

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5275

To establish the Silver Scholarship program to provide transferable educational awards to older individuals who have performed certain volunteer services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FARR, and Mr. OSBORNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To establish the Silver Scholarship program to provide transferable educational awards to older individuals who have performed certain volunteer services.

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. SILVER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

4 Part A of title IV of the Older Americans Act of 1965
5 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

1 **“SEC. 422. SILVER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Assistant
3 Secretary may make grants to public agencies and non-
4 profit private organizations with experience in admin-
5 istering volunteer programs (including the programs car-
6 ried out under title II of the Domestic Volunteer Service
7 Act of 1973), to provide scholarships of not more than
8 \$1,000 per older individual in accordance with this sec-
9 tion.

10 “(b) APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS.—To request a
11 grant under this section, an agency or organization de-
12 scribed in subsection (a) shall submit to the Assistant Sec-
13 retary an application in such form and accompanied by
14 such information as the Assistant Secretary may reason-
15 ably require by rule. Such application shall include the
16 plan of the applicant to recruit, to retain, to manage, and
17 to train older individuals to serve as volunteers, including
18 older individuals with greatest economic need and older
19 individuals with limited English-speaking ability.

20 “(c) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND DOLLAR
21 AMOUNTS.—Subject to subsections (d) and (e), an agency
22 or organization that receives a grant under subsection (a)
23 shall award scholarships of \$1,000 per individual to eligi-
24 ble older individuals each of whom performed, during a
25 12-month period beginning after the effective date of this
26 section, not less than 600 hours of volunteer services of

1 the type determined to be appropriate by the Assistant
2 Secretary under subsection (f) (or, in a cases based on
3 compelling personal circumstances scholarships of a pro-
4 rated lesser dollar amount to eligible older individuals who
5 have completed not less than 300 hours, but less than 600
6 hours, of such volunteer services in such 12-month pe-
7 riod).

8 “(d) LIMITATION.—Not more than 1 scholarship may
9 be awarded under this section to a particular eligible older
10 individual in any 5-year period.

11 “(e) CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES FOR AWARDING
12 SCHOLARSHIPS.—For purposes of carrying out this sec-
13 tion, the Assistant Secretary shall establish by rule criteria
14 and prioirties to be applied by grant recipients in awarding
15 scholarships under this section to eligible older individuals.

16 “(f) VOLUNTEER SERVICES.—The Assistant Sec-
17 retary shall determine which types of volunteer services
18 (including tutoring and mentoring in a school setting, an
19 afterschool setting, or another community-based edu-
20 cational setting, and assisting individuals with special
21 needs to continue living independently) are appropriate for
22 purposes of satisfying the service requirements specified
23 in subsection (c).

24 “(g) USE OF SCHOLARSHIPS.—A scholarship award-
25 ed under this section may be used only—

1 “(1) by the older individual who receives such
2 scholarship or by any individual designated by such
3 older individual;

4 “(2) for the payment of qualified tuition and
5 related expenses, as defined in section 117 of the In-
6 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 117), and
7 in accordance with conditions established by the As-
8 sistant Secretary by rule; and

9 “(3) before the expiration of the 7-year period
10 beginning on the date of receipt of such scholarship.

11 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 and such sums as may
14 be necessary for fiscal years 2008 through 2011.”.

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