

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5532

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program to facilitate the transition to tuition-free community college in certain States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

Mr. SMITH of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to establish a program to facilitate the transition to tuition-free community college in certain States, 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 **TITLE I**

4 **SECTION 101. TUITION-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRANT**

5 **AND SUPPORT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
7 program to provide grants to each State that submits a
8 complete application under subsection (b) to—

1 (1) facilitate tuition-free community college for
2 eligible students;

3 (2) award subgrants to eligible institutions for
4 the improvement of the capacity of institutions to
5 provide supportive services; and

6 (3) award subgrants to eligible institutions for
7 the provision of direct grants to student to address
8 non-tuition costs to meet the growing demand from
9 employers for workers with postsecondary creden-
10 tials.

11 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant under
12 this section, a State shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
13 cation in such form, at such time, and containing such
14 information as the Secretary determines appropriate, in-
15 cluding a State plan describing the following:

16 (1) INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—A plan to formalize an
18 interagency committee within such State to—

19 (i) evaluate gaps and opportunities in
20 the State workforce, higher education,
21 childcare, and human services systems; and

22 (ii) maximize Federal and State re-
23 sources to support pathway development
24 that increases economic mobility and rec-

1 ognized postsecondary credential attain-
2 ment.

3 (B) MEMBERSHIP.—An assurance that
4 such committee shall consist of members from
5 the following entities:

6 (i) State unemployment insurance
7 agency.

8 (ii) Office of the State higher edu-
9 cation executive officer and public college
10 boards.

11 (iii) State community college system.

12 (iv) State departments of health and
13 human services.

14 (v) State departments of economic de-
15 velopment.

16 (vi) Workforce development agencies.

17 (vii) State or local housing authori-
18 ties.

19 (viii) Students enrolled in community
20 colleges in the State.

21 (ix) Other relevant State agencies as
22 determined by the State.

23 (2) EDUCATION ALIGNMENT.—A plan to—

24 (A) with respect to eligible individuals
25 without a secondary school diploma or its recog-

nized equivalent, facilitate the completion of such diploma or recognized equivalent at a community college;

(B) ensure that credits received for Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes are applied to an equivalent community college course; and

(C) otherwise align the requirements between secondary schools and community colleges in order to increase the accessibility of community college for eligible individuals.

(3) DEVELOPMENT.—A plan to—

(A) improve career pathway development, with special attention to career pathways related to in-demand industry sectors or occupations identified under paragraph (14);

(B) increase economic mobility of State residents; and

(C) provide access to affordable postsecondary education for State residents through a network of coordinated State and Federal support systems designed and implemented by State agencies in partnership with public institutions of higher education and public higher education systems.

1 (4) CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT.—A plan to
2 prioritize secondary and recognized postsecondary
3 credential attainment through—

4 (A) integrated education and training mod-
5 els;

6 (B) dual enrollment programs; and

7 (C) an increased number of navigators.

8 (5) PRIORITY.—A plan to prioritize assistance
9 to individuals—

10 (A) with a barrier to employment;

11 (B) with incomes below 200 percent of the
12 poverty level; or

13 (C) without a recognized postsecondary
14 credential.

15 (6) PUBLIC RESOURCES.—A plan to maximize
16 public resources to support the attainment of a rec-
17 ognized postsecondary credential, including with re-
18 spect to—

19 (A) transportation;

20 (B) on-campus or off-campus housing;

21 (C) childcare;

22 (D) food assistance; and

23 (E) other support programs.

1 (7) OUTREACH.—A plan to reach eligible indi-
2 viduals without a recognized postsecondary creden-
3 tial, including with respect to individuals who—

4 (A) live in high-poverty areas;

5 (B) are first-generation students;

6 (C) are low-income students; and

7 (D) identify as belonging to other under-
8 represented student groups.

9 (8) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL
10 ENROLLMENT, PERSISTENCE, RETENTION AND COM-
11 PLETION.—A plan to increase enrollment, persist-
12 ence, retention, and credential completion by—

13 (A) developing new, or expanding existing,
14 degree and credential programs based on the
15 needs of in-demand industry sectors or occupa-
16 tions identified under paragraph (14);

17 (B) increasing the number of career coun-
18 selors and navigators;

19 (C) ensuring that eligible students enrolled
20 in community colleges—

21 (i) are not charged tuition or fees;

22 and

23 (ii) are not required to apply Federal,
24 State, or private financial assistance (in-

cluding scholarships) to pay for the cost of
tuition or fees; and

(D) ensuring that the eligibility of an eligible student enrolled in community college for a Federal Pell Grant under subpart 1 of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.) or other financial assistance is not affected by funds provided under this Act or private scholarship awards unless the total amount of such student's Federal Pell Grant, other financial assistance, and private scholarships exceeds the student's annual cost of attendance.

(9) COST ANALYSES.—Cost analyses for—

(A) providing tuition-free community and technical college pathways to individuals who have not attained—

(i) a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent; or

(ii) a recognized postsecondary credential, up to and including a bachelor's degree; and

(B) expanding institutional capacity to meet an increased demand for recognized postsecondary credentials by expanding supportive

1 services, including with respect to hiring addi-
2 tional—

- 3 (i) career counselors;
- 4 (ii) navigators; and
- 5 (iii) other support staff.

6 (10) DATA COLLECTION.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—A plan for data collec-
8 tion efforts to measure program outcomes and
9 evaluate program success, including by
10 leveraging existing administrative data to track
11 any change in participation in recognized post-
12 secondary credential programs at community
13 colleges.

14 (B) CONTENT.—An assurance that the
15 State that awards subgrants under this title
16 will collect the following data:

17 (i) With respect to each public institu-
18 tion of higher education—

19 (I) the number and percentage of
20 students receiving emergency aid; and

21 (II) the average grant amount
22 for each student.

23 (ii) With respect to each semester or
24 quarter at a public institution of higher
25 education—

- 1 (I) rate of retention; and
- 2 (II) rate of completion of a rec-
- 3 ognized secondary credential.
- 4 (iii) The grade point averages of stu-
- 5 dents receiving emergency aid subgrants.
- 6 (iv) Other data reported by the State.
- 7 (v) Other data required by the Sec-
- 8 retary.

9 (11) DATA SHARING.—A State shall—

- 10 (A) provide an interagency data-sharing
- 11 agreement that facilitates statewide data collec-
- 12 tion efforts between—

- 13 (i) State agencies that oversee the dis-
- 14 persal of State and Federal benefits;
- 15 (ii) the State educational agency;
- 16 (iii) the State higher education sys-
- 17 tem;
- 18 (iv) the State board; and
- 19 (v) other agencies determined by the
- 20 Secretary to be necessary; and

- 21 (B) detail how such agreement will pro-
- 22 mote cross-agency collaboration and improve
- 23 recognized postsecondary credential completion.

24 (12) TRANSFER AGREEMENTS.—A description

25 of—

1 (A) transfer agreements between 2-year
2 and 4-year public institutions of higher edu-
3 cation in such State; and

4 (B) the ways in which the State will ex-
5 pand the number of transfer agreements, in-
6 cluding with respect to the facilitation and im-
7 provement of credit transfers between institu-
8 tions.

9 (13) SUSTAINING FUNDS.—The State shall de-
10 scribe—

11 (A) the ways in which such State will sus-
12 tain a tuition-free community college model;
13 and

14 (B) the amount of Federal assistance
15 needed to sustain the model described in sub-
16 paragraph (A).

17 (14) IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTORS OR OCCU-
18 PATIONS.—A plan to—

19 (A) identify in-demand industry sectors or
20 occupations in such State; and

21 (B) develop and provide access to path-
22 ways to credential and degree programs for jobs
23 in such industries, giving priority to credential
24 and degree programs that correspond to high-
25 quality jobs in consultation with—

- 1 (i) the State board;
- 2 (ii) the State health and human serv-
- 3 ices agency;
- 4 (iii) the State board of higher edu-
- 5 cation; and
- 6 (iv) business industry groups within
- 7 the State.

8 (15) FEDERAL PROGRAMS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—A description of how
10 the State will use amounts under covered pro-
11 grams, to the extent otherwise permitted by
12 law, to reduce eligibility and participation re-
13 quirement barriers in such programs in order
14 to—

15 (i) treat the pursuit of a recognized
16 postsecondary credential as meeting any
17 compliance, work participation, and core
18 activity requirements for each such pro-
19 gram; and

20 (ii) increase access to and completion
21 of recognized postsecondary credential pro-
22 grams.

23 (B) COVERED PROGRAMS DEFINED.—In
24 this paragraph, the term “covered programs”
25 means—

1 (i) the temporary assistance for needy
2 families program under part A of title IV
3 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601);

4 (ii) the Supplemental Nutrition As-
5 sistance Program Employment and Train-
6 ing Program under section 6 of the Food
7 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
8 2015);

9 (iii) the Child Care Development
10 Fund under the Child Care and Develop-
11 ment Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
12 9858 et seq.); and

13 (iv) housing assistance programs car-
14 ried out by the Secretary of Housing and
15 Urban Development.

16 (c) GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall deter-
17 mine grant amounts under subsection (a) with respect to
18 each State based on the following:

19 (1) Statewide unemployment and underemploy-
20 ment rates that are 1 percentage point above the na-
21 tional average.

22 (2) The number of local educational agencies in
23 a State that elect to receive special assistance pay-
24 ments under section 11(a)(1)(F) of the Richard B.

1 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
2 1759a(a)(1)(F)).

3 (3) A statewide official poverty rate that is 1
4 percentage point above the national average.

5 (4) As of the date on which the application is
6 submitted under subsection (b), whether the State
7 carries out a tuition-free community college pro-
8 gram.

9 (d) FUNDS.—

10 (1) TIMING.—A grant under this title shall be
11 awarded for a period of 5 years, of which—

12 (A) a maximum of 1 year may be used for
13 planning; and

14 (B) a minimum of 4 years shall be used
15 for implementation.

16 (2) FEDERAL COST SHARE.—The Federal cost
17 share of facilitating tuition-free community college
18 for eligible students pursuant to a grant awarded
19 under subsection (a) shall be not less than 100 per-
20 cent for costs incurred during the 5-year grant pe-
21 riod described in paragraph (1).

22 (e) GRANT USES.—An eligible State shall use grant
23 funds awarded under this section—

24 (1) to implement the State plan submitted as
25 part of the application under subsection (b), includ-

1 ing with respect to data collection and reporting in
2 accordance with paragraph (10) of such subsection;
3 and

4 (2) to award subgrants to—

5 (A) eligible institutions in accordance with
6 section 102; and

7 (B) eligible students in accordance with
8 section 103.

9 (f) ELIGIBLE STUDENT DEFINED.—In this section,
10 the term “eligible student” means an individual who—

11 (1) is at least 18 years of age;

12 (2) does not have a postsecondary credential
13 that is less than a bachelor’s degree; and

14 (3) when used with respect to a State, is a resi-
15 dent of the State.

16 **SEC. 102. SUBGRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND**
17 **WRAPAROUND SERVICES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant
19 under section 101 shall award subgrants to eligible institu-
20 tions for institutional capacity and wraparound services.

21 (b) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution seeking a
22 subgrant under this section shall submit to the State an
23 application in such form, at such time, and containing
24 such information as the State may require.

1 (c) SUBGRANT USES.—An eligible institution that re-
2 ceives a subgrant under this section shall use such
3 subgrant funds for implementing activities and services
4 that improve retention and completion of recognized post-
5 secondary credentials, including—

6 (1) identifying and addressing the needs of stu-
7 dents, including affordable housing, childcare, trans-
8 portation, and food;

9 (2) supporting the work of navigators, includ-
10 ing—

11 (A) providing information to students with
12 respect to eligibility for assistance under other
13 Federal, State, and institutional assistance pro-
14 grams; and

15 (B) connecting students with on-campus
16 and off-campus supportive services;

17 (3) hiring additional staff;

18 (4) increasing access to supportive services by
19 centralizing such services on-campus;

20 (5) offering additional scheduling options for
21 classes with respect to the day, time, and location of
22 such classes;

23 (6) improving the transfer of credits between
24 institutions of higher education, including commu-
25 nity colleges;

1 (7) expanding pathways related to in-demand
2 industry sectors or occupations;

3 (8) providing access to technology, including—

4 (A) digital literacy courses;

5 (B) computers;

6 (C) software; and

7 (D) other equipment necessary to attain a
8 recognized postsecondary credential; and

9 (9) partnering with an entity selected by the
10 State to provide technical assistance, including with
11 respect to—

12 (A) carrying out the State plan under sec-
13 tion 101;

14 (B) awarding subgrants under section 103;

15 (C) developing reports under section 104;

16 (D) connecting students to public benefits;

17 and

18 (E) carrying out the activities described in
19 paragraphs (1) through (8).

20 (d) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this sec-
21 tion, the term “eligible institution” means an institution—

22 (1) located in the State; and

23 (2) that is—

24 (A) a community college that is located in
25 a geographic area that serves local educational

1 agencies that participate, through the commu-
2 nity eligibility provision authorized by the
3 Healthy, Hunger-free Kids Act of 2010 (42
4 U.S.C. 1758 note et seq.) in—

5 (i) the national school lunch program
6 under the Richard B. Russell National
7 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et
8 seq.); and

9 (ii) the school breakfast program
10 under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
11 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.);

12 (B) a community college that is located in
13 geographic areas with 40 percent of the popu-
14 lation at or below the Federal poverty line;

15 (C) an institution of higher education with
16 an admission rate of 50 percent or higher; or

17 (D) an institution that is eligible to receive
18 a grant under part A or B of title III or title
19 V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), including—

21 (i) a historically Black college or uni-
22 versity;

23 (ii) a Hispanic-serving institution;

24 (iii) a Tribal college or university;

25 (iv) a minority-serving institution; and

1 (v) a rural-serving institution of high-
2 er education.

3 **SEC. 103. SUBGRANTS FOR EMERGENCY AID TO STUDENTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant
5 under section 101 shall award subgrants to eligible stu-
6 dents for emergency aid.

7 (b) APPLICATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible student seeking a
9 subgrant under this section shall submit to the State
10 an application in such form, at such time, and con-
11 taining such information as the State may require.

12 (2) NOTIFICATION OF RECEIPT.—Upon receipt
13 of an application from an eligible student under
14 paragraph (1), the State shall notify such student of
15 such receipt in a manner to be determined by the
16 State.

17 (3) APPEAL.—If an application submitted by an
18 eligible student under paragraph (1) is denied by the
19 State, such student may appeal such denial in a
20 manner to be determined by the State.

21 (c) TIMING.—A subgrant awarded under this section
22 shall be for a period of 5 years.

23 (d) CONTRACTS.—A State may award a contract to
24 a scholarship-granting organization for purposes of—

1 (1) accepting applications from eligible students
2 under subsection (b)(1); and

3 (2) disbursing subgrant funds to eligible stu-
4 dents in accordance with subsection (e)(4).

5 (e) FUNDS.—

6 (1) ADMINISTRATION.—Not more than 20 per-
7 cent of funds awarded under this section may be
8 used for the administration of emergency aid to eli-
9 gible students.

10 (2) DIRECT AID.—Not less than 80 percent of
11 funds awarded under this section shall be used to
12 award emergency aid subgrants to eligible students.

13 (3) SUBGRANT AMOUNTS.—

14 (A) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WITHOUT DE-
15 PENDENTS.—With respect to an academic year,
16 a subgrant awarded to an eligible student that
17 does not have a dependent may not exceed
18 \$1,500.

19 (B) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WITH DEPEND-
20 ENTS.—With respect to an academic year, a
21 subgrant awarded to an eligible student with a
22 dependent may not exceed \$2,500.

23 (4) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—An institution
24 shall disburse funds to eligible students in a timely
25 manner, as determined by the State.

1 (5) FEDERAL TAXES.—A subgrant under this
2 title may not be considered income for purposes of
3 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

4 (f) ELIGIBLE STUDENT DEFINED.—In this section,
5 the term “eligible student” means a student enrolled at
6 a public junior or community college in the applicable
7 State and participating in the tuition-free program pursu-
8 ant to section 101, without regard to whether such student
9 submits an application under section 483 of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090), who is experi-
11 encing financial challenges that may affect the ability of
12 such student to remain enrolled at such college, includ-
13 ing—

14 (1) lack of access to or loss of—

15 (A) employment (including a temporary
16 loss of employment);

17 (B) transportation;

18 (C) child care;

19 (D) utilities (including water and elec-
20 tricity); or

21 (E) housing;

22 (2) food insecurity;

23 (3) with respect to a student or the dependent
24 of such student, a medical condition or need, includ-
25 ing—

1 (A) pregnancy; and

2 (B) mental health conditions; and

3 (4) with respect to a student who is a depend-
4 ent—

5 (A) the death of a parent or guardian; or

6 (B) a parent or guardian with a medical
7 condition that results in temporary or perma-
8 nent loss of employment of such parent or
9 guardian.

10 **SEC. 104. REPORTS.**

11 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
13 receiving the reports required under subsection (b)
14 for a year, and on an annual basis thereafter, such
15 State shall submit to the Secretary a report describ-
16 ing—

17 (A) the uses of funds under this title;

18 (B) progress made in fulfilling the require-
19 ments of the grant;

20 (C) with respect to participating commu-
21 nity colleges, rates of—

22 (i) graduation;

23 (ii) persistence;

24 (iii) transfer; and

1 (iv) attainment of recognized postsec-
2 ondary credentials;

3 (D) the institutional reports submitted
4 under subsection (b);

5 (E) the ways in which the State is commu-
6 nicating with institutions to—

7 (i) understand the barriers of stu-
8 dents, with respect to eligibility and access,
9 to public supports; and

10 (ii) use the information described in
11 subparagraph (A) to inform any changes;

12 (F) the ways in which the State human
13 services agency and State board are aligning
14 the policy goals of such agencies with the policy
15 goals of the State higher education agency;

16 (G) changes in access to, and use of, public
17 benefits;

18 (H) changes in employment with respect to
19 in-demand industry sectors and high-quality
20 jobs;

21 (I) changes in rates of unemployment and
22 underemployment;

23 (J) other data as provided by the State;
24 and

1 (K) other data as required by the Sec-
2 retary.

3 (2) DISAGGREGATION.—The information de-
4 scribed in subparagraphs (G) through (K) shall be
5 disaggregated, to the extent practicable, by—

6 (A) race;

7 (B) ethnicity; and

8 (C) income level.

9 (b) INSTITUTION REPORT.—Not later than 1 year
10 after receiving a subgrant under section 102 or 103, and
11 on an annual basis thereafter, an institution shall submit
12 to the State a report describing—

13 (1) the uses of funds;

14 (2) with respect to the period beginning on the
15 date on which a subgrant was received and ending
16 on the date on which the report is submitted,
17 changes in rates of—

18 (A) retention; and

19 (B) graduation;

20 (3) the ways in which such institution increased
21 awareness of, and access to, public supports made
22 available through State agencies; and

23 (4) the ways in which such institution made im-
24 provements to tracking data with respect to—

25 (A) the basic needs of students;

1 (B) the financial barriers of students; and
2 (C) the connection of students to public
3 supports.

4 (c) PUBLIC ACCESS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
6 the date described in subsection (a)(1) each year,
7 the Secretary shall make the data from the report
8 submitted by each State pursuant to such subsection
9 publicly available and shall include—

10 (A) a dashboard that provides key metrics;
11 and

12 (B) downloadable data sets for each par-
13 ticipating State and participating institution.

14 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF METRICS.—In devel-
15 oping or adapting the reporting metrics described in
16 paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary may consult with
17 the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences.

18 **SEC. 105. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this title:

20 (1) BUSINESS INDUSTRY GROUP.—The term
21 “business industry group” means an organization
22 that represents businesses (including small busi-
23 nesses), individual employers, industry clusters, and
24 individuals from—

25 (A) business or trade organizations;

- 1 (B) economic development organizations;
- 2 (C) nonprofit organizations, community-
- 3 based organizations, or intermediaries;
- 4 (D) philanthropic organizations;
- 5 (E) industry associations; or
- 6 (F) other organizations determined nec-
- 7 essary by the State.

8 (2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-

9 nity college” has the meaning given the term “junior

10 or community college” in Section 312 of the Higher

11 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

12 (3) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term “eligible

13 State” means a State that is a recipient of a grant

14 under section 101.

15 (4) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “secondary

16 school” and “Secretary” have the meanings given

17 such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and

18 Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7801).

19 (5) HEA TERMS.—

20 (A) HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.—

21 The term “Hispanic-serving institution” has

22 the meaning given such term in section 502 of

23 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.

24 1101a).

1 (B) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR
2 UNIVERSITY.—The term “historically Black col-
3 lege or university” has the meaning given the
4 term “part B institution” in section 322 of the
5 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 1061).

7 (C) JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—
8 The term “junior or community college” has
9 the meaning given such term in section 502(a)
10 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
11 U.S.C. 1101a(a)).

12 (D) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—
13 The term “minority-serving institution” in-
14 cludes the entities described in paragraphs (1)
15 through (7) of section 371(a) of the Higher
16 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

17 (E) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—
18 The term “Tribal college or university” has the
19 meaning given such term in section 316(b) of
20 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
21 1059c(b)).

22 (F) RURAL-SERVING INSTITUTION OF
23 HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “rural-serving
24 institution of higher education” has the mean-
25 ing given such term in section 861(b) of the

1 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
2 1161q(b)).

3 (6) HIGH-QUALITY JOB.—The term “high-quality
4 job” means a job that is defined by the inter-
5 agency committee described in section 101(b)(1).

6 (7) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
7 term “institution of higher education” has the
8 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
9 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

10 (8) WIOA TERMS.—

11 (A) The terms “in-demand industry sector
12 or occupation”, “individual with a barrier to
13 employment”, “recognized postsecondary cre-
14 dential”, “State board”, and “supportive serv-
15 ices” have the meanings given such terms in
16 section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Op-
17 portunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

18 (B) The term “integrated education and
19 training” has the meaning given such term in
20 section 203 of the Workforce Innovation and
21 Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3272).

22 (9) NAVIGATOR.—The term “navigator” means
23 an individual who is integrated into the existing
24 community college operation and who works with
25 students to—

1 (A) understand the eligibility of such stu-
2 dents for Federal, State, and local financial aid
3 and benefit options;

4 (B) assist such students with the applica-
5 tion process for such options; and

6 (C) connect students with resources on
7 campus and in the community.

8 **SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
10 as are necessary to carry out this title for fiscal year 2026
11 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

○