

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.

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## 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

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## 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.

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.

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-

1 ceives funds under this section shall concur-  
2 rently receive funds under other provisions of  
3 this part or part B.

4 “(B) EXEMPTION.—Section 313(d) shall  
5 not apply to institutions that are eligible to re-  
6 ceive funds under this section.

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

9 “(i) to the extent possible and con-  
10 sistent with the competitive process under  
11 which such grants are awarded, ensure  
12 maximum and equitable distribution  
13 among all eligible institutions; and

14 “(ii) give priority consideration to in-  
15 stitutions that serve a significant percent-  
16 age of Asian American and Pacific Is-  
17 lander students who are low-income indi-  
18 viduals.”.

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

22 “(D) There are authorized to be appro-  
23 priated to carry out section 318, \$30,000,000  
24 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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