

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2028

To authorize funding to expand and support enrollment at institutions of higher education that sponsor construction and manufacturing-oriented registered apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2025

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. DAINES, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To authorize funding to expand and support enrollment at institutions of higher education that sponsor construction and manufacturing-oriented registered apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

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 “Supporting Appren-
5 ticeship Colleges Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMUNITY OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
8 under subsection (f), the Secretary, in consultation with

1 the Secretary of Labor, shall provide grants to eligible en-
2 tities for the purposes of expanding or supporting poten-
3 tial student and employer outreach carried out by such
4 entities with respect to the construction and manufac-
5 turing-oriented registered apprenticeship programs offered
6 by such entities.

7 (b) AMOUNTS.—The total grant amount made to an
8 eligible entity under this section may not exceed \$500,000.

9 (c) USE OF GRANTS.—An eligible entity that receives
10 a grant under this section shall use such grant for the
11 outreach described in subsection (a), which shall include
12 the following:

13 (1) Outreach to high schools, for the purpose of
14 educating students, parents, guardians, and faculty
15 on the benefits of enrolling students in the construc-
16 tion and manufacturing-oriented registered appren-
17 ticeship program offered by the eligible entity.

18 (2) Outreach to local businesses and other po-
19 tential employers for the purpose of educating such
20 employers on the benefits of supporting and hiring
21 graduates of such program, which shall—

22 (A) primarily target relationship building
23 with potential employers in rural, exurban, and
24 suburban areas; and

1 (B) seek to maximize the number of stu-
2 dents who work in such areas after completing
3 such program.

4 (3) Outreach to local workforce development
5 boards and apprenticeship intermediaries for the
6 purpose of reaching nontraditional student popu-
7 lations and prioritizing local needs.

8 (d) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible enti-
9 ty seeking a grant under this section shall submit an appli-
10 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
11 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

12 (e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
13 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
14 that demonstrate outreach efforts targeted at increasing
15 program enrollment for rural students, first generation
16 college students, minority students, and nontraditional
17 students, or other students from underrepresented popu-
18 lation.

19 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out
21 this section for each of the fiscal years 2026 through
22 2030.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDENT SUPPORT GRANT PROGRAM FOR EX-**
 2 **PANDED ACADEMIC ADVISING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
 4 under subsection (g), the Secretary, in consultation with
 5 the Secretary of Labor, shall provide grants to eligible en-
 6 tities for the activities described in subsection (d).

7 (b) AMOUNTS.—The total grant amount made to an
 8 eligible entity under this section may not exceed \$500,000.

9 (c) MULTIPLE GRANTS PERMITTED.—An eligible en-
 10 tity may receive a grant under sections 2 and 3.

11 (d) USE OF GRANTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that re-
 13 ceives a grant under this section shall use such
 14 grant for advising and support services to enrollees
 15 of construction and manufacturing-oriented reg-
 16 istered apprenticeship programs offered by such en-
 17 tity to increase retention, persistence, and comple-
 18 tion for students.

19 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Such advising and sup-
 20 port services shall include the following:

21 (A) Expanding academic advising pro-
 22 grams that provide services to students, includ-
 23 ing—

24 (i) career advising and professional
 25 development;

- 1 (ii) support for English as a second
- 2 language students;
- 3 (iii) information and resource systems;
- 4 (iv) mentoring systems; or
- 5 (v) other similar advising activities
- 6 that support enrollment, retention, persist-
- 7 ence, and completion.

8 (B) Expanding student support programs
9 that provide services to students, including—

- 10 (i) health and family-related services,
- 11 including substance abuse disorder and
- 12 mental health counseling;
- 13 (ii) support for first generation college
- 14 students;
- 15 (iii) childcare support; or
- 16 (iv) other similar support activities.

17 (e) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible enti-
18 ty seeking a grant under this section shall submit an appli-
19 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
20 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

21 (f) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that re-
23 ceives a grant under this section shall submit to the
24 Secretary a report on—

- 25 (A) the activities supported by the grant;

1 (B) the number of students participating
2 in the activities supported by the grant;

3 (C) the percentage of students partici-
4 pating in the activities supported by the grant
5 who are high school students;

6 (D) the progress made in achieving the
7 goals of the program supported by the grant, in
8 general, and measuring in particular—

9 (i) the effectiveness of the grant in ex-
10 panding overall enrollment and program
11 and registered apprenticeship program
12 completion rates and certification;

13 (ii) the effectiveness of the grant in
14 expanding enrollment and program comple-
15 tion rates for underrepresented popu-
16 lations; and

17 (iii) any progress made towards the
18 type of indicators of performance as de-
19 scribed in section 116(b)(2)(A) of the
20 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (29
21 U.S.C. 3141(b)(2)(A)); and

22 (E) such other information as the Sec-
23 retary determines to be appropriate.

24 (2) TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION OF REPORT.—

25 The report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted

1 to the Secretary not later than 180 days after the
 2 date on which the eligible entity concludes the activi-
 3 ties supported by the grant under this section.

4 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 5 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 6 \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2026 through
 7 2030.

8 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING-ORI-
 11 ENTED APPRENTICESHIP COLLEGE.—The term
 12 “construction and manufacturing-oriented appren-
 13 ticeship college” means an institution of higher edu-
 14 cation that is a sponsor of a construction and manu-
 15 facturing-oriented registered apprenticeship pro-
 16 gram.

17 (2) CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING-ORI-
 18 ENTED REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
 19 The term “construction and manufacturing-oriented
 20 registered apprenticeship program” means a reg-
 21 istered apprenticeship program that—

22 (A) provides coursework and training in
 23 preparation for employment in the construction
 24 or manufactory industry (such as employment

as a painter, drywall finisher, glazier, or glass-worker);

(B)(i) leads to a recognized postsecondary credential other than a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship; or

(ii) awards credits that can be applied toward a recognized postsecondary credential at least at the institution that sponsors the program; and

(C) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary pursuant to part H of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1099a et seq.).

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a construction and manufacturing-oriented apprenticeship college.

(4) FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT.—The term “first generation college student” has the meaning given the term in section 402A(h) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11(h)).

(5) HIGH SCHOOL.—The term “high school” has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of

1 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
2 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

3 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
4 term “institution of higher education” has the
5 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
6 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

7 (7) OUTREACH.—The term “outreach” means
8 communications and relationship-building opportuni-
9 ties undertaken by an eligible entity.

10 (8) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDEN-
11 TIAL.—The term “recognized postsecondary creden-
12 tial” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of
13 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
14 U.S.C. 3102).

15 (9) REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—
16 The term “registered apprenticeship program”
17 means an apprenticeship program registered under
18 the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as
19 the “National Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664,
20 chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

21 (10) SECOND LANGUAGE.—The term “second
22 language” means any language other than English,
23 including Braille and American Sign Language.

24 (11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”
25 means the Secretary of Education.

1 (12) UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATION.—The
2 term “underrepresented population” means an indi-
3 vidual who is from a group whose gender, ethnic
4 background, or national origin is not traditionally
5 represented in registered apprenticeship programs.

