

## S 1716

America's College Promise Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** Jul 8, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Jul 8, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1716>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** WI • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jul 13, 2015
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Sep 29, 2015
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Oct 5, 2015

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 8, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Education

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 5106	Related bill	<b>Sep 19, 2016:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.
114 S 2677	Related bill	<b>Mar 15, 2016:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
114 HR 2962	Related bill	<b>Nov 16, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

## Summary (as of Jul 8, 2015)

### America's College Promise Act of 2015

This bill authorizes the Department of Education (ED) to award grants to states and Indian tribes to waive tuition and fees at community colleges. To receive a grant, states and Indian tribes must agree to waive tuition and fees at all their community colleges and for all eligible students.

An eligible student is a first-time student who: (1) qualifies for resident tuition; (2) enrolls at least half-time; (3) maintains satisfactory academic progress; and (4) enrolls in an academic program with credits that are fully transferable to any public institution of higher education in the state or enrolls in a training program that leads to credentials in an in-demand industry.

The bill appropriates \$1.4 billion in FY2016 and \$79.7 billion over FY2016-FY2025 to make grants under this community college program.

This bill also authorizes ED to award grants to four-year historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other minority-serving institutions (MSIs) to waive or reduce tuition and fees for up to 60 credits for low-income students.

HBCUs and MSIs that participate must: (1) enroll a student body that contains at least 35% low-income students; (2) maintain or adopt reforms and practices to improve completion rates and student outcomes; (3) set performance goals; and (4) execute an articulation agreement with community colleges, if accepting transfer students.

It appropriates \$55 million for FY2016 and \$10.1 billion over FY2016-FY2025 to make grants under this HBCU/MSI program.

## Actions Timeline

- **Jul 8, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 8, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.