

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4476

To authorize a program of assistance for partnerships between minority-serving institutions and other institutions of higher education that enable students attending minority-serving institutions to earn dual degrees and enter fields in which students from those institutions are underrepresented, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2000

Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, and Mrs. MEEK of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To authorize a program of assistance for partnerships between minority-serving institutions and other institutions of higher education that enable students attending minority-serving institutions to earn dual degrees and enter fields in which students from those institutions are underrepresented, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Dual Degree Achieve-  
3 ment Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DUAL DEGREE ACHIEVEMENT.**

5 Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
6 U.S.C. 1000 et seq.) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating part F as part G;

8 (2) by inserting immediately after part E a new  
9 Part F to read as follows:

10 **“PART F—DUAL DEGREE ACHIEVEMENT**

11 **“SEC. 371. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

12 “(a) FINDINGS.—For the reasons set forth in sec-  
13 tions 301, 321, 341, 350, and 501 of this Act, the Federal  
14 Government—

15 “(1) has a unique relationship with, and a sub-  
16 stantial investment in, the institutions that receive  
17 grants under this title and title V of this Act; and

18 “(2) should continue to seek new and even more  
19 effective ways to improve and strengthen those insti-  
20 tutions.

21 “(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this part to—

22 “(1) strengthen curricula and enhance student  
23 opportunities at minority-serving institutions;

24 “(2) increase postgraduate access and persist-  
25 ence for students who attend such institutions; and

1           “(3) increase diversity within scientific, tech-  
2           nical, and other professions requiring baccalaureate  
3           and post-baccalaureate study.

4   **“SEC. 372. PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**

5           “(a) IN GENERAL.—

6           (1) From funds appropriated under section  
7           399(a)(6), the Secretary shall make grants to eligi-  
8           ble partnerships under subsection (b) to carry out  
9           the activities described in section 373.

10           “(2) Each grant awarded under this part shall  
11           be for a five-year period.

12           “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

13           (1) For purposes of this part, an eligible part-  
14           nership shall include—

15                   “(A) one or more minority-serving institu-  
16                   tions that award baccalaureate degrees; and

17                   “(B) one or more partner institutions.

18           “(2) Other public and private entities, including  
19           minority-serving institutions that do not award bac-  
20           calaureate degrees (such as community colleges),  
21           community based organizations, and businesses, may  
22           be included in partnerships under this section.

23           “(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this part—

24                   “(1) a ‘minority-serving institution’ means an  
25                   institution that is eligible to apply for assistance

1 under sections 316 or 317, under part B of this  
2 title, or under title V of this Act; and

3 “(2) a ‘partner institution’ means an institution  
4 of higher education that offers a baccalaureate or  
5 post-baccalaureate degree not awarded by the minor-  
6 ity-serving institutions with which it is partnered.

7 “(d) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to  
8 the application requirements under section 391, an eligible  
9 partnership under subsection (b)(1) shall include in its  
10 application—

11 “(1) the name of each partner and a descrip-  
12 tion of its responsibilities as a member of the part-  
13 nership;

14 “(2) a copy of the partnership agreement, in-  
15 cluding any articulation agreement between the part-  
16 ners;

17 “(3) a description of—

18 “(A) the academic fields of study to be  
19 covered by the project and the degrees to be  
20 awarded by the partners;

21 “(B) how the project will operate, includ-  
22 ing a description of how the project will build  
23 on existing services and activities, if any, and  
24 be coordinated with other related Federal and  
25 non-Federal programs;

1           “(C) the need for the project, including, if  
2 the project is to cover academic fields of study  
3 that have not otherwise been published by the  
4 Secretary under subsection (f), a demonstration  
5 of how those fields of study are associated with  
6 professions in which students who attend mi-  
7 nority serving institutions are underrepresented;

8           “(D) the resources that each member of  
9 the partnership will contribute to the partner-  
10 ship; and

11           “(E) how the partnership will support and  
12 continue its program under this part after the  
13 grant has expired; and

14           “(4) assurances that—

15           “(A) each member of a partnership will  
16 designate an individual at that institution to  
17 serve as the primary point of contact for the  
18 partnership at that institution;

19           “(B) each participating student—

20           “(i) is enrolled in an academic pro-  
21 gram that leads to a five year bacca-  
22 laurate or post-baccalaureate degree not  
23 awarded by the minority-serving institu-  
24 tion;

1           “(ii) who successfully completes the  
2           program will be awarded a baccalaureate  
3           degree from the minority-serving institu-  
4           tion and a baccalaureate degree or a mas-  
5           ter’s degree from the partner institution  
6           that the student attends;

7           “(iii) at each minority-serving institu-  
8           tion will be informed of, and have access  
9           to, the instruction and rigorous academic  
10          courses necessary to obtain dual degrees  
11          and enter into their chosen field; and

12          “(iv) will maintain satisfactory aca-  
13          demic progress while in the program;

14          “(C) a minority-serving institution under  
15          section 372(b)(1)(A) will be the fiscal agent for  
16          the partnership; and

17          “(D) each institution will use the funds  
18          made available under this part only to supple-  
19          ment, and not supplant, assistance that other-  
20          wise would be provided to participating stu-  
21          dents.

22          “(e) PUBLICATION OF STUDY FIELDS.—Each year,  
23          the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a list  
24          of baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate degree fields of  
25          study that are associated with professions in which stu-

1 dents attending minority-serving institutions are under-  
2 represented.

3 **“SEC. 373. USES OF FUNDS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this part  
5 shall be used for—

6 “(1) support services to students participating  
7 in the program, such as tutoring, mentoring, and  
8 academic and personal counseling, as well as any  
9 service which facilitates the transition of minority  
10 students from the minority-serving institution to the  
11 partner institution;

12 “(2) scholarships to students in their 4th and  
13 5th years in the program;

14 “(3) reimbursement to minority-serving institu-  
15 tions for the amount of tuition that they would have  
16 received had participating students attended those  
17 institutions during their 4th year of the program in-  
18 stead of the partner institution; and

19 “(4) academic program enhancements at the  
20 minority-serving institution which result in increas-  
21 ing the quality of the program offered and the quan-  
22 tity of student participants in the dual degree pro-  
23 gram offered.

24 “(b) SCHOLARSHIPS.—

1           “(1) Scholarships awarded under this section  
2 shall reflect any additional amount of tuition and  
3 fees charged the participating student by the partner  
4 institution compared to the amount of tuition and  
5 fees charged the student by the minority-serving in-  
6 stitution during the student’s 3rd year in the pro-  
7 gram.

8           “(2) Scholarships awarded under this section  
9 shall not be considered for the purposes of awarding  
10 Federal Pell Grants under subpart 1 of part A of  
11 title IV, except that in no case shall the total  
12 amount of student financial assistance awarded to a  
13 student under this section and title IV exceed the  
14 student’s cost of attendance, as defined in section  
15 472.

16           “(c) SPECIAL RULE.—A majority of the funds re-  
17 ceived under this program part shall be expended for  
18 scholarships to assist minority students in acquiring de-  
19 grees from the minority-serving institution and the part-  
20 ner institution and reimbursement to minority-serving in-  
21 stitutions pursuant to subsection (a)(3).”; and

22           (3) in part G, as redesignated by paragraph  
23 (1)—

1 (A) in section 391(b)(1), by striking out  
2 “part C, D, or E” and inserting in lieu thereof  
3 “part C, D, E, or F”; and

4 (B) in section 399(a), by adding a new  
5 paragraph (6) to read as follows:

6 “(6) PART F.—There are authorized to be ap-  
7 propriated \$40,000,000 to carry out part F for fis-  
8 cal year 2001 and such sums as may be necessary  
9 for each of the 2 succeeding fiscal years.”.

10 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

11 This Act shall take effect on the date of its enact-  
12 ment.

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