

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4478

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to remove barriers for students seeking Federal financial aid by reducing the complexity and length of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and increasing support for working students and vulnerable populations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. BERA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to remove barriers for students seeking Federal financial aid by reducing the complexity and length of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and increasing support for working students and vulnerable populations.

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 “Simple FAFSA Act
5 of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL RULES.**

2 (a) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly
 3 provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal
 4 is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of,
 5 a section or other provision, the reference shall be consid-
 6 ered to be made to a section or other provision of the
 7 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

8 (b) ORDERLY TRANSITION.—The Secretary shall
 9 take such steps as are necessary to provide for the orderly
 10 transition to, and implementation of, the amendments
 11 made by this Act. The authority provided in the preceding
 12 sentence shall cease on the day that is one year after the
 13 effective date of this Act.

14 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

15 (a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amend-
 16 ments made by this Act, shall take effect with respect to
 17 the first award year beginning after the first October after
 18 the date of enactment of this Act and each succeeding
 19 award year.

20 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 21 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Special rules.
- Sec. 3. Effective date; table of contents.

TITLE I—EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION

- Sec. 101. Expected family contribution.
- Sec. 102. Increasing support for working students by 35 percent.
- Sec. 103. Zero expected family contribution.
- Sec. 104. Using data from the second preceding year.

Sec. 105. Changes to untaxed income and benefits.

TITLE II—SIMPLIFYING THE FAFSA

Sec. 201. FAFSA pathways.

Sec. 202. One-time FAFSA filing.

Sec. 203. FAFSA in various languages.

Sec. 204. Use of Internal Revenue Service data retrieval tool to populate FAFSA.

Sec. 205. Information on FAFSA verification.

Sec. 206. Conforming amendments to section 483.

TITLE III—FEDERAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Sec. 301. Exception to required registration with Selective Service System.

Sec. 302. Repeal of suspension of eligibility under the Higher Education Act of 1965 for grants, loans, and work assistance for drug-related offenses.

Sec. 303. Federal aid eligibility for Dreamer students.

1 **TITLE I—EXPECTED FAMILY** 2 **CONTRIBUTION**

3 **SEC. 101. EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 473(a) (20 U.S.C.
5 1087mm) is amended by striking “academic year” and in-
6 serting “award year”.

7 (b) SPECIAL RULE.—Section 473(b) (20 U.S.C.
8 1087mm) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “academic
10 year” and inserting “award year”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (2)—

12 (A) by striking “academic year” each place
13 it appears and inserting “award year”; and

14 (B) by striking “academic years” and in-
15 serting “award years”.

16 (c) DATA ELEMENTS.—Section 474(b) (20 U.S.C.
17 1087nn(b)) is amended in paragraph (4), by inserting be-

1 fore “the net” the following: “only in the case of a path-
2 way three applicant,”.

3 (d) DEPENDENT STUDENTS.—Section 475 (20
4 U.S.C. 1087oo) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting before
6 “the student” the following: “only in the case of a
7 pathway three applicant,”;

8 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(B), by inserting before
9 “the parents’ ” the following: “only in the case of a
10 pathway three applicant,”; and

11 (3) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “award pe-
12 riod” and inserting “award year”.

13 (e) INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITHOUT DEPEND-
14 ENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE.—Section 476(a)(1)(B)
15 (20 U.S.C. 1087pp(a)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting be-
16 fore “the family’s contribution” the following: “only in the
17 case of a pathway three applicant,”.

18 (f) INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS
19 OTHER THAN A SPOUSE.—Section 477(a)(1)(B) (20
20 U.S.C. 1087qq(a)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting before
21 “the family’s contribution” the following: “only in the case
22 of a pathway three applicant,”.

1 **SEC. 102. INCREASING SUPPORT FOR WORKING STUDENTS**
2 **BY 35 PERCENT.**

3 (a) DEPENDENT STUDENTS.—Section 475(g)(2)(D)
4 (20 U.S.C. 1087oo(g)(2)(D)) is amended to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(D) an income protection allowance (or a
7 successor amount prescribed by the Secretary
8 under section 478) of \$9,230 for award year
9 2020–2021;”.

10 (b) INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITHOUT DEPEND-
11 ENTS OTHER THAN A SPOUSE.—Section 476 (20 U.S.C.
12 1087pp) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “award pe-
14 riod” and inserting “award year”; and

15 (2) by amending subsection (b)(1)(A)(iv) to
16 read as follows:

17 “(iv) an income protection allowance
18 (or a successor amount prescribed by the
19 Secretary under section 478)—

20 “(I) for single or separated stu-
21 dents, or married students where both
22 are enrolled pursuant to subsection
23 (a)(2), of \$14,360 for award year
24 2020–2021; and

25 “(II) for married students where
26 1 is enrolled pursuant to subsection

1 (a)(2), of \$23,030 for award year
2 2020–2021;”.

3 (c) INDEPENDENT STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS
4 OTHER THAN A SPOUSE.—Section 477 (20 U.S.C.
5 1087qq) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “award pe-
7 riod” and inserting “award year”; and

8 (2) by amending subsection (b)(4) to read as
9 follows:

10 “(4) INCOME PROTECTION ALLOWANCE.—The
11 income protection allowance is determined by the fol-
12 lowing table (or a successor table prescribed by the
13 Secretary under section 478), for award year 2020–
14 2021:

“Income Protection Allowance						
Family Size (including student)	Number in College					For each additional subtract:
	1	2	3	4	5	
2	\$36,370	\$30,160				\$6,180
3	45,290	39,100	\$32,890			
4	55,920	49,720	43,540	\$37,300		
5	65,990	59,750	53,570	47,360	\$41,180	
6	77,170	70,960	64,790	58,540	52,350	
For each additional add:	8,710					”.

15 (d) UPDATED TABLES AND AMOUNTS.—Section 478
16 (20 U.S.C. 1087rr) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-
19 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each award year
2 after award year 2020–2021, the Secretary
3 shall publish in the Federal Register a revised
4 table of income protection allowances for the
5 purpose of sections 475(c)(4) and 477(b)(4),
6 subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C).

7 “(B) TABLE FOR INDEPENDENT STU-
8 DENTS.—For each award year after award year
9 2020–2021, the Secretary shall develop the re-
10 vised table of income protection allowances by
11 increasing each of the dollar amounts contained
12 in the table of income protection allowances
13 under section 477(b)(4) by a percentage equal
14 to the estimated percentage increase in the
15 Consumer Price Index (as determined by the
16 Secretary for the most recent calendar year
17 ending prior to the beginning of the award year
18 for which the determination is being made), and
19 rounding the result up to the nearest \$10.”;
20 and

21 (B) in paragraph (2)—

22 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
23 “academic year after academic year 2007–
24 2008” and inserting “award year after
25 award year 2020–2021”; and

1 (ii) in the second sentence, by striking
 2 “shall be developed” and all that follows
 3 through the period at the end and insert-
 4 ing “shall be developed for each award
 5 year after award year 2020–2021, by in-
 6 creasing each of the dollar amounts con-
 7 tained in such section for award year
 8 2020–2021 by a percentage equal to the
 9 estimated percentage increase in the Con-
 10 sumer Price Index (as determined by the
 11 Secretary for the most recent calendar
 12 year ending prior to the beginning of the
 13 award year for which the determination is
 14 being made), and rounding the result up to
 15 the nearest \$10.”; and
 16 (2) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “academic
 17 year” and inserting “award year”.

18 **SEC. 103. ZERO EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.**

19 Section 479 (20 U.S.C. 1087ss) is amended to read
 20 as follows:

21 **“SEC. 479. ZERO EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consider an
 23 applicant to have an expected family contribution equal
 24 to zero if—

25 “(1) in the case of a dependent student—

1 “(A)(i) the student’s parents are not re-
2 quired to file—

3 “(I) a Federal income tax return; or

4 “(II) with respect to Internal Revenue
5 Service Form 1040, any of the following
6 forms: Schedule A, Schedule B, Schedule
7 C, Schedule C–EZ, Schedule D, Schedule
8 E, Schedule F, Schedule H, Schedule J,
9 and Schedule SE; and

10 “(ii) the sum of the adjusted gross income
11 of the parents is less than or equal to \$34,000;
12 or

13 “(B) the student’s parents, or the student,
14 received a benefit at some time during the pre-
15 vious 24-month period under a means-tested
16 Federal benefit program;

17 “(2) in the case of an independent student
18 without regard to whether the student has depend-
19 ents other than a spouse—

20 “(A)(i) the student (and the student’s
21 spouse, if any) certifies—

22 “(I) that the student (and the stu-
23 dent’s spouse, if any)—

24 “(aa) is not required to file a
25 Federal income tax return; or

1 “(bb) with respect to Internal
2 Revenue Service Form 1040, any of
3 the following forms: Schedule A,
4 Schedule B, Schedule C, Schedule C–
5 EZ, Schedule D, Schedule E, Sched-
6 ule F, Schedule H, Schedule J, and
7 Schedule SE; and

8 “(ii) the sum of the adjusted gross income
9 of the student and spouse (if appropriate) is
10 less than or equal to \$34,000; or

11 “(B) the student received a benefit at some
12 time during the previous 24-month period
13 under a means-tested Federal benefit program;
14 or

15 “(3) the applicant is a pathway one applicant
16 under section 483(a)(13).

17 “(b) EARNED INCOME CREDIT.—An individual is not
18 required to qualify or file for the earned income credit in
19 order to be eligible under this section.

20 “(c) ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary shall annually
21 adjust the income level necessary to qualify an applicant
22 for the zero expected family contribution. The income level
23 shall be annually increased by the estimated percentage
24 change in the Consumer Price Index, as defined in section
25 478(f), for the most recent calendar year ending prior to

1 the beginning of an award year, and rounded up to the
2 nearest \$1,000.

3 “(d) MEANS-TESTED FEDERAL BENEFIT PROGRAM
4 DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph, a ‘means-
5 tested Federal benefit program’ means a mandatory
6 spending program of the Federal Government, other than
7 a program under this title, in which eligibility for the pro-
8 gram’s benefits, or the amount of such benefits, are deter-
9 mined on the basis of income or resources of the individual
10 or family seeking the benefit, and may include such pro-
11 grams as—

12 “(1) the supplemental security income program
13 under title XVI of the Social Security Act (42
14 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.);

15 “(2) the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
16 gram under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
17 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), a nutrition assistance program
18 carried out under section 19 of such Act (7 U.S.C.
19 2028), and a supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
20 gram carried out under section 1841(c) of title 48
21 of the United States Code;

22 “(3) the program of block grants for States for
23 temporary assistance for needy families established
24 under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act
25 (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

1 “(4) the special supplemental nutrition program
 2 for women, infants, and children established by sec-
 3 tion 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
 4 U.S.C. 1786);

5 “(5) the State Medicaid program under title
 6 XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et
 7 seq.); and

8 “(6) any other program identified by the Sec-
 9 retary.”.

10 **SEC. 104. USING DATA FROM THE SECOND PRECEDING**
 11 **YEAR.**

12 Section 480(a)(1)(B) (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(a)(1)(B)) is
 13 amended by striking “may” in both places it appears and
 14 inserting “shall”.

15 **SEC. 105. CHANGES TO UNTAXED INCOME AND BENEFITS.**

16 Section 480(b) (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(b) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1), to read as follows:

18 “(1) The term ‘untaxed income and benefits’
 19 means—

20 “(A) child support received;

21 “(B) untaxed portion of pensions;

22 “(C) payments to individual retirement ac-
 23 counts and Keogh accounts excluded from in-
 24 come for Federal income tax purposes; and

1 “(D) cash support or any money paid on
2 the student’s behalf, except, for dependent stu-
3 dents, funds provided by the student’s par-
4 ents.”; and

5 (2) in paragraph (2)—

6 (A) by striking “or” at the end of subpara-
7 graph (E);

8 (B) by striking the period at the end of
9 subparagraph (F) and inserting a semicolon;
10 and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(G) worker’s compensation;

13 “(H) veteran’s benefits such as death pen-
14 sion, dependency, or indemnity compensation,
15 or veterans’ education benefits as defined in
16 subsection (c);

17 “(I) interest on tax-free bonds;

18 “(J) housing, food, or other allowances (in-
19 cluding rent subsidies for low-income housing)
20 for military, clergy, and others (including cash
21 payments and cash value of benefits), or the
22 value of on-base military housing or the value
23 of basic allowance for housing determined under
24 section 403(b) of title 37, United States Code,
25 received by the parents, in the case of a de-

pendent student, or the student or student's spouse, in the case of an independent student; or

“(K) any other untaxed income and benefits, such as Black Lung Benefits, Refugee Assistance, or railroad retirement benefits, or benefits received through participation in employment and training activities under title I of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.).”.

TITLE II—SIMPLIFYING THE FAFSA

SEC. 201. FAFSA PATHWAYS.

Section 483(a) (20 U.S.C. 1090) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(13) FAFSA PATHWAYS.—

“(A) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than the effective date of the Simple FAFSA Act of 2019, the Secretary shall seek to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the Treasury, under which any information exchanged under an income and eligibility verification system established

1 pursuant to section 1137 of the Social Security
2 Act by State agencies administering a program
3 listed in paragraph (1), (4), or (5) of subsection
4 (b) of such section which may be of use in es-
5 tablishing or verifying eligibility or benefit
6 amounts under such program shall be made
7 available to the Secretary of Education to assist
8 in determining whether the applicant (or, in the
9 case of a dependent applicant, whether the ap-
10 plicant or the applicant's parents) received a
11 benefit at some time during the previous 24-
12 month period under a means-tested Federal
13 benefit program, but subject to the require-
14 ments of Federal law.

15 “(B) REQUIREMENT FOR ALL APPLICANTS
16 AND THE SECRETARY.—For any award year for
17 which an applicant applies for financial assist-
18 ance under this title (except for any award year
19 for which, pursuant to paragraph (14), the ap-
20 plicant is not required to submit a FAFSA)—

21 “(i) the applicant shall provide on the
22 form described in this subsection whether
23 the applicant received (or, in the case of a
24 dependent applicant, whether the applicant
25 or the parents of the applicant received) a

1 benefit at some time during the previous
2 24-month period under a means-tested
3 Federal benefit program; and

4 “(ii) the Secretary, to the extent prac-
5 ticable and pursuant to the Memorandum
6 of Understanding entered into under sub-
7 paragraph (A), and without any further
8 action by the applicant, shall verify the ap-
9 plicant’s (or, in the case of a dependent
10 applicant, the applicant’s or the applicant’s
11 parents) receipt of such benefit.

12 “(C) PATHWAY ONE APPLICANTS.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to an
14 applicant who received (or, in the case of
15 a dependent applicant, an applicant who
16 received or whose parents received) a ben-
17 efit at some time during the previous 24-
18 month period under a means-tested Fed-
19 eral benefit program, the applicant shall
20 not be required to provide any further in-
21 come or asset information on the form
22 under this subsection.

23 “(ii) DESIGNATION.—For purposes of
24 this section and part F, an applicant de-

scribed in clause (i) shall be referred to as
a ‘pathway one applicant’.

“(D) PATHWAY TWO APPLICANTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to an
applicant who is not a pathway one appli-
cant and is described in clause (ii), the
Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall
use the data retrieval tool under section
484(q) to obtain any information for the
applicant beyond the information described
in subparagraph (A) for purposes of the
form under this subsection.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—An applicant
described in this clause is an applicant who
certifies that—

“(I) the applicant is not required
to file or, in the case of a dependent
applicant, no parent of the applicant
is required to file—

“(aa) a Federal income tax
return; or

“(bb) with respect to Inter-
nal Revenue Service Form 1040,
any of the following forms:
Schedule A, Schedule B, Sched-

1 ule C, Schedule C–EZ, Schedule
2 D, Schedule E, Schedule F,
3 Schedule H, Schedule J, and
4 Schedule SE; and

5 “(II) the sum of the adjusted
6 gross income of the applicant or, in
7 the case of a dependent applicant, the
8 parents of the applicant, is less than
9 or equal to \$60,000.

10 “(iii) DESIGNATION.—For purposes of
11 this section and part F, an applicant de-
12 scribed in clause (i) shall be referred to as
13 a ‘pathway two applicant’.

14 “(E) PATHWAY THREE APPLICANTS.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to an
16 applicant who is not a pathway one appli-
17 cant or a pathway two applicant, the Sec-
18 retary, to the extent practicable, shall use
19 the data retrieval tool under section 484(q)
20 to obtain any information for the applicant
21 beyond the information described in sub-
22 paragraph (A) for purposes of the form
23 under this subsection.

24 “(ii) DESIGNATION.—For purposes of
25 this section and part F, an applicant de-

1 scribed in clause (i) shall be referred to as
2 a ‘pathway three applicant’.

3 “(F) MEANS-TESTED FEDERAL BENEFIT
4 PROGRAM DEFINED.—For purposes of this
5 paragraph, the term ‘means-tested Federal ben-
6 efit program’ has the meaning given the term
7 in section 479(d).”.

8 **SEC. 202. ONE-TIME FAFSA FILING.**

9 Section 483(a) (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)) is further
10 amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(14) ONE-TIME FAFSA FILING.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
13 other provision of this section and subject to
14 subparagraphs (B) and (C), an applicant who
15 submits a FAFSA for the first time for an
16 award year for the period required for the com-
17 pletion of the first undergraduate baccalaureate
18 course of study being pursued by such applicant
19 and is eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant
20 for such award year, for any succeeding award
21 year—

22 “(i) for which the applicant does not
23 submit a FAFSA and for which the appli-
24 cant submits a certification form described
25 in subparagraph (D) that does not indicate

1 a change in the dependency status of such
2 applicant, such applicant—

3 “(I) shall not be required to sub-
4 mit a FAFSA to receive financial as-
5 sistance under this title; and

6 “(II) shall have an expected fam-
7 ily contribution for such year that is
8 equal to the expected family contribu-
9 tion of the applicant determined for
10 the award year for which the appli-
11 cant submitted a FAFSA for such pe-
12 riod, except that an adjustment to
13 such expected family contribution may
14 be made under section 479A;

15 “(ii) for which the applicant submits a
16 certification form described in subpara-
17 graph (D) that indicates a change in the
18 dependency status of the applicant, such
19 applicant—

20 “(I) shall be required to submit a
21 FAFSA with respect to such award
22 year to receive financial assistance
23 under this title; and

1 “(II) shall have an expected fam-
2 ily contribution for such year that is
3 determined based on such FAFSA;

4 “(iii) for which the applicant submits
5 a FAFSA, such applicant—

6 “(I) shall have an expected fam-
7 ily contribution for such year that is
8 determined based on such FAFSA;
9 and

10 “(II) shall be required to submit
11 a FAFSA for any other award year
12 for which the applicant seeks financial
13 assistance under this title; and

14 “(iv) for which the applicant does not
15 submit a certification form described in
16 subparagraph (D), such applicant shall
17 submit a FAFSA for such succeeding
18 award year and any other award year for
19 which the applicant seeks financial assist-
20 ance under this title.

21 “(B) ADJUSTMENT OF EXPECTED FAMILY
22 CONTRIBUTION.—With respect to an applicant
23 described in subparagraph (A)(i) who receives
24 an adjustment under section 479A to the ex-
25 pected family contribution of the applicant for

1 an award year, for any succeeding award year
2 after the award year for which the adjustment
3 was made, subclause (II) of such subparagraph
4 shall be applied to such applicant by sub-
5 stituting ‘expected family contribution of the
6 applicant as most recently adjusted under sec-
7 tion 479A for such applicant’ for the ‘expected
8 family contribution of the applicant determined
9 for the award year for which the applicant sub-
10 mitted a FAFSA for such period’.

11 “(C) RULE FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.—

12 With respect to an applicant who submits a
13 FAFSA for award year 2020–2021 and enrolls
14 in an institution of higher education for such
15 year, subparagraph (A) shall be applied—

16 “(i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
17 by substituting ‘award year 2020–2021’
18 for ‘the first time for an award year’; and

19 “(ii) in clause (i)(II), by substituting
20 ‘award year 2020–2021’ for ‘the award
21 year for which the applicant submitted a
22 FAFSA for such period’.

23 “(D) STUDENT CERTIFICATION FORM.—

24 The Secretary, in cooperation with representa-
25 tives of agencies and organizations involved in

1 student financial assistance, shall use behav-
2 ioral science insights to produce, distribute, and
3 process free of charge a short and simple con-
4 sumer-tested certification form that uses skip
5 logic to bypass fields that are inapplicable to an
6 applicant. Such form shall not require an appli-
7 cant to provide data that the Secretary may
8 otherwise obtain with respect to the applicant
9 (such as age or active duty military status), and
10 may only contain the data elements required for
11 purposes of subparagraph (A)(i)—

12 “(i) to confirm whether the applicant
13 is—

14 “(I) a dependent student;

15 “(II) a single independent stu-
16 dent or a married independent stu-
17 dent without dependents (other than a
18 spouse); or

19 “(III) an independent student
20 with dependents other than a spouse;

21 “(ii) to allow the applicant to update
22 the contact information of such applicant
23 or the Federal School Code of the institu-
24 tion of higher education in which the appli-
25 cant is, or will be enrolled, for the award

1 year for which the applicant submits such
2 form; and

3 “(iii) to ask whether the applicant’s
4 need and eligibility for financial assistance
5 under this title has not changed substan-
6 tially since the most recent of the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(I) The applicant submitted a
9 FAFSA.

10 “(II) The applicant received an
11 adjustment under section 479A to the
12 expected family contribution of the
13 applicant.

14 “(E) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

15 “(i) DEPENDENCY STATUS.—The
16 term ‘dependency status’ means the status
17 of an applicant as—

18 “(I) a dependent student;

19 “(II) a single independent stu-
20 dent or a married independent stu-
21 dent without dependents (other than a
22 spouse); or

23 “(III) an independent student
24 with dependents other than a spouse.

1 “(ii) SUCCEEDING AWARD YEAR.—

2 The term ‘succeeding award year’—

3 “(I) when used with respect to
4 an applicant who submits a FAFSA
5 for the first time for an award year
6 for the period required for the comple-
7 tion of the first undergraduate bacca-
8 laurate course of study being pur-
9 sued by such applicant, means any
10 award year for such period that fol-
11 lows the award year for which the ap-
12 plicant submits such FAFSA; and

13 “(II) when used with respect to
14 an applicant described in subpara-
15 graph (C), means any award year
16 after award year 2020–2021 for the
17 period required for the completion of
18 the first undergraduate baccalaureate
19 course of study being pursued by such
20 applicant.”.

21 **SEC. 203. FAFSA IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES.**

22 Section 483(a) (20 U.S.C. 1090(a)) is further
23 amended by adding at the end the following:

24 “(15) FAFSA IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES.—The
25 Secretary shall—

1 “(A) translate the form developed under
 2 this subsection into not fewer than 11 foreign
 3 languages based on the languages most often
 4 spoken by English learner students and their
 5 parents, and make the translated form available
 6 and accessible to applicants in paper and elec-
 7 tronic formats; and

8 “(B) ensure that the form developed under
 9 this subsection is available in formats accessible
 10 to individuals with disabilities.”.

11 **SEC. 204. USE OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE DATA RE-**
 12 **TRIEVAL TOOL TO POPULATE FAFSA.**

13 Section 483(f) (20 U.S.C. 1090(f)) is amended to
 14 read as follows:

15 “(f) USE OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE DATA
 16 RETRIEVAL TOOL TO POPULATE FAFSA.—

17 “(1) SIMPLIFICATION EFFORTS.—The Sec-
 18 retary shall—

19 “(A) make every effort to allow applicants
 20 to utilize the current data retrieval tool to
 21 transfer data available from the Internal Rev-
 22 enue Service to reduce the amount of original
 23 data entry by applicants and strengthen the re-
 24 liability of data used to calculate expected fam-

1 ily contributions, including through the use of
2 technology to—

3 “(i) allow an applicant to automati-
4 cally populate the electronic version of the
5 forms under this paragraph with data
6 available from the Internal Revenue Serv-
7 ice; and

8 “(ii) direct an applicant to appro-
9 priate questions on such forms based on
10 the applicant’s answers to previous ques-
11 tions; and

12 “(B) allow taxpayers, regardless of filing
13 status, to utilize the current data retrieval tool
14 to its full capacity.

15 “(2) USE OF TAX RETURN IN APPLICATION
16 PROCESS.—The Secretary shall continue to examine
17 whether data provided by the Internal Revenue Serv-
18 ice can be used to generate an expected family con-
19 tribution without additional action on the part of the
20 student and taxpayer.

21 “(3) REPORTS ON FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION EF-
22 FORTS.—Not less than once every other year, the
23 Secretary shall report to the authorizing committees
24 and the Committees on Appropriations of the House

1 of Representatives and the Senate on the progress of
2 the simplification efforts under this subsection.”.

3 **SEC. 205. INFORMATION ON FAFSA VERIFICATION.**

4 Section 483 (20 U.S.C. 1090) is further amended by
5 adding at the end the following:

6 “(i) FAFSA VERIFICATION.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to applicants
8 who submit a FAFSA for an award year and were
9 determined using data provided in such FAFSA to
10 be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for such
11 award year, the Secretary shall submit to the au-
12 thorizing committees, and make publicly available, a
13 report for such award year on—

14 “(A) the number and share of such appli-
15 cants who received a Federal Pell Grant for
16 such award year;

17 “(B) the number and share of such appli-
18 cants who did not receive a Federal Pell Grant
19 for such year;

20 “(C) the number and share of such appli-
21 cants who were selected by the Secretary for
22 verification of the data provided in the FAFSA;

23 “(D) to the extent practicable, the number
24 and share of applicants described in subpara-

1 graph (C) who enrolled in an institution of
2 higher education in a year after such selection;

3 “(E) the number and share of applicants
4 described in subparagraph (C) who completed
5 the verification process;

6 “(F) of the applicants described in sub-
7 paragraph (E)—

8 “(i) the average of the expected family
9 contribution for all such applicants as de-
10 termined using data provided in the
11 FAFSA;

12 “(ii) the average of the expected fam-
13 ily contribution difference for all such ap-
14 plicants;

15 “(iii) the average of the expected fam-
16 ily contribution difference for all such ap-
17 plicants whose expected family contribution
18 as determined using data provided in the
19 verification process was greater than the
20 expected family contribution as determined
21 using data provided in the FAFSA; and

22 “(iv) the average of the expected fam-
23 ily contribution difference for all such ap-
24 plicants whose expected family contribution
25 as determined using data provided in the

1 FAFSA was greater than the expected
2 family contribution as determined using
3 data provided in the verification process;

4 “(G) of the applicants described in sub-
5 paragraph (E)—

6 “(i) the average Federal Pell Grant
7 amount for all such applicants as deter-
8 mined using data provided in the FAFSA;

9 “(ii) the average of the Federal Pell
10 Grant difference for all such applicants;

11 “(iii) the average of the Federal Pell
12 Grant difference for all such applicants
13 whose Federal Pell Grant amount as deter-
14 mined using data provided in the
15 verification process was greater than the
16 Federal Pell Grant amount as determined
17 using data provided in the FAFSA;

18 “(iv) the average of the Federal Pell
19 Grant difference for all such applicants
20 whose Federal Pell Grant amount as deter-
21 mined using data provided in the FAFSA
22 was greater than the Federal Pell Grant
23 amount as determined using data provided
24 in the verification process; and

1 “(v) the number and share of such
 2 applicants who were determined using the
 3 data provided in the verification process to
 4 be ineligible for a Federal Pell Grant;

5 “(H) the number and share of applicants
 6 described in subparagraph (C) who received a
 7 Federal Pell Grant for such award year; and

8 “(I) the number and share of applicants
 9 described in subparagraph (C) who did not re-
 10 ceive a Federal Pell Grant for such award year.

11 “(2) DISAGGREGATION.—The data provided in
 12 a report under paragraph (1) shall be
 13 disaggregated—

14 “(A) by applicants who were pathway one
 15 applicants for such year;

16 “(B) by applicants who were pathway two
 17 applicants for such year;

18 “(C) by applicants who were pathway three
 19 applicants for such year; and

20 “(D) with respect to applicants described
 21 in subparagraphs (C) and (E), the verification
 22 tracking groups of such applicants.

23 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

24 “(A) EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION
 25 DIFFERENCE.—The term ‘expected family con-

tribution difference’ means, with respect to an applicant who completed a verification process with respect to the FAFSA, the difference between—

“(i) the expected family contribution of such applicant as determined using data provided in the FAFSA; and

“(ii) the expected family contribution of such applicant as determined using data provided in the verification process.

“(B) FEDERAL PELL GRANT DIFFERENCE.—The term ‘Federal Pell Grant difference’ means, with respect to an applicant who completed a verification process with respect to the FAFSA, the difference between—

“(i) the amount of the Federal Pell Grant of such applicant as determined using data provided in the FAFSA; and

“(ii) the amount of the Federal Pell Grant of such applicant as determined using data provided in the verification process.”.

SEC. 206. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 483.

Section 483 (20 U.S.C. 1090), as amended by sections 201 through 205, is further amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (2)—

3 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
4 “process” and all that follows through the
5 end of clause (ii) and inserting “process a
6 paper version of the forms described in
7 this subsection, in accordance with sub-
8 paragraph (B).”; and

9 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B);

10 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph
11 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

12 (iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redes-
13 ignated, by striking “subparagraphs (A)
14 and (B)” and inserting “subparagraph
15 (A)”;

16 (B) in paragraph (3)—

17 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
18 the end sentence;

19 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B), and
20 redesignating subparagraphs (C) through
21 (H) as subparagraphs (B) through (G), re-
22 spectively; and

23 (iii) in subparagraph (E), as so redes-
24 ignated, by striking “subparagraph (G)”
25 and inserting “subparagraph (F)”;

1 (C) in paragraph (4)—

2 (i) by striking “academic year” each
3 place it appears and inserting “award
4 year”; and

5 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
6 clause (iv); and

7 (D) in paragraph (5)—

8 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
9 “paragraphs (2)(B)(iii), (3)(B), and
10 (4)(A)(ii)” and inserting “paragraph
11 (4)(A)(ii)”;

12 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (I) by striking “determine” and
14 all that follows through “which” and
15 inserting “determine which”;

16 (II) by striking “; and” and in-
17 serting a period; and

18 (III) by striking clause (ii);

19 (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
20 “Beginning” and all that follows through
21 “of the State-specific” and inserting “The
22 Secretary shall publish on an annual basis
23 a notice in the Federal Register requiring
24 State agencies to inform the Secretary of
25 the State-specific”; and

- 1 (iv) by striking subparagraphs (D)
 2 through (F), and redesignating subpara-
 3 graph (G) as subparagraph (D);
 4 (2) in subsection (c), by striking the last sen-
 5 tence;
 6 (3) in subsection (d)(3)—
 7 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and
 8 EZ FAFSA”; and
 9 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and
 10 EZ FAFSA”;
 11 (4) in subsection (e)—
 12 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “or, as
 13 appropriate, an EZ FAFSA”; and
 14 (B) in paragraph (5)(D), by striking “or,
 15 as appropriate, an EZ FAFSA,”;
 16 (5) by striking subsection (g); and
 17 (6) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
 18 section (g).

19 **TITLE III—FEDERAL AID** 20 **ELIGIBILITY**

21 **SEC. 301. EXCEPTION TO REQUIRED REGISTRATION WITH** 22 **SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM.**

23 (a) EXCEPTION.—Part B of title I (20 U.S.C. 1011
 24 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 124. EXCEPTION TO REQUIRED REGISTRATION WITH**
 2 **SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM.**

3 “Notwithstanding section 12(f) of the Military Selec-
 4 tive Service Act (50 U.S.C. 3811(f)), a person shall not
 5 be ineligible for assistance or a benefit provided under title
 6 IV if the person is required under section 3 of such Act
 7 (50 U.S.C. 3802) to present himself for and submit to
 8 registration under such section, and fails to do so in ac-
 9 cordance with any proclamation, rule, or regulation issued
 10 under such section.”.

11 (b) REPEAL.—Subsection (n) of section 484 (20
 12 U.S.C. 1901) is repealed.

13 **SEC. 302. REPEAL OF SUSPENSION OF ELIGIBILITY UNDER**
 14 **THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 FOR**
 15 **GRANTS, LOANS, AND WORK ASSISTANCE FOR**
 16 **DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES.**

17 (a) REPEALS.—

18 (1) SUSPENSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection
 19 (r) of section 484 (20 U.S.C. 1091(r)) is repealed.

20 (2) NOTICE.—Subsection (k) of section 485 (20
 21 U.S.C. 1092) is repealed.

22 (b) REVISION OF FAFSA FORM.—Section 483 (20
 23 U.S.C. 1090), as amended by title II, is further amended
 24 by adding at the end the following:

25 “(i) PROHIBITION ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO
 26 DRUG OFFENSES.—The Secretary may not include on the

1 forms developed under this subsection any data items re-
 2 lating to whether an applicant has a conviction of any of-
 3 fense under any Federal or State law involving the posses-
 4 sion or sale of a controlled substance (as defined in section
 5 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C.
 6 802(6)).”.

7 **SEC. 303. FEDERAL AID ELIGIBILITY FOR DREAMER STU-**
 8 **DENTS.**

9 (a) FEDERAL AID ELIGIBILITY FOR DREAMER STU-
 10 DENTS.—Section 484(a)(5) is amended by inserting “, or
 11 be a Dreamer student, as defined in subsection (u)”, as
 12 amended by this section, after “becoming a citizen or per-
 13 manent resident”.

14 (b) DEFINITION OF DREAMER STUDENT.—Section
 15 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 16 1091) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
 17 lowing:

18 “(u) DREAMER STUDENT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term
 20 ‘Dreamer student’ means an individual who—

21 “(A) was younger than 16 years of age on
 22 the date on which the individual initially en-
 23 tered the United States;

1 “(B) has provided a list of each secondary
2 school that the student attended in the United
3 States; and

4 “(C)(i) has earned a high school diploma,
5 the recognized equivalent of such diploma from
6 a secondary school, or a high school equivalency
7 diploma in the United States or is scheduled to
8 complete the requirements for such a diploma
9 or equivalent before the next academic year be-
10 gins;

11 “(ii) has acquired a degree from an institu-
12 tion of higher education or has completed not
13 less than 2 years in a program for a bacca-
14 laureate degree or higher degree at an institu-
15 tion of higher education in the United States
16 and has made satisfactory academic progress,
17 as defined in subsection (c), during such time
18 period;

19 “(iii) at any time was eligible for a grant
20 of deferred action under—

21 “(I) the June 15, 2012, memorandum
22 from the Secretary of Homeland Security
23 entitled ‘Exercising Prosecutorial Discre-
24 tion with Respect to Individuals Who
25 Came to the United States as Children’; or

1 “(II) the November 20, 2014, memo-
2 randum from the Secretary of Homeland
3 Security entitled ‘Exercising Prosecutorial
4 Discretion with Respect to Individuals
5 Who Came to the United States as Chil-
6 dren and with Respect to Certain Individ-
7 uals Who Are the Parents of U.S. Citizens
8 or Permanent Residents’; or

9 “(iv) has served in the uniformed services,
10 as defined in section 101 of title 10, United
11 States Code, for not less than 4 years and, if
12 discharged, received an honorable discharge.

13 “(2) HARDSHIP EXCEPTION.—The Secretary
14 shall issue regulations that direct when the Depart-
15 ment shall waive the requirement of subparagraph
16 (A) or (B), or both, of paragraph (1) for an indi-
17 vidual to qualify as a Dreamer student under such
18 paragraph, if the individual—

19 “(A) demonstrates compelling cir-
20 cumstances for the inability to satisfy the re-
21 quirement of such subparagraph (A) or (B), or
22 both; and

23 “(B) satisfies the requirement of para-
24 graph (1)(C).”.

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