

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2487

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a scholarship program to encourage and support students who have contributed substantial public services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ 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 establish a scholarship program to encourage and support students who have contributed substantial public services.

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 “Youth Service Scholar-
5 ship Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) young people under 18 years of age are now
9 our most impoverished age group with 1 of every 5

1 living in poverty, a higher proportion than in 1968,
2 with the percentage for minority children being
3 about twice as high;

4 (2) more than 1 of 4 families is headed by a
5 single parent and the percentage of such families
6 headed by such single parents has risen steadily over
7 the past few decades, rising 13 percent since 1990;

8 (3) there is a need to engage youth as active
9 participants in decision-making that affects their
10 lives, including design, development, implementation,
11 and evaluation of youth development programs at
12 the Federal, State, and community levels;

13 (4) existing outcome driven youth development
14 strategies, pioneered by community-based organiza-
15 tions, hold real promise for promoting positive be-
16 haviors and preventing youth problems;

17 (5) formal evaluations of youth development
18 programs have documented significant reductions in
19 drug and alcohol use, school misbehavior, aggressive
20 behavior, violence, truancy, high-risk sexual behav-
21 ior, and smoking;

22 (6) compared to American youth generally,
23 youth participating in community-based organiza-
24 tions are more than 26 percent more likely to report
25 having received recognition for good grades than

1 American youth generally and nearly 20 percent
2 more likely to rate the likelihood of their going to
3 college as “very high”; and

4 (7) the availability and use of Federal resources
5 can be an effective incentive to leverage broader
6 community support to enable local programs, activi-
7 ties and services to provide the full array of develop-
8 mental core resources, remove barriers to access,
9 promote program effectiveness, and facilitate coordi-
10 nation and collaboration within the community.

11 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

12 Subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Edu-
13 cation Act of 1965 is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating section 407E (20 U.S.C.
15 1070a-35) as section 406E; and

16 (2) by inserting after such section the following
17 new chapter:

18 **“Chapter 4—Public Service Incentives**

19 **“SEC. 407A. PURPOSES.**

20 “The purposes of this chapter are to establish a
21 scholarship program to reward low-income and moderate-
22 income students who have, during high school, and who
23 continue, during college, to make significant public service
24 contributions to their communities.

1 **“SEC. 407B. SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED.**

2 “(a) QUALIFICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—The
3 Secretary is authorized to award scholarships to enable a
4 student to pay the cost of attendance at an institution of
5 higher education during the student’s first 4 academic
6 years of undergraduate education, if the student—

7 “(1) in order to be eligible for the first year of
8 such scholarship, performed not less than 300 hours
9 of qualifying public service during each of 2 aca-
10 demic years of the student’s secondary school enroll-
11 ment;

12 “(2) in order to be eligible for the second or
13 any subsequent year of such scholarship, performed
14 not less than 300 hours of qualifying public service
15 during the academic year of postsecondary school at-
16 tendance preceding the academic year for which the
17 student seeks such scholarship;

18 “(3) was eligible for a free or reduced price
19 lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School
20 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.);

21 “(4) is eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants
22 for the year in which the scholarships are awarded,
23 except that a student shall not be required to comply
24 or verify compliance with section 485(a)(5) for pur-
25 poses of receiving a scholarship under this chapter;
26 and

1 “(5) otherwise demonstrates compliance with
2 regulations prescribed by the Secretary under sec-
3 tion 407F.

4 “(b) DEFINITION OF QUALIFYING PUBLIC SERV-
5 ICE.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term ‘qualifying
6 public service’ means service that would be eligible for
7 treatment as community service under the National and
8 Community Service Act of 1990 or under the Federal
9 work-study program under part C of title IV of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965.

11 **“SEC. 407C. AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP.**

12 “(a) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2) and subsection (b), the amount of a schol-
15 arship awarded under this chapter for any academic
16 year shall be equal to \$5,000.

17 “(2) ADJUSTMENT FOR INSUFFICIENT APPRO-
18 PRIATIONS.—If, after the Secretary determines the
19 total number of students selected under section
20 407D for an academic year, funds available to carry
21 out this chapter for the academic year are insuffi-
22 cient to fully fund all awards under this chapter for
23 the academic year, the amount of the scholarship
24 paid to each student under this chapter shall be re-
25 duced proportionately.

1 “(b) ASSISTANCE NOT TO EXCEED COST OF AT-
2 TENDANCE.—A scholarship awarded under this chapter to
3 any student, in combination with the Federal Pell Grant
4 assistance and other student financial assistance available
5 to such student, may not exceed the student’s cost of at-
6 tendance.

7 **“SEC. 407D. SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.**

8 “The Secretary shall designate a panel to select stu-
9 dents for the award of scholarships under this chapter.
10 Such panel shall be composed of 9 individuals who are
11 selected by the Secretary and shall be composed of equal
12 numbers of youths, community representatives, and teach-
13 ers. The Secretary shall ensure that no individual assigned
14 under this section to review any application has any con-
15 flict of interest with regard to the application that might
16 impair the impartiality with which the individual conducts
17 the review under this section.

18 **“SEC. 407E. APPLICATIONS.**

19 “Any eligible student desiring to obtain a scholarship
20 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
21 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing such
22 information or assurances as the Secretary may require.
23 Such application shall—

24 “(1) demonstrate that the eligible student is
25 maintaining satisfactory academic progress and is

1 achieving at least an grade point average of at least
2 2.0 (on a scale of 4), or its equivalent;

3 “(2) include a recommendation from (A) the
4 supervisor of the community service of the applicant,
5 and (B) a teacher, pastor, employer, or other indi-
6 vidual familiar with the character of the applicant;
7 and

8 “(3) include an essay by the applicant on the
9 nature of the community service performed by the
10 applicant.

11 **“SEC. 407F. REGULATIONS.**

12 “The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as
13 may be necessary to carry out this chapter.

14 **“SEC. 407G. EVALUATION.**

15 “Not less than 2 years after the first fiscal year for
16 which funds are made available under this chapter, the
17 Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Congress an
18 evaluation of the effectiveness of the program under this
19 chapter. Such evaluation shall include—

20 “(1) an evaluation of the demand, by grade
21 level and types of community service sites, for the
22 scholarships provided under this chapter;

23 “(2) general data on the background of pro-
24 gram participants and the types of service per-
25 formed; and

1 “(3) an itemization of the costs of admin-
2 istering the program under this chapter.

3 **“SEC. 407H. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this chapter \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2002 and each of
6 the 3 succeeding fiscal years.”.

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