

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2616

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

MAY 24, 2005

Mr. WU (for himself, Ms. LEE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATSON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. CASE, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FALCOMA, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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

1 “AAPI”) is an exceptionally diverse population.
2 Characteristics of the AAPI population vary accord-
3 ing to ethnicity, immigration patterns, historical ex-
4 periences, and social group issues.

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

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

18 (4) The distinct cultural, linguistic, socio-
19 economic, and historical experiences that affect edu-
20 cational attainment of different AAPI sub-popu-
21 lations are often overlooked because programs and
22 policies are based on aggregated data and the as-
23 sumption that AAPI’s are a monolithic group. The
24 “model minority myth” assumption adversely effects
25 AAPI youth, who are perceived as being academi-

1 cally successful and not in need of outreach, aca-
2 demic support systems, or other support services.

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

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

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

1 Hmong Americans had college degrees. Only 13.8
2 percent of Pacific Islanders had degrees.

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

14 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE TO ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC IS-**
15 **LANDER-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

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

19 **“SEC. 318. ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER-SERV-**
20 **ING INSTITUTIONS.**

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

1 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of this sec-
2 tion—

3 “(1) the term ‘Asian American’ has the meaning
4 given the term Asian in the Office of Management
5 and Budget’s Standards for Maintaining, Collecting,
6 and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity
7 as published on October 30, 1997 (62 Fed. Reg.
8 58789);

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

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

17 “(A) is an eligible institution under section
18 312(b); and

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

23 “(4) the term ‘low-income individual’ means an
24 individual from a family whose taxable income for
25 the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of an

1 amount equal to the poverty level determined by
2 using criteria of poverty established by the Bureau
3 of the Census.

4 “(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

5 “(1) TYPES OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.—

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

12 “(2) EXAMPLES OF AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

13 Such programs may include—

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

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

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

1 “(D) curriculum development and aca-
2 demic instruction;

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

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

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

10 “(H) academic tutoring and counseling
11 programs and student support services;

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

17 “(J) establishing or improving an endow-
18 ment fund;

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

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

1 “(M) establishing partnerships with com-
2 munity based organizations serving Asian
3 Americans and Pacific Islanders.

4 “(d) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

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

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

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

24 “(B) such other information and assurance
25 as the Secretary may require.

1 “(3) SPECIAL RULES.—

2 “(A) ELIGIBILITY.—No Asian American
3 and Pacific Islander-serving institution that re-
4 ceives funds under this section shall concur-
5 rently receive funds under other provisions of
6 this part or part B.

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

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

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

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

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
23 399(a)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1068h(a)(1)) is amend-
24 ed by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

1 “(D) There are authorized to be appro-
2 priated to carry out section 318, \$30,000,000
3 for fiscal year 2006 and such sums as may be
4 necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal
5 years.”.

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