

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2336

To amend the Higher Education Act to establish and strengthen post-secondary programs and courses in the subjects of traditional American history, free institutions, and Western civilization, available to students preparing to teach these subjects, and to other students.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2003

Mr. PETRI (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. DREIER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act to establish and strengthen post-secondary programs and courses in the subjects of traditional American history, free institutions, and Western civilization, available to students preparing to teach these subjects, and to other students.

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 “Higher Education for
5 Freedom Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Given the increased threat to American
2 ideals in the trying times in which we live, it is im-
3 portant to preserve and defend our common heritage
4 of freedom and civilization and to ensure that future
5 generations of Americans understand the importance
6 of traditional American history and the principles of
7 free government on which this Nation was founded
8 in order to provide the basic knowledge that is es-
9 sential to full and informed participation in civic life
10 and to the larger vibrancy of the American experi-
11 ment in self-government, binding together a diverse
12 people into a single Nation with a common purposes.

13 (2) However, despite its importance, most of
14 the Nation's colleges and universities no longer re-
15 quire United States history or systematic study of
16 Western civilization and free institutions as a pre-
17 requisite to graduation.

18 (3) In addition, too many of our Nation's ele-
19 mentary and secondary history teachers lack the
20 training necessary to effectively teach these sub-
21 jects—due largely to the inadequacy of their teacher
22 preparation.

23 (4) Distinguished historians and intellectuals
24 fear that without a common civic memory and a
25 common understanding of the remarkable individ-

1 uals, events, and ideals that have shaped our Nation
2 and its free institutions, the people in the United
3 States risk losing much of what it means to be an
4 American, as well as the ability to fulfill the funda-
5 mental responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

6 (b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this act is to pro-
7 mote and sustain post-secondary academic centers, insti-
8 tutes, and programs that offer undergraduate and grad-
9 uate courses, support research, and develop teaching ma-
10 terials for the purpose of developing and imparting a
11 knowledge of traditional American history, the American
12 Founding, the history and nature of, and threats to, free
13 institutions, or of the nature, history and achievements of
14 Western Civilization, particularly for—

15 (1) undergraduate students enrolled in teacher
16 education programs, or who may consider becoming
17 school teachers, or who wish to enhance their civic
18 competence;

19 (2) elementary, middle, and high school teach-
20 ers in need of additional training in order to effec-
21 tively teach in these subject area; and

22 (3) graduate students and post-secondary fac-
23 ulty who wish to teach about these subject areas
24 with greater knowledge and effectiveness.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act:

3 (1) **ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.**—For the purposes
4 of this Act:

5 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “eligible in-
6 stitution” means—

7 (i) an institution of higher education;

8 (ii) a specific program within an insti-
9 tution of higher education; and

10 (iii) a non-profit history or academic
11 organization associated with higher edu-
12 cation whose mission is consistent with the
13 purposes of this Act.

14 (B) **SPECIAL RULE.**—An eligible institu-
15 tion within the meaning of subparagraph (A)
16 may apply to award subgrants to other such eli-
17 gible institutions at the discretion of, and sub-
18 ject to the oversight of, the Secretary.

19 (2) **FREE INSTITUTION.**—The term “free insti-
20 tution” means institutions that emerged out of
21 Western Civilization, such as democracy, individual
22 rights, market economics, religious freedom and tol-
23 erance, and freedom of thought and inquiry.

24 (3) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The
25 term “institution of higher education” has the same

1 meaning given that term under section 101 of the
2 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of Education.

5 (5) TRADITIONAL AMERICAN HISTORY.—The
6 term “traditional American history” means the sig-
7 nificant constitutional, political, intellectual, eco-
8 nomic, and foreign policy trends and issues that
9 have shaped the course of American history; and the
10 key episodes, turning points and leading figures, in-
11 volved in the constitutional, political, intellectual,
12 diplomatic, and economic history of the United
13 States.

14 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated to
16 carry out this Act, the Secretary shall provide, on a com-
17 petitive basis, grants to eligible institutions, which shall
18 be used for—

19 (1) History Teacher Preparation Initiatives,
20 that—

21 (A) stress content mastery in traditional
22 American history and the principals on which
23 the American political system is based, includ-
24 ing the history and philosophy of free institu-
25 tions, and the study of Western civilization; and

1 (B) provide for grantees to carry out re-
2 search, planning, and coordination activities de-
3 voted to the purposes of this Act.

4 (2) Grants to Strengthen Post-Secondary Pro-
5 grams in fields related to the American founding,
6 free institutions, and Western civilization, particu-
7 larly through—

8 (A) the design and implementation of
9 courses, lecture series and symposia, the devel-
10 opment and publication of instructional mate-
11 rials, and the development of new, and sup-
12 porting of existing, academic centers;

13 (B) research supporting the development
14 of relevant course materials;

15 (C) the support of faculty teaching in un-
16 dergraduate and graduate programs; and

17 (D) the support of graduate and post-
18 graduate fellowships and courses for scholars
19 related to such fields.

20 (b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting eligible insti-
21 tutions for grants under this section for any fiscal year,
22 the Secretary shall establish criteria by regulation, which
23 shall, at a minimum, consider the education value and rel-
24 evance of the institution's programming to carrying out
25 the purposes of this Act and the expertise of key personnel

1 in the area of traditional American history and the prin-
2 cipals on which the American political system is based,
3 including the political and intellectual history and philos-
4 ophy of free institutions, the American Founding, and
5 other key events that have contributed to American free-
6 dom and the study of Western civilization.

7 (c) GRANT APPLICATION.—An eligible institution
8 that desires to receive a grant under this Act shall submit
9 to the Secretary an application therefor at such time or
10 times, or in such manner, and containing such information
11 as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation.

12 (d) GRANT REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish
13 procedures for reviewing and evaluating grants and con-
14 tracts made or entered into under such programs.

15 (e) GRANT AWARDS.—

16 (1) MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM GRANTS.—For the
17 purposes of this Act, the Secretary shall award
18 grants of not less than \$400,000 and not more than
19 \$6,000,000 to eligible institutions.

20 (2) EXCEPTION.—A subgrant by an eligible in-
21 stitution to another eligible institution is not subject
22 to the minimum amount specified in paragraph (1).

23 (f) MULTIPLE AWARDS.—For the purposes of this
24 Act, the Secretary may award more than one grant to an
25 eligible institution.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) For the purpose of carrying out this Act, there
3 are authorized to be appropriated—

4 (1) \$140,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

5 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each of
6 the succeeding 5 fiscal years.

7 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 This Act shall take effect on September 1, 2003.

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