

Aim Higher Act

ACCESS | AFFORDABILITY | COMPLETION

Get to Know the *Aim Higher Act* (H.R. 6543)

House Democrats' vision for an affordable, accessible higher education system

House Democrats have introduced a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act – **the Aim Higher Act** – which ensures every student has a path to a debt-free degree or credential that leads to a rewarding career. The Aim Higher Act invests in students. It makes higher education more affordable today and addresses the rising cost of college to reduce the burden on students in the future.

The Aim Higher Act gives every student the opportunity to earn a debt-free degree that leads to a rewarding career.

- **The *Aim Higher Act* provides students immediate relief from the rising cost of college. It makes student financial aid more generous and more flexible to reflect the variety of high-quality and affordable degrees and credentials available to today's students.**
 - The bill provides students and workers an accelerated path to a good-paying job by expanding federal student aid to quality short-term programs.
- **The *Aim Higher Act* reduces the cost of college by helping states reverse decades of underfunding in higher education that has shifted costs to students and parents.**
 - The bill creates a federal-state partnership that commits additional funding to states that invest more in their public colleges and universities. In exchange for federal funding, states are required to offer all students two years of tuition-free community college and maintain investments in public institutions.
- **The *Aim Higher Act* makes student loans simpler to understand and easier to repay. The bill consolidates the numerous existing loan repayment plans into two, and makes repayment terms more generous.**
 - The bill preserves and expands the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program to encourage talented individuals to enter a career in public service.

The Aim Higher Act gives all students the tools they need to graduate on time.

- The *Aim Higher Act* empowers students and parents with better, more detailed information so they can find a school that meets their needs.
- The *Aim Higher Act* pushes schools to focus on helping their students graduate with a quality degree. It puts student success – in college *and* in the workforce – at the center of accreditation and access to federal funding, and provides institutions with support to improve student outcomes.
- The *Aim Higher Act* supports students from all backgrounds to attend and complete college by:
 - Expanding opportunities for high school students to earn free college credit;
 - Investing in campus-based childcare for student parents and housing for homeless and foster youth;
 - Funding campus programs to help veterans transition into civilian life; and
 - Supporting faculty training to ensure students with disabilities have access to a quality education.

The Aim Higher Act protects students, veterans, and taxpayers by cracking down on predatory for-profit colleges and low-quality programs.

- The *Aim Higher Act* finally eliminates the perverse incentives that encourage predatory for-profit schools to aggressively target veterans while peddling high cost, low-quality degrees.
 - The bill closes the 90/10 loophole that allows for-profit colleges to count federal programs, such as the GI Bill, as non-federal dollars.
- The *Aim Higher Act* ensures that institutions taking federal student aid dollars are investing in instruction and quality – not lobbying and marketing.
 - Schools that fail to spend a majority of their federal tuition dollars on instruction will be prohibited from spending any taxpayer money on lobbying, marketing, and recruitment.
- The *Aim Higher Act* better equips the federal government to protect students and taxpayers from waste, fraud, and abuse at predatory for-profit colleges.
 - It modernizes a key metric used to measure school performance – the Cohort Default Rate – to prevent bad actors from gaming the system and increasing students' risk of default, which ruins their financial future and leaves taxpayers holding the bill.