

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2521

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to protect opportunities for families in the Federal student aid process, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 2025

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to protect opportunities for families in the Federal student aid process, 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 “American Family  
5 FAFSA Opportunity Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELIMINATING THE SIBLING PENALTY.**

7 Paragraph (3) of section 475(b) of the Higher Edu-  
8 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087oo(b)(3)) is amended  
9 to read as follows:

1           “(3) dividing the assessment resulting under  
2           paragraph (2) by the number of the family members,  
3           excluding student’s parents, who are enrolled or ac-  
4           cepted for enrollment, on at least a half-time basis,  
5           in a degree, certificate, or other program leading to  
6           a recognized educational credential at an institution  
7           of higher education that is an eligible institution in  
8           accordance with the provisions of section 487 during  
9           the award period for which assistance under the title  
10          is requested;  
11          except that the amount determined under this subsection  
12          shall not be less than zero.”.

13   **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14          The amendment made by this Act shall take effect  
15          on the date of enactment of this Act, and shall apply with  
16          respect to award year 2025–2026 and each subsequent  
17          award year, as determined under the Higher Education  
18          Act of 1965.

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