



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

83rd Session, 2015-2016

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HR 2927

Resolution Number: 114

Authored By: Senator Loera

Sponsored By: The Committee on Public Affairs

Whereas, HR 2927 is an act that seeks to “Authorize Hispanic-serving institutions receiving grants under part A of title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to use such grant amounts to assist students in entering medical schools, and for other purposes.”;

Whereas, HR 2927 seeks to make the following changes to the Higher Education Act of 1965, under part A of Title V;

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZED GRANT ACTIVITIES.

Subsection (b) of section 503 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101b (b)) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (6), by inserting before the period at the end the following; “and student support programs designed to facilitate the successful advancement from four-year institutions to an allopathic or osteopathic medical school accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary pursuant to part H of title IV”;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (16) and paragraph (17);

and (3) by inserting after paragraph (15) the following new paragraph:

“(16) Providing counseling, mentoring, and other support services for underrepresented students studying in pre-medical or other health and science fields designed to facilitate their successful application to an allopathic or osteopathic medical school accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association recognized by the Secretary pursuant to part H of title IV.”

Whereas, currently within the Higher Education Act of 1965, under part A of Title V, under section 503:
The following is stated:

`(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES- Grants awarded under this section shall be used for one or more of the following activities:

`(1) Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes.

`(2) Construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and other instructional facilities.

`(3) Support of faculty exchanges, faculty development, curriculum development, academic instruction, and faculty fellowships to assist in attaining advanced degrees in the fellow's field of instruction.

`(4) Purchase of library books, periodicals, and other educational materials, including telecommunications program material.

`(5) Tutoring, counseling, and student service programs designed to improve academic success.

`(6) Funds management, administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management.

`(7) Joint use of facilities, such as laboratories and libraries;

`(8) Establishing or improving a development office to strengthen or improve contributions from alumni and the private sector.

`(9) Establishing or improving an endowment fund.

`(10) Creating or improving facilities for Internet or other distance learning academic instruction capabilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services.

`(11) Establishing or enhancing a program of teacher education designed to qualify students to teach in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

`(12) Establishing community outreach programs that will encourage elementary school and secondary school students to develop the academic skills and the interest to pursue postsecondary education.

`(13) Expanding the number of Hispanic and other underrepresented graduate and professional students that can be served by the institution by expanding courses and institutional resources.

`(14) Other activities proposed in the application submitted pursuant to section 504 that--

`(A) contribute to carrying out the purposes of this title; and

`(B) are approved by the Secretary as part of the review and acceptance of such application.

`(c) ENDOWMENT FUND LIMITATIONS-

`(1) PORTION OF GRANT- A Hispanic-serving institution may not use more than 20 percent of the grant funds provided under this title for any fiscal year for establishing or improving an endowment fund.

`(2) MATCHING REQUIRED- A Hispanic-serving institution that uses any portion of the grant funds provided under this title for any fiscal year for establishing or improving an endowment fund shall provide from non-Federal funds an amount equal to or greater than the portion.

`(3) COMPARABILITY- The provisions of part C of title III regarding the establishment or increase of an endowment fund, that the Secretary determines are not inconsistent with this subsection, shall apply to funds used under paragraph (1).

Whereas, HR 2927 seeks to authorize Hispanic-Serving Institutions the ability to use such grant amounts allocated to them by the Higher Education Act of 1965 to aid students entering into medical schools.

Whereas, according to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) defines a Hispanic-Serving Institution “as colleges, universities, or systems/districts where total Hispanic enrollment constitutes a minimum of 25% of the total enrollment. “Total Enrollment” includes full-time and part-time students at the undergraduate or graduate level (including professional schools) of the institution, or both (i.e., headcount of for-credit students)”;

Whereas, although the University of Nevada is not recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution yet – with a total enrollment percentage of about 16.5%, according to the University Of Nevada’s Fall 2014 to Fall 2015 Enrollment data charts– it is viewed as an emerging Hispanic-serving institution.

Whereas, according to the Hispanic Serving Institutions Center for Policies and Practice, Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions are within the critical mass range of 15-24 percent and have the potential to become HSIs in the next few years.

Whereas, when the University of Nevada becomes a Hispanic Serving Institution, this legislation will directly affect our institution in a positive way, by adding financial aid for our students entering our Medical School.

Be it resolved that, The Associated Students of the University Of Nevada are in support of HR 2927: an act to authorize Hispanic-serving institutions receiving grants under part A of title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to use such grant amounts to assist students in entering medical schools, and for other purposes.”;

Be it further resolved that, a copy of this resolution be sent to President Marc Johnson, the United States Committee on Education and the Workforce, and to Nevada Representative, Joseph J. Heck

Adopted in Senate on November 11th, 2015

Attest:

Lexi Jacobson, Secretary of the Senate

Nicholas Andrew, Speaker of the Senate