

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6168

To encourage programs that support Dreamer student success in completing postsecondary education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Mr. AGUILAR (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. SERRANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To encourage programs that support Dreamer student success in completing postsecondary education.

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 “Academic Success Cen-
5 ters and Education Networks for Dreamers (ASCEND)
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAMS FOR DREAMER STUDENT SUCCESS IN**
2 **COMPLETING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION.**

3 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to en-
4 courage programs that support Dreamer student success
5 in completing postsecondary education by coordinating
6 educational and community services to address the aca-
7 demic, financial, and social needs of Dreamer students.

8 (b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
10 appropriations under subsection (h), the Secretary of
11 Education shall award grants to not-for-profit insti-
12 tutions of higher education to develop programs to
13 support Dreamer student success in completing post-
14 secondary education.

15 (2) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under
16 this section shall be awarded for a period of 4 years.

17 (c) USE OF GRANTS.—

18 (1) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—An institution of
19 higher education receiving a grant under this section
20 shall use such grant to carry out a program that in-
21 cludes—

22 (A) developing a team of professionals who
23 provide services to Dreamer students and pro-
24 vide training to faculty on how to support
25 Dreamer students;

1 (B) providing a coordinator whose primary
2 responsibility is to coordinate the program car-
3 ried out under this section; and

4 (C) establishing a plan to sustain the pro-
5 gram after the grant period.

6 (2) OTHER AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—An insti-
7 tution of higher education receiving a grant under
8 this section may use such grant to carry out any of
9 the following authorized activities with respect to
10 Dreamer students and students described in section
11 212(a)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
12 U.S.C. 1182(a)(6)) or subparagraph (A), (B), or (C)
13 of section 237(a)(1) of such Act (8 U.S.C.
14 1227(a)(1)):

15 (A) Outreach to such students.

16 (B) Supportive instructional services for
17 such students, which may include—

18 (i) personal, academic, and career
19 counseling, as an ongoing part of the pro-
20 gram;

21 (ii) tutoring and academic skill-build-
22 ing instruction assistance, as needed; and

23 (iii) assistance with special admissions
24 and transfer of credit from previous post-
25 secondary education or experience.

1 (C) Assistance in obtaining student finan-
2 cial aid.

3 (D) Assistance with applications for in-
4 state tuition, where applicable.

5 (E) Establishing a scholarship program
6 modeled after Federal work-study programs.

7 (F) Other support services and planning
8 activities the institution determines to be nec-
9 essary to ensure the success of such students in
10 achieving educational goals.

11 (d) APPLICATION; SELECTION.—

12 (1) APPLICATION.—To be considered for a
13 grant under this section, an institution of higher
14 education shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
15 tion at such time, in such manner, and accompanied
16 by such information as the Secretary may require.

17 (2) SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants
19 under this section, the Secretary shall con-
20 sider—

21 (i) the need for a new program for
22 Dreamer students; or

23 (ii) the need for additional services
24 provided by an existing program for
25 Dreamer students.

1 (B) GRANT CRITERIA DEPENDING ON ES-
2 TABLISHED SOURCE OF FUNDING.—The Sec-
3 retary shall set criteria for grants awarded
4 based on the differing objectives of programs
5 for Dreamer students with, or without, an es-
6 tablished source of funding. With respect to an
7 institution of higher education having a pro-
8 gram with an established source of funding at
9 the time the application under paragraph (1) is
10 submitted, the institution shall provide in the
11 application an assurance that it will use Fed-
12 eral funds received under this section only to
13 supplement the funds that would, in the ab-
14 sence of such Federal funds, be made available
15 from State, local, and private sources for the
16 program, and not to supplant such funds.

17 (e) EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN.—The
18 Secretary shall develop an evaluation and accountability
19 plan for programs funded under this section to measure
20 objectively the following:

21 (1) The ability of the program to establish or
22 expand services provided to Dreamer students.

23 (2) Graduation rates of Dreamer students.

1 (f) ONLINE PUBLICATION OF PROGRESS RESULTS.—
2 The Secretary of Education shall publish progress results
3 online.

4 (g) DREAMER STUDENTS.—In this section, the term
5 “Dreamer student” means an individual who is a bene-
6 ficiary of, or eligible for, the Deferred Action for Child-
7 hood Arrivals program pursuant to the memorandum by
8 the Secretary of Homeland Security dated June 15, 2012,
9 or November 20, 2014.

10 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017 and
13 each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

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