

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4528

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 12, 2000

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

To establish an undergraduate grant program of the Department of State to assist students of limited financial means from the United States to pursue studies at foreign institutions of higher education.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “International Academic
3 Opportunity Act of 2000”.

4 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

5 It is the purpose of this Act to establish an under-
6 graduate grant program for students of limited financial
7 means from the United States to enable such students to
8 study at institutions of higher education in foreign coun-
9 tries. Such foreign study is intended to broaden the out-
10 look and better prepare such students of demonstrated fi-
11 nancial need to assume significant roles in the increasingly
12 global economy.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR FOR-**
14 **EIGN STUDY BY AMERICAN COLLEGE STU-**
15 **DENTS OF LIMITED FINANCIAL MEANS.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of
17 appropriations and under the authorities of the Mutual
18 Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, the Sec-
19 retary of State shall establish and carry out a program
20 in each fiscal year to award grants of up to \$5,000, to
21 individuals who meet the requirements of subsection (b),
22 toward the cost of one academic year of undergraduate
23 study at an institution of higher education in a foreign
24 country. Grants under this Act shall be known as the
25 “Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships”.

1 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual referred to in sub-
2 section (a) is an individual who—

3 (1) is a student in good standing at an institu-
4 tion of higher education in the United States (as de-
5 fined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act
6 of 1965);

7 (2) has been accepted for an academic year of
8 study at an institution of higher education outside
9 the United States (as defined by section 102(b) of
10 the Higher Education Act of 1965);

11 (3) is receiving any need-based student assist-
12 ance under title IV of the Higher Education Act of
13 1965; and

14 (4) is a citizen or national of the United States.

15 (c) APPLICATION AND SELECTION.—

16 (1) Grant application and selection shall be car-
17 ried out through accredited institutions of higher
18 education in the United States or combination of
19 such institutions under such procedures as are es-
20 tablished by the Secretary of State.

21 (2) In considering applications for grants under
22 this section, priority consideration shall be given to
23 applicants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants
24 under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 The Secretary of State shall report annually to the
3 Congress concerning the grant program established under
4 this Act. Each such report shall include the following in-
5 formation for the preceding year:

6 (1) The number of participants.

7 (2) The institutions of higher education in the
8 United States that participants attended.

9 (3) The institutions of higher education outside
10 the United States participants attended during their
11 year of study abroad.

12 (4) The areas of study of participants.

13 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000
15 for each fiscal year to carry out this Act.

16 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17 This Act shall take effect October 1, 2000.

Passed the House of Representatives July 11, 2000.

Attest: JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.