

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 629

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize grants for institutions of higher education serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2007

Mr. WU (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize grants for institutions of higher education serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The population of Asian American and Pa-
6 cific Islanders (in this section referred to as
7 “AAPI”) is an exceptionally diverse population.
8 Characteristics of the AAPI population vary accord-

1 ing to ethnicity, immigration patterns, historical ex-
2 periences, and social group issues.

3 (2) The diversity of the AAPI population in-
4 cludes indigenous Pacific Islanders, well-established
5 populations represented in the United States for sev-
6 eral generations, and ethnic groups who may be re-
7 cent immigrants or refugees, and were forced to
8 leave their home countries.

9 (3) The diversity of the population is reflected
10 in the Federal government’s categories for Asian
11 Americans and Pacific Islanders. There are 17 eth-
12 nic groups considered to be Asian and 4 ethnic
13 groups considered to be Pacific Islander. Neither
14 definition reflects AAPI’s who may identify as
15 “more than one race”.

16 (4) The distinct cultural, linguistic, socio-
17 economic, and historical experiences that affect edu-
18 cational attainment of different AAPI sub-popu-
19 lations are often overlooked because programs and
20 policies are based on aggregated data and the as-
21 sumption that AAPI’s are a monolithic group. The
22 “model minority myth” assumption adversely effects
23 AAPI youth, who are perceived as being academi-
24 cally successful and not in need of outreach, aca-
25 demic support systems, or other support services.

1 (5) The “model minority myth” and lack of
2 disaggregated data may prevent student services of-
3 fices from conducting intentional outreach efforts,
4 such as through TRIO programs including Upward
5 Bound and Educational Talent Search, to AAPI stu-
6 dents, because they are perceived to not be in need
7 of support.

8 (6) Additionally, disaggregated data indicates
9 that 25.0 percent of Vietnamese Americans, 63.6
10 percent for Hmong Americans, 42.6 percent of Cam-
11 bodian Americans, 34.7 percent Laotian Americans,
12 17.7 percent of Pacific Islander live in poverty. Such
13 socioeconomic disparities within the community are
14 often overlooked, as only 12.6 percent of the total
15 AAPI population lives in poverty.

16 (7) While Asian Americans and Pacific Island-
17 ers overall have the highest college graduation rates
18 of any group (44 percent in 2000), certain sub-
19 groups have much lower rates of degree attainment.
20 Only 13.8 percent of Vietnamese Americans, 5.8
21 percent of Laotian Americans, 6.1 percent of Cam-
22 bodian Americans, and less than 5.1 percent of
23 Hmong Americans had college degrees. Only 13.8
24 percent of Pacific Islanders had degrees.

1 (8) Certain segments of the AAPI population
 2 face numerous barriers to accessing higher education
 3 and would benefit from grants and opportunities
 4 similar to those that historically Black colleges and
 5 universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribally
 6 Controlled Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-
 7 serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving in-
 8 stitutions receive. The designation of AAPI-serving
 9 institution would help institutions of higher edu-
 10 cation expand their capacity to identify and assist
 11 underserved AAPI students.

12 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE TO ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC IS-**
 13 **LANDER-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

14 (a) AMENDMENT.—Part A of title III of the Higher
 15 Education Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after sec-
 16 tion 317 (20 U.S.C. 1059d) the following new section:

17 **“SEC. 318. ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER-SERV-**
 18 **ING INSTITUTIONS.**

19 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall
 20 provide grants and related assistance to Asian American
 21 and Pacific Islander-serving institutions to enable such in-
 22 stitutions to improve and expand their capacity to serve
 23 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

24 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of this sec-
 25 tion—

1 “(1) the term ‘Asian American’ has the mean-
2 ing given the term Asian in the Office of Manage-
3 ment and Budget’s Standards for Maintaining, Col-
4 lecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and
5 Ethnicity as published on October 30, 1997 (62
6 Fed. Reg. 58789);

7 “(2) the term ‘Pacific Islander’ has the mean-
8 ing given the term ‘Native Hawaiian’ or ‘Other Pa-
9 cific Islander’ in such Standards for Maintaining,
10 Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race
11 and Ethnicity;

12 “(3) the term ‘Asian American and Pacific Is-
13 lander-serving institution’ means an institution of
14 higher education that—

15 “(A) is an eligible institution under section
16 312(b); and

17 “(B) at the time of application, has an en-
18 rollment of undergraduate students that is at
19 least 10 percent Asian American and Pacific Is-
20 lander students; and

21 “(4) the term ‘low-income individual’ means an
22 individual from a family whose taxable income for
23 the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of an
24 amount equal to the poverty level determined by

1 using criteria of poverty established by the Bureau
2 of the Census.

3 “(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

4 “(1) TYPES OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.—

5 Grants awarded under this section shall be used by
6 Asian American and Pacific Islander-serving institu-
7 tions to assist such institutions to plan, develop, un-
8 dertake, and carry out activities to improve and ex-
9 pand such institutions’ capacity to serve Asian
10 Americans and Pacific Islanders.

11 “(2) EXAMPLES OF AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

12 Such programs may include—

13 “(A) purchase, rental, or lease of scientific
14 or laboratory equipment for educational pur-
15 poses, including instructional and research pur-
16 poses;

17 “(B) renovation and improvement in class-
18 room, library, laboratory, and other instruc-
19 tional facilities;

20 “(C) support of faculty exchanges, and fac-
21 ulty development and faculty fellowships to as-
22 sist in attaining advanced degrees in the fac-
23 ulty’s field of instruction;

24 “(D) curriculum development and aca-
25 demic instruction;

1 “(E) purchase of library books, periodicals,
2 microfilm, and other educational materials;

3 “(F) funds and administrative manage-
4 ment, and acquisition of equipment for use in
5 strengthening funds management;

6 “(G) joint use of facilities such as labora-
7 tories and libraries;

8 “(H) academic tutoring and counseling
9 programs and student support services;

10 “(I) establishing community outreach pro-
11 grams that will encourage elementary school
12 and secondary school students to develop the
13 academic skills and the interest to pursue post-
14 secondary education;

15 “(J) establishing or improving an endow-
16 ment fund;

17 “(K) academic instruction in disciplines in
18 which Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
19 are under-represented;

20 “(L) conducting research and data collec-
21 tion for Asian American and Pacific Islander
22 populations and sub-populations; and

23 “(M) establishing partnerships with com-
24 munity based organizations serving Asian
25 Americans and Pacific Islanders.

1 “(d) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

2 “(1) INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY.—Each Asian
3 American and Pacific Islander-serving institution de-
4 siring to receive assistance under this section shall
5 submit to the Secretary such enrollment data as
6 may be necessary to demonstrate that the institution
7 is an Asian American and Pacific Islander-serving
8 institution as defined in subsection (b), along with
9 such other information and data as the Secretary
10 may by regulation require.

11 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—Any institution which is
12 determined by the Secretary to be an Asian Amer-
13 ican and Pacific Islander-serving institution may
14 submit an application for assistance under this sec-
15 tion to the Secretary. Such application shall in-
16 clude—

17 “(A) a 5-year plan for improving the as-
18 sistance provided by the Asian American and
19 Pacific Islander-serving institution to Asian
20 American and Pacific Islander students; and

21 “(B) such other information and assurance
22 as the Secretary may require.

23 “(3) SPECIAL RULES.—

24 “(A) ELIGIBILITY.—No Asian American
25 and Pacific Islander-serving institution that re-

ceives funds under this section shall concurrently receive funds under other provisions of this part or part B.

“(B) EXEMPTION.—Section 313(d) shall not apply to institutions that are eligible to receive funds under this section.

“(C) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(i) to the extent possible and consistent with the competitive process under which such grants are awarded, ensure maximum and equitable distribution among all eligible institutions; and

“(ii) give priority consideration to institutions that serve a significant percentage of Asian American and Pacific Islander students who are low-income individuals.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 399(a)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1068h(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 318, \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be

1 necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal
2 years.”.

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