

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	Oct 17, 2022: Became Public Law No: 117-205.
117 HR 2861	Related bill	Apr 28, 2021: 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

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