college ad-
7 missions and college funding arenas;

8 “(5) demonstrate familiarity with Federal out-
9 reach programs;

10 “(6) demonstrate prior experience with the pub-
11 lic secondary school sector;

12 “(7) provide evidence that there is a demand by
13 schools and school districts for its program;

14 “(8) provide a plan for orderly shift of the
15 funding component from the public to the private
16 sector;

17 “(9) provide for a plan for public awareness of
18 the program, the participants, and the outcomes;

19 “(10) provide a plan for counseling services for
20 participants from entry into the program until com-
21 pletion of college; and

22 “(11) include a quantifiable evaluation plan.

23 “(d) PLAN REQUIRED FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

24 “(1) In order to qualify for a grant under this
25 part, the applicant shall submit to the Secretary a

1 plan for carrying out the program under this part.
2 Such plan shall describe the program, including the
3 selection process for participating students and the
4 districts, the services rendered, and the strategy to
5 be used to shift the funding responsibility from the
6 Federal Government to the private sector.

7 “(2) The plan submitted pursuant to paragraph
8 (1) shall be in such form, contain or be accompanied
9 by such information, and be submitted at such time
10 as the Secretary may require by regulation and
11 shall—

12 “(A) describe the activities for which as-
13 sistance under this section is sought; and

14 “(B) provide such additional assurances to
15 ensure compliance with the requirements of this
16 part.

17 **“SEC. 10995C. EARLY INTERVENTION.**

18 “In order to receive payments under this part, an or-
19 ganization shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Sec-
20 retary that the organization will provide comprehensive
21 mentoring, outreach, and supportive services to students,
22 parents, and schools participating under this part to pro-
23 mote enrollment of first generation, low-income students
24 in colleges and universities across the Nation. Such indi-
25 vidual services shall begin not later than the end of the

1 10th grade and shall continue until completion of college.
2 Such counseling must involve the students' parents or
3 legal guardians and shall be conducted on an individual
4 and confidential basis. The primary focus of the coun-
5 seling services shall be college selection, college admis-
6 sions, and college funding. In order to assure completion
7 of college, the program shall have participating students
8 select and attend colleges across the Nation based upon
9 their appropriateness for the student rather than the cost.

10 **“SEC. 10995D. USES OF FUNDS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, by regula-
12 tion, establish criteria for determining whether com-
13 prehensive mentoring, counseling, outreach, and sup-
14 portive services programs may be used to meet the re-
15 quirements of this part.

16 “(b) ALLOWABLE PROVIDERS.—To meet the require-
17 ments of this part, the organization may contract on a
18 limited basis certain services from other providers.

19 **“SEC. 10995E. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this part \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through
22 2006.”.

