

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5301

To strengthen secondary and post-secondary education programs emphasizing the nature, history, and philosophy of free institutions, the nature of Western civilization, and the nature of the threats to freedom from totalitarianism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2002

Mr. PETRI (for himself and Mr. DREIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To strengthen secondary and post-secondary education programs emphasizing the nature, history, and philosophy of free institutions, the nature of Western civilization, and the nature of the threats to freedom from totalitarianism.

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 “Defense of Freedom
5 Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In order to preserve and defend freedom
2 and civilization, especially in these challenging times,
3 future generations of Americans must be taught to
4 understand their full significance and value, and the
5 threats with which they are faced.

6 (2) Basic knowledge of United States and
7 Western history is essential to full and informed
8 participation in civic life and to the larger vibrancy
9 of the American experiment in self-government,
10 binding together a diverse people into a single Na-
11 tion with a common purpose.

12 (3) American citizens who lack knowledge of
13 the organizing principles of Western civilization will
14 also lack a true understanding and appreciation of
15 the democratic principles that define and sustain
16 America as a free people, such as liberty, justice, tol-
17 erance, government by the consent of the governed,
18 and equality under the law.

19 (4) America's colleges and universities are
20 bellwethers of national priorities and values, setting
21 standards for the whole of the United States edu-
22 cation system and sending signals to students,
23 teachers, parents, and public schools about what
24 every educated citizen in a democracy must know.

1 (5) Most of the Nation's colleges and univer-
2 sities no longer require United States history or sys-
3 tematic study of Western civilization as a pre-
4 requisite to graduation.

5 (6) Distinguished historians and intellectuals
6 fear that without a common civic memory and a
7 common understanding of the remarkable individ-
8 uals, events, and ideals that have shaped the Nation,
9 the people in the United States risk losing much of
10 what it means to be an American, as well as the
11 ability to fulfill the fundamental responsibilities of
12 citizens in a democracy.

13 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
14 lows:

15 (1) To establish and strengthen post-secondary
16 education programs emphasizing the nature, history
17 and philosophy of free institutions, the nature of
18 Western civilization, and the nature of the threats to
19 freedom from totalitarianism in all its forms.

20 (2) To develop innovative teacher education
21 programs designed to equip teachers to more effec-
22 tively impart a knowledge of the nature of free insti-
23 tutions, the threats to free institutions, and the con-
24 tent of Western civilization to elementary, middle
25 and high school teachers.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act:

3 (1) AMERICAN FOUNDING.—The term “Amer-
4 ican founding” means a field of study in an institu-
5 tion of higher education that—

6 (A) encompasses part or all of the period
7 of American history between the years 1607
8 through 1865, with particular emphasis on the
9 years 1763–1865;

10 (B) focuses on the major events, issues
11 and historical personages of this period;

12 (C) examines the historical antecedents of
13 the major events, issues and historical person-
14 ages described in subparagraph (B); or

15 (D) conforms with other criteria that the
16 secretary may prescribe.

17 (2) DEFENSE OF FREEDOM.—The term “de-
18 fense of freedom” means fields of study in an insti-
19 tution of higher education that—

20 (A) examines potent political threats to
21 free institutions (as such term is defined in this
22 Act), including communism, fascism, national
23 socialism, and nihilism; or

24 (B) examines human tendencies that
25 threaten free institutions, including tribalism,
26 racism, caste consciousness, and zealotry; or

1 (C) examines world history in the period
2 1901 through 2001, with particular emphasis
3 on the years 1914 to the present, in order to
4 understand the challenges of maintaining a free
5 society while resisting totalitarian movements of
6 global ambition.

7 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible in-
9 stitution” means—

10 (i) institutions of higher education;

11 (ii) specific programs within an insti-
12 tution of higher education;

13 (iii) foundations associated with insti-
14 tutions of higher education or with specific
15 programs within an institution of higher
16 education; or

17 (iv) other nonprofit organizations par-
18 ticipating in, or supporting, the develop-
19 ment of academic programs described in
20 section 2.

21 (B) SPECIAL RULE.—Organizations de-
22 scribed in subparagraph (A)(iv) may apply to
23 award subgrants to eligible institutions at the
24 discretion of, and subject to the oversight of,
25 the Secretary. Grants to such organizations

1 shall not be subject to the limitations of section
2 4(f).

3 (4) FREE INSTITUTION.—The term “free insti-
4 tution”, for the purposes of this Act, means institu-
5 tions characteristic of Western Civilization, such as
6 democracy, universalism, individual rights market
7 economics, religious freedom and tolerance, and free-
8 dom of thought and inquiry.

9 (5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
10 term “institution of higher education” has the same
11 meaning given that term under section 101 of the
12 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

13 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of Education.

15 (7) WESTERN CIVILIZATION.—The term “west-
16 ern civilization” means a field of study in an institu-
17 tion of higher education that—

18 (A) encompasses part or all of the period
19 of European history between 500 B.C. and the
20 present day;

21 (B) encompasses part or all of the period
22 of American history between 1607 and the
23 present day;

1 (C) focuses on major events, issues, and
2 historical personages of the period described in
3 subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

4 (D) examines the historical antecedents of
5 the major events, issues, and historical person-
6 ages described in subparagraph (C); or

7 (E) examines the development of free insti-
8 tutions characteristic of Western civilization, as
9 such term is defined in this Act;

10 (F) examines the intellectual, cultural, po-
11 litical and religious underpinnings of Western
12 civilization, such as the scientific enterprise, en-
13 trepreneurship, political pluralism, egali-
14 tarianism, moral universalism, and the belief in
15 the possibility of progress;

16 (G) examines the characteristic negative
17 features of Western civilization, such as totali-
18 tarianism and social Darwinism;

19 (H) examines the interaction of the West
20 with other civilizations, the Western debt to
21 other civilizations, and the comparative study of
22 high civilization; or

23 (I) conforms with other criteria that the
24 Secretary may prescribe.

1 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated to
3 carry out this Act, the Secretary shall provide, on a com-
4 petitive basis, grants to eligible institutions which shall be
5 used for one or more of the following:

6 (1) Research, planning, and coordination activi-
7 ties devoted to the ends of this Act.

8 (2) Design and implementation of courses and
9 the development of new, and supporting of existing,
10 centers devoted to the ends of this Act.

11 (3) Research and publication costs of relevant
12 readers and other course materials devoted to the
13 ends of this Act.

14 (4) General expenses associated with carrying
15 out this section.

16 (5) Salaries and expenses of faculty teaching in
17 undergraduate and graduate programs focused on
18 the American founding, defense of freedom, and
19 Western civilization.

20 (6) Support of graduate and postgraduate fel-
21 lowships for scholars in the fields related to the
22 American founding, the defense of freedom, and
23 Western civilization.

24 (7) Development of teacher education programs
25 that—

1 (A) stress content mastery in history or
2 government; and

3 (B) stress civic education preparation, in-
4 cluding the history and philosophy of free insti-
5 tutions, and the study of Western civilization).

6 (b) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting eligible insti-
7 tutions for grants under this section for any fiscal year,
8 the Secretary shall establish criteria by regulation.

9 (c) REQUIRED CRITERIA.—In establishing criteria
10 under subsection (b), the Secretary shall consider the fol-
11 lowing selection criteria in making grants:

12 (1) Educational value, and relevance to one or
13 more purpose described in section 2 of the proposed
14 project.

15 (2) Plan of operation.

16 (3) Qualification of key personnel.

17 (4) Budget and cost effectiveness.

18 (5) Evaluation plan.

19 (6) Adequacy of resources.

20 (7) Identification of need for the project.

21 (8) Potential institutional impact of the project.

22 (9) Institutional commitment to the project.

23 (d) GRANT APPLICATION.—An eligible institution
24 that desires to receive a grant under this Act shall submit
25 to the Secretary an application therefor at such time or

1 times, or in such manner, and containing such information
2 as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation. Such appli-
3 cation shall set forth—

4 (1) a program of activities for carrying out the
5 purposes described in section 2 in such detail as will
6 enable the Secretary to determine the degree to
7 which such program will accomplish such purpose;
8 and

9 (2) such other policies, procedures, and assur-
10 ances as the Secretary may require by regulation.

11 (e) GRANT REVIEW.—The Secretary shall establish
12 procedures for reviewing and evaluating grants and con-
13 tracts made or entered into under such programs.

14 (f) GRANT AWARDS.—For the purposes of this Act,
15 the Secretary shall award grants of not less than \$400,000
16 and not more than \$6,000,000 to eligible institutions.

17 (g) MULTIPLE AWARDS.—For the purposes of this
18 Act, the Secretary may award more than one grant to an
19 eligible institution.

20 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 (a) For the purpose of carrying out this Act, there
22 are authorized to be appropriated—

23 (1) \$140,000,000 for fiscal year 2003; and

24 (2) such sums as may be necessary for each of
25 the succeeding 5 fiscal years.

1 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act shall take effect on September 1, 2002.

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