

## S 1396

America's College Promise Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Education

**Introduced:** Apr 27, 2021

**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. (Apr 27, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1396>

### Sponsor

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

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

### Cosponsors (11 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 27, 2021
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Apr 27, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Apr 27, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 27, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Apr 27, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Apr 27, 2021
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Apr 27, 2021
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Apr 27, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 27, 2021
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 23, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Oct 6, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 27, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Education

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 1198	Related bill	<b>Oct 17, 2022:</b> Became Public Law No: 117-205.
117 HR 2861	Related bill	<b>Apr 28, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

## **America's College Promise Act of 2021**

This bill provides funding and establishes grant programs to expand access to higher education, including by providing free community college to students.

Specifically, the bill establishes a program to waive resident tuition and fees for community college students. The Department of Education (ED) must award grants to states and Indian tribes to pay the federal share (75% of the average resident community college tuition and fees per student) of the program.

As a condition of receiving such a grant, a state must (1) submit a plan to align the requirements for receiving a regular high school diploma with the requirements for entering credit-bearing coursework at community colleges; and (2) submit a plan to improve transfer pathways between institutions of higher education (IHEs), including by ensuring that associate degrees awarded by community colleges are fully transferable to four-year IHEs.

Next, the bill directs ED to award grants to states and Indian tribes for implementing evidence-based institutional reforms and innovative practices to improve student outcomes.

In addition, ED must award grants to participating historically Black colleges and universities, tribal colleges and universities, and minority-serving institutions to waive or significantly reduce the first 60 credits of tuition and fees for low-income students.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Apr 27, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 27, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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