



H.R. 5529 – Accessing Higher Education Opportunity Act

There are currently 264 Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs) in the United States. While they represent only 12.9% of all non-profit colleges and universities, HSIs enroll more than 60% of all Hispanic students. Title V of the Higher Education Act (HEA) currently provides grants designed to expand educational opportunities at HSIs. H.R. 5529, the **Accessing Higher Education Opportunity Act**, will provide more avenues for HSIs to use Title V grant funds.

Under the **Accessing Higher Education Opportunity Act** Title V Strengthening HSI grants can be used for:

- **Student support for Doctoral health care programs:** In 2016, only 4.6% of Hispanic Americans had an advanced degree, compared to 13.3% of non-Hispanic Americans. Under the Accessing Higher Education Opportunity Act HSIs will be able to use grant funds to provide student support programs specifically to promote the attainment of doctoral degrees in health care professions. Health care is one of the fastest growing industries in America and this use will allow schools to provide the support services necessary to train a generation of health care professionals.
- **Dual Enrollment, Concurrent Enrollment, and Early College High School Programs:** Dual enrollment programs provide students with the opportunity to begin their postsecondary educational career, while still in high school. Whether it's taking college-level classes while in high school for college credit; taking college courses via distance instruction; or actually learning on a college campus; these programs are at the forefront of providing high quality education in an innovative model. Students are able to graduate from high school with a two-year degree, well on their way to finishing college or beginning their career. Under the Accessing Higher Education Opportunity Act, HSIs will be able to use grant funds to both develop and expand access to existing dual or concurrent enrollment programs as well as early college high school programs.