

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 1949  
OFFERED BY MR. MESSER OF INDIANA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Improving Postsec-  
3 ondary Education Data for Students Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. STUDY ON IMPROVEMENTS TO POSTSECONDARY  
5 EDUCATION TRANSPARENCY AT THE FED-  
6 ERAL LEVEL.**

7       (a) FORMATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IM-  
8 PROVING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION DATA.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after  
10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
11 Education shall convene the Advisory Committee on  
12 Improving Postsecondary Education Data (in this  
13 Act referred to as the “Advisory Committee”), which  
14 shall be comprised of 15 members who represent  
15 economically, racially, and geographically diverse  
16 populations appointed by the Secretary in consulta-  
17 tion with the Commissioner for Education Statistics,  
18 including—

1 (A) individuals representing different sec-  
2 tors of institutions of higher education, includ-  
3 ing individuals representing undergraduate and  
4 graduate education;

5 (B) experts in the field of higher education  
6 policy;

7 (C) State officials;

8 (D) students and other stakeholders from  
9 the higher education community;

10 (E) representatives from the business com-  
11 munity;

12 (F) experts in choice in consumer markets;

13 (G) privacy experts;

14 (H) college and career counselors at sec-  
15 ondary schools;

16 (I) experts in data policy, collection, and  
17 use; and

18 (J) experts in labor markets.

19 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary shall ap-  
20 point the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

21 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Advisory Committee  
22 shall conduct a study examining—

23 (1) the types of information, including informa-  
24 tion related to costs of postsecondary education,  
25 sources of financial assistance (including Federal

1 student loans), student outcomes, and  
2 postgraduation earnings, the Federal Government  
3 should collect and report on institutions of higher  
4 education to assist students and families in their  
5 search for an institution of higher education;

6 (2) how such information should be collected  
7 and reported, including how to disaggregate infor-  
8 mation on student outcomes by subgroups of stu-  
9 dents, such as full-time students, part-time students,  
10 nontraditional students, first generation college stu-  
11 dents, students who are veterans, and Federal Pell  
12 Grant recipients under subpart 1 of part A of title  
13 IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
14 1070a); and

15 (3) the ways in which the Federal Government  
16 may make such information more readily available  
17 to—

18 (A) students and their families in a format  
19 that is easily accessible, understandable, and  
20 will aid students and their families in making  
21 decisions; and

22 (B) States, local governments, secondary  
23 schools, individual or groups of institutions of  
24 higher education, and private-sector entities.

1 (c) SCOPE OF STUDY.—In conducting the study  
2 under this Act, the Advisory Committee shall, at a min-  
3 imum, examine—

4 (1) whether the current Federal transparency  
5 initiatives on postsecondary education—

6 (A) are reporting consistent information  
7 about individual institutions of higher education  
8 across Federal agencies; and

9 (B) are similar to transparency initiatives  
10 on postsecondary education carried out by  
11 States, individual or groups of institutions of  
12 higher education, or private-sector entities;

13 (2) whether—

14 (A) the collection and reporting of  
15 postgraduation earnings by the Federal Govern-  
16 ment is feasible, and if feasible, the options for  
17 collecting and reporting such information;

18 (B) collecting and reporting such informa-  
19 tion would improve the use of Federal trans-  
20 parency initiatives and ease decisionmaking for  
21 students and their families; and

22 (C) collecting and reporting such informa-  
23 tion would have an impact on student privacy,  
24 and if so, how such impact may be minimized;

1           (3) whether any other information, including in-  
2           formation relating to student outcomes or identified  
3           under the review required under subsection (d),  
4           should be collected and reported by the Federal Gov-  
5           ernment to improve the utility of such initiatives for  
6           students and their families, and if so, how such in-  
7           formation may be collected and reported, including  
8           whether the information should be disaggregated by  
9           subgroups of students;

10           (4) whether any information currently collected  
11           and reported by the Federal Government on institu-  
12           tions of higher education is not useful for students  
13           and their families and should not be so collected and  
14           reported;

15           (5) the manner in which the information from  
16           Federal transparency initiatives is made available to  
17           students and their families, and whether format  
18           changes may help the information become more eas-  
19           ily understood and widely utilized by students and  
20           their families;

21           (6) any activities being carried out by the Fed-  
22           eral Government, States, individual or groups of in-  
23           stitutions of higher education, or private-sector enti-  
24           ties to help inform students and their families of the  
25           availability of Federal transparency initiatives;

1           (7) the cost to institutions of higher education  
2 of reporting to the Federal Government the informa-  
3 tion that is being collected and reported through  
4 Federal transparency initiatives, and how such cost  
5 may be minimized; and

6           (8) the relevant research described in sub-  
7 section (d).

8           (d) REVIEW OF RELEVANT RESEARCH.—In con-  
9 ducting the study under this Act, the Advisory Committee  
10 shall review and consider—

11           (1) research and studies, if any, that have been  
12 conducted to determine questions most frequently  
13 asked by students and families to help inform their  
14 search for an institution of higher education;

15           (2) the types of information students seek be-  
16 fore enrolling in an institution of higher education;

17           (3) whether the availability to students and  
18 their families of additional information on institu-  
19 tions of higher education will be beneficial or con-  
20 fusing;

21           (4) results, if any, that are available from con-  
22 sumer testing of Federal, State, institution of higher  
23 education, and private-sector transparency initiatives  
24 on postsecondary education that have been made

1 publicly available on or after the date that is 10  
2 years before the date of enactment of this Act; and

3 (5) any gaps in the research, studies, and re-  
4 sults described in paragraphs (1) and (4) relating to  
5 the types of information students seek before enroll-  
6 ing in an institution of higher education.

7 (e) CONSULTATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the study  
9 under this Act, the Advisory Committee shall—

10 (A) hold public hearings to consult with  
11 parents and students; and

12 (B) consult with a broad range of inter-  
13 ested parties in higher education, including ap-  
14 propriate researchers, representatives of sec-  
15 ondary schools (including college and career  
16 counselors) and institutions of higher education  
17 from different sectors of such institutions (in-  
18 cluding undergraduate and graduate education),  
19 State administrators, and Federal officials.

20 (2) CONSULTATION WITH THE AUTHORIZING  
21 COMMITTEES.—The Advisory Committee shall con-  
22 sult on a regular basis with the authorizing commit-  
23 tees in conducting the study under this Act.

24 (f) REPORTS TO AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES.—

1           (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 180  
2           days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-  
3           visory Committee shall prepare and submit to the  
4           authorizing committees and the Secretary an interim  
5           report describing the progress made in conducting  
6           the study under this Act and any preliminary find-  
7           ings on the topics identified under subsection (c).

8           (2) FINAL REPORT.—

9           (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
10          after the date of enactment of this Act, the Ad-  
11          visory Committee shall prepare and submit to  
12          the authorizing committees and the Secretary a  
13          final report on the study, including—

14                 (i) recommendations for legislative,  
15                 regulatory, and administrative actions  
16                 based on findings related to the topics  
17                 identified under subsection (c); and

18                 (ii) a summary of the research de-  
19                 scribed in subsection (d).

20          (B) CONSULTATION WITH NCES.—The  
21          Advisory Committee shall consult with the Com-  
22          missioner of Education Statistics prior to mak-  
23          ing recommendations under subparagraph  
24          (A)(i) with respect to improving the information



1           being collected and reported by the Federal  
2           Government on institutions of higher education.

3           (g) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The amount nec-  
4           essary to conduct the study under this Act shall be made  
5           available from amounts available to the Secretary for ad-  
6           ministrative expenses of the Department of Education.

7           (h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

8           (1) AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES.—The term  
9           “authorizing committees” has the meaning given the  
10          term in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of  
11          1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

12          (2) FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT.—  
13          The term “first generation college student” has the  
14          meaning given the term in section 402A(h) of the  
15          Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a-  
16          11(h)).

17          (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
18          term “institution of higher education” has the  
19          meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher  
20          Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), except  
21          that such term does not include institutions de-  
22          scribed in subsection (a)(1)(C) of such section 102.

23          (4) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-  
24          ondary school” has the meaning given the term in

1 section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
2 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

3 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
4 the Secretary of Education.

5 (6) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-  
6 ing given the term in section 103 of the Higher  
7 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003).

8 (7) STUDENT.—The term “student” includes—

9 (A) a prospective student;

10 (B) a student enrolled in an institution of  
11 higher education;

12 (C) a nontraditional student (as defined in  
13 section 803(j)(2) of the Higher Education Act  
14 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161c(j)(2))); and

15 (D) a veteran (as defined in section  
16 480(c)(1) of such Act (20 U.S.C.  
17 1087vv(c)(1))) who is a student or prospective  
18 student.

