

HR 4643

Improving Access to Higher Education Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: Oct 11, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. (Oct 11, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4643>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		Oct 11, 2019
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Oct 11, 2019
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Oct 11, 2019
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Oct 11, 2019
Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Oct 11, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 11, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 4674	Related bill	Dec 28, 2020: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 583.
116 S 3095	Related bill	Dec 18, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
116 HR 5312	Related bill	Dec 5, 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Improving Access to Higher Education Act of 2019

This bill addresses accessibility issues of students with disabilities in higher education.

Specifically, the bill revises a grant program that supports postsecondary institutions of higher education (IHE) in educating students with disabilities. The Department of Education must award at least five grants to an IHE that provides professional development and technical assistance in order to improve access to and completion of postsecondary education for students, including students with disabilities.

The bill also (1) revises and reauthorizes through FY2024 a program for national technical assistance centers that assist students with disabilities, and (2) reauthorizes through FY2024 a program to promote training and job placement of real-time writers to provide closed captioning of videos.

Further, the bill establishes a new program that awards grants to IHEs for certain activities that improve accessibility of instruction and materials, such as distance education courses. The bill also establishes an independent commission to develop guidelines for accessible postsecondary electronic instructional materials and related technologies.

In addition, the bill requires each IHE to establish an office of accessibility to develop and implement policies that support students with disabilities.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 11, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 11, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.