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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to establish a demonstration program to increase the postsecondary attainment of students who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness through housing assistance and supportive services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. DEXTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to establish a demonstration program to increase the postsecondary attainment of students who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness through housing assistance and supportive services, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Postsecondary Attainment Through Housing Supports Demonstration Act of 2026''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Postsecondary education, including degrees, certificates, and other recognized postsecondary credentials, is a key driver of economic mobility and long-term self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

(2) Students who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness face substantial barriers to enrollment, persistence, and completion of postsecondary education due to housing instability, financial insecurity, and related challenges.

(3) Nonprofit organizations and community-based providers, in collaboration with institutions of higher education, have developed innovative models that combine affordable, stable housing with wrap-around supportive services to help students experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity remain enrolled and complete their degrees and other credentials. These models include approaches that provide subsidized or below-market rental housing for low-income or homeless students, housing and com-

prehensive services for student parents and their children, and cooperative living communities that integrate academic support, leadership development, and life-skills education.

(4) Two-generation and family-focused models that provide housing and comprehensive services to student parents show promise in improving outcomes for both parents and their children.

(5) Former foster youth, transition-aged youth, and parenting students face unique challenges during their postsecondary education, and may require tailored housing and support services to succeed.

(6) A targeted Federal demonstration program can build on these innovative models, rigorously evaluate their impact on housing stability and postsecondary attainment, and inform evidence-based policy and practice.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) helping students who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of experiencing homelessness to complete postsecondary education, including high-quality short-term credential and certificate programs aligned with in-demand industry sectors and occupations, is an important strategy for ex-

panding the skilled workforce, strengthening families, and supporting economic growth in communities nationwide;

(2) housing instability should not prevent motivated students from earning degrees, certificates, or other recognized postsecondary credentials that lead to employment and self-sufficiency;

(3) public–private partnerships among nonprofit housing providers, institutions of higher education (including community colleges and other open-access institutions), employers, and philanthropy are an efficient and cost-effective way to test and scale evidence-based models that improve both housing stability and postsecondary outcomes; and

(4) coordination between the Department of Education and the Department of Housing and Urban Development can reduce duplication, increase accountability, and ensure that Federal investments in education and housing are aligned toward shared goals of economic mobility and reduced homelessness.

SEC. 3. POSTSECONDARY ATTAINMENT THROUGH HOUSING SUPPORTS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall establish a competitive grant program (in this Act referred to as the ''demonstration program'') to award grants to eligible entities to—

(A) increase postsecondary attainment for eligible individuals through housing assistance and supportive services; and

(B) support and evaluate innovative ideas in the areas of postsecondary attainment and housing stability in order to develop evidence-based practices.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The demonstration program shall be administered by the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development with respect to housing assistance and evaluation of housing outcomes.

(3) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under this section shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, or local funds that are otherwise available for housing assistance, student support services, or postsecondary education.

(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall enter into a contract with a covered entity to provide technical assistance and capacity building to eligible entities that receive a grant under this section.

(B) COST.—The amount used to carry out subparagraph (A) may not exceed the lesser of—

(i) 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year; or

(ii) $2,000,000.

(C) COVERED ENTITY.—In this paragraph, the term ''covered entity'' means an entity that, as determined by the Secretary of Education and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, has demonstrated expertise in—

(i) postsecondary education;

(ii) assisting youth and young adults experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness;

(iii) housing development and assistance; and

(iv) the provision of supportive services described in subsection (f).

(b) DURATION OF GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded to an eligible entity under the demonstration program shall be for a period of not more than 5 years.

(2) EXTENSION OF PERIOD.—The Secretary of Education may extend the grant period described in paragraph (1) for not more than 6 additional years if the eligible entity demonstrates satisfactory progress and continued need, as determined by the Secretary of Education in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(c) NUMBER AND SIZE OF AWARDS.—

(1) NUMBER OF GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall award not fewer than 5 (subject to the receipt of 5 sufficient applications under subsection (d)) and not more than 20 grants under the demonstration program, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(B) REPORT.—If the Secretary of Education awards fewer than 5 grants, the Sec-

retary shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(i) the reason for awarding fewer than 5 grants; and

(ii) a description of the steps taken by the Secretary to—

(I) disseminate to eligible entities notice of the grant program; and

(II) provide application assistance to eligible entities seeking a grant under such program.

(2) GRANT AMOUNT.—

(A) INITIAL GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under the demonstration program may not exceed $2,000,000 for the initial grant period described in subsection (b)(1).

(B) EXTENDED GRANT PERIOD.—In the case of an eligible entity that receives an extension under subsection (b)(2), the Secretary of Education may, subject to the availability of funds, award to such eligible entity additional grant funds, provided that the total amount of grant funds received by such eligible entity for the initial grant period and extended grant period does not exceed $5,000,000.

(3) DIVERSITY OF AWARDS.—In awarding grants under the demonstration program, the Secretary of Education shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure—

(A) geographic diversity, including with respect to urban, suburban, and rural areas;

(B) with respect to an eligible entity that includes an institution, diversity in types of such institutions, including with respect to community colleges, public and private nonprofit institutions, and minority-serving institutions; and

(C) representation of projects serving parenting students, former foster youth, and transition-aged youth.

(d) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under the demonstration program shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary of Education may require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a description of the target population of eligible individuals to be served, including how the grant funds will be used to—

(i) identify and prioritize eligible individuals; and

(ii) address the needs of former foster youth, transition-aged youth, and parenting students;

(B) a description of the housing assistance to be provided, including the type or types of housing (such as subsidized or below-market rental units, master-leased units, scattered-site housing, or campus-adjacent housing), the level and duration of rental assistance or other housing supports, and how the housing will be made affordable and stable for eligible individuals;

(C) a description of the supportive services to be provided, including how such services will be coordinated with academic and student support services offered, as applicable, by—

(i) a partnering institution of higher education described in subsection (i)(1)(A); or

(ii) an institution of higher education described in subsection (i)(1)(B)(ii).

(D) documentation of formal collaboration (such as memoranda of understanding that describe shared responsibilities, data-sharing agreements consistent with privacy protections, and institutional commitments to support the project) between—

(i) with respect to an eligible entity described in subparagraph (A) of subsection (i)(1), such entity and the partnering institution of higher education described in such subparagraph; or

(ii) with respect to an eligible entity described in subparagraph (B) of subsection (i)(1)—

(I) the nonprofit organization described in clause (i) of such subparagraph; and

(II) the institution of higher education described in clause (ii) of such subparagraph;

(E) a plan for ensuring that participation by eligible individuals in the project is voluntary and does not create additional barriers to enrollment, financial aid, or academic progress for eligible individuals;

(F) measurable goals, benchmarks, and outcome metrics related to housing stability and postsecondary attainment, including persistence, credit accumulation, and completion;

(G) a description of how the eligible entity will collect and report data on outcomes, disaggregated by key subgroups (as determined by the Secretary of Education), including former foster youth, parenting students, and transition-aged youth, consistent with privacy protections;

(H) a description of how the eligible entity will coordinate with local educational agency liaisons designated pursuant to section 722(g)(1)(J)(ii) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)), child welfare agencies, and other community partners, as appropriate, in carrying out the project; and

(I) a budget and budget narrative, including any non-Federal contributions to the project.

(e) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In awarding grants under the demonstration program, the Secretary of Edu-

cation, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall consider—

(1) the demonstrated experience of the eligible entity in developing or operating housing programs or providing housing assistance, and in providing or coordinating supportive services, for students experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, or poverty;

(2) the strength of the partnership between the nonprofit organization or organizations and the institution or institutions of higher education, including institutional commitments of staff, resources, and policy changes that support housing stability and academic success;

(3) the extent to which the proposed project—

(A) provides safe, affordable, stable, and, where appropriate, year-round housing for eligible individuals;

(B) integrates comprehensive, wraparound supportive services, including services tailored to students with particular support needs, such as parenting students, students experiencing homelessness, and former foster youth;

(C) is scalable or replicable in other communities and institutions; and

(D) leverages housing models such as subsidized or below-market rents linked to academic and case management support, two-generation housing for student parents, or rent-free, cooperative living communities that embed leadership development and life-skills education;

(4) the quality of the proposed project with respect to improving postsecondary attainment outcomes for eligible individuals, including strategies to increase persistence, reduce dropout rates, and raise completion rates;

(5) the strength of the evaluation and data collection plan, including the use of evidence-based or evidence-informed strategies; and

(6) the need for the project in the community to be served, including the prevalence of student homelessness or housing instability and the availability of affordable housing.

(f) USES OF FUNDS.—Of the grant funds awarded to an eligible entity under the demonstration program—

(1) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—Not less than 40 percent of the grant funds awarded to an eligible entity under the demonstration program shall be used for housing assistance and related costs, including—

(A) rental assistance, security deposits, and rental arrears for eligible individuals;

(B) master leasing or other arrangements to secure units for eligible individuals;

(C) capital costs associated with acquiring, rehabilitating, or repurposing existing housing units for eligible individuals, to the extent consistent with guidelines established by the Secretaries;

(D) operating costs for housing units dedicated to eligible individuals; and

(E) other housing-related costs approved by the Secretaries that support housing stability for eligible individuals; and

(2) PERMISSIVE USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds remaining after carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1) may be used for—

(A) supportive services; and

(B) program administration and coordination, including data collection, evaluation, and partnership management, in an amount not to exceed a percentage of the grant to be determined by the Secretary of Education.

(g) EVALUATION AND REPORTS.—

(1) GRANTEE REPORTING.—

(A) CONTENT.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under the demonstration program shall submit, in accordance with subparagraph (B), a report to the Secretaries that includes—

(i) measures of postsecondary attainment provided by the institution of higher education, including enrollment, persistence, credit accumulation, time to completion, and credential or degree completion; and

(ii) for projects serving parenting students, to the extent practicable and consistent with applicable privacy protections, information on—

(I) the number and ages of children in participating households;

(II) the types of child care, early childhood education, and elementary and secondary education services and supports used by such households, such as Early Head Start, Head Start, child care, prekindergarten, early intervention, home visiting programs, local educational agencies, and

services provided under subtitle VII–B of the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act; and

(III) any indicators of child well-being, including developmental or educational progress (such as school attendance, grade progression, or other measures), that are collected in the ordinary course of program operations or are available through existing data-sharing agreements consistent with applicable privacy protections.

(B) TIMING.—The report described in subparagraph (A) shall be submitted—

(i) 18 months after the first day of the grant period described in subsection (c)(2)(A); and

(ii) at the conclusion of such grant period.

(2) NATIONAL EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall enter into a contract for an independent evaluation of the demonstration program that—

(A) assesses the impact of the Demonstration Program on housing stability and postsecondary attainment for eligible individuals;

(B) identifies effective models, strategies, and practices, including those that are particularly effective for former foster youth, parenting students, and transition-aged youth; and

(C) provides recommendations on the feasibility and advisability of expanding or making permanent such models or practices through existing or new Federal programs.

(3) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(A) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to the Department of Education a report detailing the progress of establishing the demonstration program.

(B) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the first grant is awarded under this section, and every 2 years thereafter until all grants and evaluations under this section are complete, the Secretaries shall jointly submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House

of Representatives, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report containing the information described in clause (ii).

(ii) CONTENTS.—Each report required under clause (i) shall include—

(I) a summary of grantee activities and outcomes;

(II) findings from the evaluation conducted under subsection (b); and

(III) recommendations for legislative and administrative action to improve housing stability and postsecondary attainment for students who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until expended.

(i) DEFINITIONS.— In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a nonprofit organization that develops or operates housing programs for students who are experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of homelessness, that has in place a formal partnership with at least 1 institution of higher education; and

(B) a consortium of entities consisting of—

(i) 1 or more nonprofit organizations described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) 1 or more institutions of higher education.

(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''eligible individual'' means an individual who—

(A) is enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized postsecondary credential, including short-term career and technical education programs, at an institution of higher education that is an eligible institution for purposes of a program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), and is carrying a full- or part-time academic workload, as determined

by the institution, under a standard applicable to all students enrolled in such program; and

(B) is—

(i) experiencing homelessness; or

(ii) more likely than not to imminently experience homelessness, as determined by the eligible entity using risk factors that may include—

(I) imminent loss of housing;

(II) recent exit from foster care or another institutional or residential setting without stable housing;

(III) a pattern of frequent moves; or

(IV) other indicators of instability identified by the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(3) EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.—The term ''experiencing homelessness'', when used with respect to an individual, means the circumstances described in subparagraphs (A) or (B) of section 725(2) of the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a(2)).

(4) FORMER FOSTER YOUTH.—The term ''former foster youth'' means an eligible individual who was in foster care under the responsibility of a State or tribal agency or court at any time when the individual was 13 years of age or older.

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(6) PARENTING STUDENT.—The term ''parenting student'' means an eligible individual who is the parent or legal guardian of 1 or more dependent children.

(7) PROJECT.—The term ''project'' means the activities described in subsection (f) carried out by an eligible entity or that receives a grant under the demonstration program or proposed to be carried out by an eligible entity applying for a grant under the demonstration program, as applicable.

(8) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(9) SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The term ''supportive services'' means services that are provided in conjunction with housing assistance to help eligible

individuals obtain, maintain, and succeed in stable housing and postsecondary education, which may include—

(A) case management and service coordination;

(B) academic advising, tutoring, and college success coaching;

(C) mental and behavioral health services or connections to such services;

(D) financial counseling, benefits counseling, and assistance with accessing public benefits;

(E) child care or connections to child care and early childhood services for parenting students;

(F) transportation assistance;

(G) employment and career services; and

(H) other services, as approved by the Secretary of Education, that support housing stability and postsecondary attainment.

(10) TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH.—The term ''transition-aged youth'' means an eligible individual who is between the ages of 18 and 26, inclusive.