

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 880

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education participating in Federal student assistance programs from giving preferential treatment in the admissions process to legacy students or donors.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2025

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education participating in Federal student assistance programs from giving preferential treatment in the admissions process to legacy students or donors.

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 “Fair College Admis-
5 sions for Students Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. BAN ON LEGACY OR DONOR PREFERENCES IN AD-**
2 **MISSIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 487(a) of the Higher
4 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 “(30) The institution will not provide any man-
7 ner of preferential treatment in the admission proc-
8 ess to applicants on the basis of their relationships
9 to—

10 “(A) donors to the institution; or

11 “(B) alumni of the institution.”.

12 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
13 subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the sec-
14 ond award year (as defined in section 481(a) of the Higher
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088(a))) that begins
16 after the date of enactment of this Act.

