

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1247

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a scholarship program to encourage and support students who have contributed substantial public services.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2005

Mr. DODD (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. KERRY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a scholarship program to encourage and support students who have contributed substantial public 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4        This Act may be cited as the “Youth Service Scholar-

5        ship Act of 2005”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress finds that—

6 (2) more than 1 of 4 families is headed by a  
7 single parent and the percentage of such families  
8 has risen steadily over the past few decades, rising  
9 13 percent since 1990;

15 (4) existing outcome driven youth development  
16 strategies, pioneered by community-based organiza-  
17 tions, hold real promise for promoting positive be-  
18 haviors and preventing youth problems;

19 (5) formal evaluations of youth development  
20 programs have documented significant reductions in  
21 drug and alcohol use, school misbehavior, aggressive  
22 behavior, violence, truancy, high-risk sexual behav-  
23 ior, and smoking;

24 (6) compared to youth in the United States  
25 generally, youth participating in community-based

1 organizations are more than 26 percent more likely  
2 to report having received recognition for good grades  
3 than youth in the United States generally and nearly  
4 20 percent more likely to rate the likelihood of their  
5 going to college as very high; and

6 (7) the availability and use of Federal resources  
7 can be an effective incentive to leverage broader  
8 community support to enable local programs, activi-  
9 ties, and services to provide the full array of develop-  
10 mental core resources, remove barriers to access,  
11 promote program effectiveness, and facilitate coordi-  
12 nation and collaboration within the community.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

14 Subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Edu-  
15 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11 et seq.) is  
16 amended—

17 (1) by redesignating section 407E as section  
18 406E; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 **“CHAPTER 4—PUBLIC SERVICE  
INCENTIVES**

22 **“SEC. 407A. PURPOSE.**

23 “The purpose of this chapter is to establish a scholar-  
24 ship program to reward low-income students who have,  
25 during high school, and who continue, during college, to

1 make significant public service contributions to their com-  
2 munities.

3 **“SEC. 407B. SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED.**

4       “(a) **QUALIFICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.**—The  
5 Secretary is authorized to award a scholarship to enable  
6 a student to pay the cost of attendance at an institution  
7 of higher education during the student’s first 4 academic  
8 years of undergraduate education, if the student—

9           “(1) in order to be eligible for the first year of  
10 such scholarship, performed not less than 300 hours  
11 of qualifying public service during each of 2 aca-  
12 demic years of the student’s secondary school enroll-  
13 ment;

14           “(2) in order to be eligible for the second or  
15 any subsequent year of such scholarship, performed  
16 not less than 300 hours of qualifying public service  
17 during the academic year of postsecondary school at-  
18 tendance preceding the academic year for which the  
19 student seeks such scholarship;

20           “(3) was eligible for a free or reduced price  
21 lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School  
22 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.);

23           “(4) is eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants  
24 for the year in which the scholarships are awarded,  
25 except that a student shall not be required to comply

1 or verify compliance with section 484(a)(5) for pur-  
2 poses of receiving a scholarship under this chapter;  
3 and

4 “(5) otherwise demonstrates compliance with  
5 regulations prescribed by the Secretary under sec-  
6 tion 407G.

7 “(b) **DEFINITION OF QUALIFYING PUBLIC SERV-**  
8 **ICE.**—For purposes of subsection (a), the term ‘qualifying  
9 public service’ means service that would be eligible for  
10 treatment as community service under the National and  
11 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.)  
12 or under the Federal work-study program under part C.

13 **“SEC. 407C. AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP.**

14 “(a) **AMOUNT OF AWARD.**—

15 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in para-  
16 graph (2) and subsection (b), the amount of a schol-  
17 arship awarded under this chapter for any academic  
18 year shall be equal to \$5,000.

19 “(2) **ADJUSTMENT FOR INSUFFICIENT APPRO-**  
20 **PRIATIONS.**—If, after the Secretary determines the  
21 total number of students selected under section  
22 407D for an academic year, funds available to carry  
23 out this chapter for the academic year are insuffi-  
24 cient to fully fund all awards under this chapter for  
25 the academic year, the amount of the scholarship

1        paid to each student under this chapter shall be re-  
2        duced proportionately.

3        “(b) ASSISTANCE NOT TO EXCEED COST OF AT-  
4 TENDANCE.—A scholarship awarded under this chapter to  
5 any student, in combination with the Federal Pell Grant  
6 assistance and other student financial assistance available  
7 to such student, may not exceed the student’s cost of at-  
8 tendance.

9        **“SEC. 407D. SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.**

10       “The Secretary shall designate a panel to select stu-  
11 dents for the award of scholarships under this chapter.  
12 Such panel shall be composed of 9 individuals who are  
13 selected by the Secretary and shall be composed of equal  
14 numbers of youths, community representatives, and teach-  
15 ers. The Secretary shall ensure that no individual assigned  
16 under this section to review any application has any con-  
17 flict of interest with regard to the application that might  
18 impair the impartiality with which the individual conducts  
19 the review under this section.

20       **“SEC. 407E. APPLICATIONS.**

21       “Any eligible student desiring to obtain a scholarship  
22 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an appli-  
23 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing such  
24 information or assurances as the Secretary may require.  
25 Such application shall—

1           “(1) demonstrate that the eligible student is  
2           maintaining satisfactory academic progress and is  
3           achieving a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on  
4           a scale of 4), or its equivalent;

5           “(2) include a recommendation from—

6            “(A) the supervisor of the community serv-  
7           ice project of the applicant; and

8            “(B) another individual not related to, but  
9           familiar with the character of the applicant  
10           such as a teacher, coach, or employer; and

11           “(3) include an essay by the applicant on the  
12           nature of the community service performed by the  
13           applicant.

14 **“SEC. 407F. PROGRAM DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION.**

15           “(a) DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION.—The  
16           Secretary shall develop and disseminate to the public in-  
17           formation on the availability of, and application process  
18           for, scholarships under this chapter.

19           “(b) PROMOTION.—In disseminating information  
20           about the scholarship program under this chapter, the  
21           Secretary shall—

22            “(1) disseminate such information directly or  
23           through arrangements with local educational agen-  
24           cies, public and private elementary schools and sec-  
25           ondary schools, nonprofit organizations, consumer

1       groups, Federal, State, or local agencies, and the  
2       media; and

3               “(2) at a minimum, include a description and  
4       the purpose of the scholarship program, an expla-  
5       nation of how to obtain an application, and a de-  
6       scription of the application process and procedures.

7       **“SEC. 407G. REGULATIONS.**

8               “The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as  
9       may be necessary to carry out this chapter.

10      **“SEC. 407H. EVALUATION.**

11               “Not earlier than 2 years after the first fiscal year  
12       for which funds are made available under this chapter, the  
13       Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress an evalua-  
14       tion of the effectiveness of the program under this chapter.

15       Such evaluation shall include—

16               “(1) an evaluation of the demand, by grade  
17       level and types of community service sites, for the  
18       scholarships provided under this chapter;

19               “(2) general data on the background of pro-  
20       gram participants and the types of service per-  
21       formed; and

22               “(3) an itemization of the costs of admin-  
23       istering the program under this chapter.

1     **“SEC. 407I. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2         “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3     this chapter \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and such  
4     sums as are necessary for each of the 3 succeeding fiscal  
5     years.”.

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