

MEMORANDUM

TO: ASAHP Members

FROM: Kristen Truong

DATE: October 29, 2019

RE: House Committee on Education & Labor Full Committee Markup on “H.R. 4674, College Affordability Act” (CAA)

October 29, 2019, 10:15 AM, 2175 Rayburn

[\[HEARING LINK\]](#)

Overview:

The House Committee on Education & Labor Full Committee held a markup on “H.R. 4674, College Affordability Act” (CAA).

Amendments Passed

- Amendment to ensure SNAP-eligible students are aware of their eligibility introduced by Rep. Bonamici – Passed by voice vote
- Amendment to promote collaboration between community colleges and employers introduced by Rep. McBath – Passed by Roll Call Vote 46 Yeas – 0 Nays
- Amendment to quadruple funding for CCAMPIS introduced by Rep. Norcross – Passed by Voice Vote

Amendments Failed

- The HOPE Act Amendment introduced by Ranking Member Foxx – Failed by Voice Vote
- Amendment to implement means testing for free/reduced cost college introduced by Rep. Smucker – Failed by Roll Call Vote 18 Yeas – 28 Nays
- Amendment to authorize apprenticeship grant program introduced by Rep. Guthrie – Failed by & Roll Call Vote 18 Yeas – 28 Nays
- Amendment to equalize the federal and institution federal work study match and expand apprenticeships introduced by Rep. Guthrie – Failed by Roll Call Vote 18 Yeas – 28 Nays
- Amendment to ensure additional CAA regulations for institutions do not increase tuition costs introduced by Rep. Roe – Failed by Roll Call Vote 17 Yeas – 28 Nays

Opening Statements:

Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) [\[Full Statement\]](#)

We're here to markup HR 4674, a comprehensive reauthorization of the HEA, that will lower the cost of college, improve higher ed quality, and expand opportunities for students of all backgrounds to succeed. This legislation is the result of extensive and a transparent process guided by evidence, research, and input from higher education stakeholders. The Committee held 5 bipartisan hearings discussing affordability, accountability, and completion. We could not come to an agreement on a bipartisan bill. We kept everyone engaged and informed through every stage of the process. Public and staff members received copies of this legislation more than a month before its introduction. Committee staff on both sides of the aisle met several times to review the bill. College Affordability Act includes more than 30 bipartisan proposals to ensure it represents voices from across the country.

Unfortunately 50 years after HEA's original passage, the promise of an affordable college education is out of reach for many Americans. A quality college degree remains the surest path to financial security and a rewarding career. Our country is increasingly requiring workers to have more than a high school education so the value of a quality degree will continue to grow. We must fulfill the promise of making higher education affordable for all students. The College Affordability Act fulfills that promise of higher education and ensures all Americans have a fair shot in a modern economy in 3 ways:

1. **Cuts the cost of college for students and families and lowers the cost of loans for future and existing borrowers.** The College Affordability Act restores state and federal investment in public colleges and universities and reduces the burden that has gradually shifted to students and families. It also increases the value of the Pell grant so more students will not have to borrow any money for college. For those who do take out loans, those loans will be cheaper to take out, simpler to understand, and easier to pay off. It helps existing borrowers reduce their monthly and total payments and improves PSLF.
2. **Improves quality of higher education by holding schools accountable for their students' success.** The College Affordability Act cracks down on schools that defraud students, veterans, and taxpayers by holding all schools accountable for their students' success. It will restore two protections, rolled back by current Administration: borrowers defense rule, which helps defrauded borrowers get back on their feet; and the gainful employment rule, which holds career programs accountable to the promise they make to their students.
3. **Expands opportunities for students of all backgrounds to succeed in college by providing students more flexible options and stronger support.** The College Affordability Act makes Pell available for high quality, short term programs, where students can quickly build skills in high demand jobs. It also invests in stronger wraparound services to keep students on track for graduation, including campus-based childcare and small grants to cover students financial emergencies. Finally, we provide a record level of support for community colleges, HBCUs, tribal colleges and universities, other MSIs that disproportionately enroll underserved students.

The College Affordability Act is a comprehensive bill that will immediately improve the lives of students and families while putting a down payment on investments we will need to make in the future. I encourage my colleagues to support the College Affordability Act.

Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC) [[Full Statement](#)]

Our postsecondary education system is in desperate need of meaningful reform. Unfortunately, the legislation before us today doubles down on failed policies and hurts students. Democrats spend other people's hard-earned money with reckless abandon. This bill gives tens of billions of dollars to colleges instead of investing directly in students and trusting that students and their families know what is best for them. The Democrats use American taxpayer money to give illegal immigrants tuition-free community college and Pell Grants, which are funds that should be directed towards low-income students to help pay for college. This partisan legislation will also force all Americans, including the roughly 70 percent who do not have a bachelor's degree, to pay for all students, including millionaires, to receive 'free' college and massive loan bailouts.

The title of this bill, the College Affordability Act, is misleading. It will contribute to the skyrocketing costs of postsecondary education. Tuition and fees have outpaced inflation for decades. Every dollar an institution spends complying with the federal government is a dollar NOT spent on keeping costs low for consumers. Democrats add dozens of reporting requirements and other expenses, which always get passed on to students and taxpayers. H.R. 4674 allows programs that do not set students up for success to continue to receive federal dollars.

We have no idea what the future of postsecondary education may bring and this Democrat bill, with all of its requirements, provides no flexibility for innovations that we cannot comprehend sitting here today. The skills gap in this country must be addressed if we hope to cultivate a qualified workforce for the future. But by furthering the harmful rhetoric that everyone needs a baccalaureate degree to achieve lifelong success,

Democrats are completely ignoring that not all good jobs require degrees. In closing, the so-called College Affordability Act will cost hundreds of billions of dollars, limit educational freedom, increase the cost of college for students, and ignore the needs of those pursuing the American Dream.

Instead of promoting unworkable partisan bills, we ought to work together – and I mean actual collaboration – to give students’ access to affordable postsecondary education that will prepare them to enter the workforce with the skills they need for lifelong success.”

AMENDMENTS

[Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute \(ANS\)](#)

Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee Chairwoman Susan Davis (D-CA)

This amendment increases the max Pell award by \$625 in year 1, which is the largest single year increase in the history of the program. It sends the message that we believe everyone should have access to higher education. Our undergrads need pathways and our support to help fund their higher education aspirations. To pave the way, we’ve revised subsidized loans for graduate students. This will diversify this country’s talent pipeline by providing greater access to all and save borrowers a significant amount of money. Student borrowers are often stuck with footing the bill when a college closes. Borrowers who fail to enroll in another institution 2 years after their school closes will automatically have their loans discharged. We address the unfortunate trends of institutes trying to minimize costs by employing more and more adjunct faculty. This saves money for institutions but results in subpar working conditions and poverty-line wages for a large portion of postsecondary sector workforce. This amendment expands PSLF qualifications to qualify adjunct professors to help ease their own student debt burden. This amendment will help build on CAA 3 main promises: affordability, accountability, and equal access. To those on the other side of the aisle, take a close look at their close look at their HEA reauthorization. We are all here to make college more affordable and accessible.

Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee Ranking Member Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)

[Full Statement](#)

Without question our postsecondary education system is failing us. More than 40 million Americans are carrying over \$1.5 trillion in student loan debt. Federal policy should provide a framework to address the underlying drivers of college cost; make the federal student aid system easy to access, understand, and complete; and spend our limited resources on those students who are truly disadvantaged. The College Affordability Act misses the mark on all three accounts. The policies put forward by the bill today illustrate that Democrats believe the federal government knows what is best for you better than you do.

In fact, the College Affordability Act seeks to expand the federal government’s role in higher education to limit academic freedom, turn state and institutional decisions over to the Secretary, and publicly shame those entities expressing constitutionally protected rights. But its these types of burdensome federal regulations and requirements that drive up tuition costs. And these policies are hidden in the Democrats’ proposal.

Equally confusing is that the Democrat’s proposal ignores the need for necessary reforms to help close America’s skills gap. There are over seven million unfilled jobs due to a skills gap. With employers more eager than ever for qualified employees, now is the time to improve the HEA to allow for stackable credentials, earn-and-learn opportunities, and cutting-edge forms of delivering education. The Democrat bill also fails to deliver on promising innovations for millions of Americans by refusing to recognize competency-based education and other alternative education models that would increase completion rates, lower college costs, and better equip students to meet the needs of today’s workforce.

Furthermore, the bill seeks to implement a one-size fits all education model by single-tracking students into community college rather than allowing students to choose an education to career pathway that best suits their needs. The Democrats claim they are expanding opportunities by allowing short-term programs to be eligible for Pell, but they layer on so many requirements and bureaucratic mandates that those programs will be unworkable. Lastly, the College Affordability Act all but eliminates private career and technical schools that are

critical to filling the needs of employers and providing veterans and low-income Americans an affordable education that prepares them for a successful career.

Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee Chairwoman Frederica Wilson (D-FL): I strongly support the amendment in the nature of a substitute. A post-secondary degree is a gateway to social and economic ability. Today, our college campuses are more diverse in terms of gender, race, and economic. Minority and low-income students continue to face barriers to attaining higher education. The CAA makes community college tuition free and increases the value of Pell to cover a larger share of tuition and put more money in students' pockets for food, housing, and essentials. It streamlines the process for repaying student loans and increases accreditation standards to push institutions to graduate students with useful degrees and address equity gaps and student completion. I'm proud that the College Affordability Act includes several of my legislative priorities on accreditation, teacher recruitment and retention, and loan repayment. Colleges must live up to their promise of providing students for a quality education that prepares them for success in the workforce. Institutions must be held to objective and consistent standards on how well students fare and continuously seek to identify opportunities for improvement and work to close gaps in student outcomes. We must reform the [TEACH Grant Program](#). Too many low income and minority students decide not to pursue teaching because the debt burden is too high and salary too low. We must deal with adverse impacts of student debt. I fought to include language so students are not refused access to transcripts because of their loan repayment status. By favorably referring this legislation out of committee, we can make a strong statement that everyone deserves a quality postsecondary education.

Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA): Making community colleges free will drive up the tuition of state universities. Nothing is free.

Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee Chairwoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR): Congress has a role based in equity to make sure every students can get the best education possible to prepare them for whatever path they take in life. Today, a college education continues to be a good investment and a powerful force of social and economic mobility in our country. This bill includes several of my longtime priorities including provisions from the bipartisan [Empowering Students through Financial Counseling Act](#), the [Opportunities for Success Act](#) to modernize the federal work-study (FWS) program to direct funding to students who need it most and align FWS with student's career goals and can earn FWS wages by participating in their institutions' educator preparation residency program, an evidenced based model to address teacher shortages and diversify educator workforce. CAA includes my [SIMPLE Act](#) which will protect many borrowers from default which will protect them by getting and keeping them in income driven repayment plans and my bipartisan [RISE Act](#) to streamline the process for students with disabilities to access support service. CAA increases Pell funding and provides support for school based childcare centers and an emergency grant program for students with unexpected financial barriers along with improvements to PSLF.

Workforce Protections Subcommittee Chairwoman Alma Adams (D-NC): This committee has the opportunity to meet the needs of the 15 million students who attend higher education institutions every year. CAA will provide low income students with greater financial support by increasing key federal financial aid programs and create a federal partnership with states to make community college tuition free. Pell can be used for short term programs and ex-offenders will have the opportunity to use Pell. This will allow DREAMers to access Title IV funds. I worked with colleagues to insert two bills [H.R. 2486 FUTURE Act](#) language which still sits in the Senate due to Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and is our best opportunity to reauthorize Title III, Part F. I support CAA's \$45 million expansion of this program. The second initiative is legislation to require accrediting agencies to be more transparent and consistent in their evaluation of institutions of higher education. Never should there be a situation where schools or students are unaware of the standards that accrediting standards use to ensure quality or how to meet them. I support how the CAA strikes a balance in reserving authority and regional accreditators to maintain quality control and strengthen the accountability triad by giving the Secretary more discretion in determining what constitutes institutional quality. CAA will make it easier for adjunct professors to qualify for PSLF and open up eligibility to those who teach no less than 2

courses. CAA will increase max Pell award by \$625. This bill is a product of compromise highlighted by 5 bipartisan hearings.

Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee Ranking Member Tim Walberg (R-MI): The HEA is supposed to provide everyone who so wishes the opportunity to pursue a college degree or certificate. The Dems want to dictate every choice on the path of their post-secondary education. Those choices are for a select group of institutions. Policies in their bills communicate to students and families that they don't believe students and families can be trusted to make the choice that suits students career and academic goals. We see this repeatedly in the CAA which seeks to expand federal government roles in higher education to limit academic freedom, turn state and institutional decisions to the Secretary, violate student privacy, and publicly shame those entities expressing constitutionally protected rights. CAA limits academic freedom in 2 ways. First, builds attempts to shepherd as many individuals into one of the so-called free college pathways even if they would be better served at alternative schools such as public flagship universities, private/independent institutions, or career focused college.

Success of federal policy should not be how many people we coerce into getting a community college education. Rather success should be measured by how we expand economic opportunity. The federal state partnership fails this principal. The federal state partnership attempts to turn into a voucher like higher education in a higher education No Child Left Behind system. The legislation denies students the right to use their federal student aid at the institution they believe will serve them best. Only select institutions are eligible to offer job training and programs for incarcerated students.

Dems bill expands the Secretary's power over states and institutions by requiring states to fulfill numerous requirements to participate in the proposed federal state partnership by forcing states to amend their state laws to align K-12 and postsecondary academic standards. Forcing accreditors to set uniform bright line benchmarks for certain student achievement standards that the Secretary can increase at his or her discretion. Dems want unelected bureaucrats and Secretary of Ed to set academic standards because they believe these people know better what is better for your community than you do. It shuts down institutions who do not spend certain ratio of revenue dollars on student instruction. This pays no attention to outcomes of students. This punishes schools for business decisions they make in the best interest in institutional success. CAA will violate privacy of Americans by housing personally identifiable info (PII) at the DoED without the consent of students regardless of whether the student participates in student aid. Keeping PII on all students who participate in the online survey tool for campus safety. There are no prohibitions on the Secretary using this info to open inquiries into students or institutions. Mr. Chairman, this proposal increasing spending and other things of hundreds of billions of dollars with that money come with more strings attached than a marionette. I urge my Dem colleagues to collaborate with Republicans on a bipartisan bill to empower those closest to the problems that ability to resolve the issue, return the federal government to the proper role, and respect the rights and privacy of all students.

The HOPE Act Amendment introduced by Ranking Member Foxx

Failed by Voice Vote

Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC)

Unfortunately, the legislation we are considering today, the so-called College Affordability Act, puts politics and special interests above bipartisan solutions. Democrats have missed an opportunity to work with Committee Republicans in a bipartisan manner to address the challenges students face. The Republican substitute, known as High-Quality Opportunities in Postsecondary Education (HOPE) Act, includes four major reforms to reduce costs and increase college affordability for students. Specifically, the proposal emphasizes the importance of completion, simplifies and improves student aid, provides transparency in price and outcomes, and gets the federal government out of the way.

The HOPE Act makes college more affordable by implementing many of the recommendations from the colleges' own Task Force on Federal Regulation of Higher Education, which include repealing or streamlining dozens of unnecessary reporting requirements and striking many burdensome and overreaching regulations.

Institutional rigidity and outdated federal rules have stifled new deliveries of education and empowered entrenched stakeholders' interests over students' interests and needs. The HOPE Act lowers the cost of college for students so they can complete an affordable program that prepares them for the workforce with the skills they need for lifelong success. With a growing skills gap in our country, this is more important than ever.

On average, 43 percent of college graduates are underemployed in their first job. The HOPE Act offers real solutions to address the skills gap by making substantial reforms to equip institutions with the tools they need to help prepare students for successful careers and fulfill our 21st century workforce needs. We've seen what this Committee can accomplish when we work together in a bipartisan manner. If we truly want to do what is best for American students and families, I encourage my colleagues to vote down the Democrats' partisan bill and work with us to improve and further our efforts to help students achieve their goals.

Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA): I recognize myself in opposition as it shares much with the PROSPER Act but in a few areas, it's not as bad. It's impossible to increase Pell and reduce cost of student loans without more money. It improves financial aid offers and provides greater clarity on college costs and eliminates risk sharing provisions and has provisions to combat third party debt relief companies that scams students, reauthorizes the teacher quality partnerships rather than repealing the program, and attempts to improve negotiated rulemaking processes. Substitute fails to make college more affordable, hold colleges accountable, or support student success. This rescinds student protections and puts profits over students. This would increase cost for low income students and reward low quality programs with access to federal dollars. The substitute eliminates [federal supplemental educational opportunity grants](#) and the [TEACH grants](#) and subsidized loans for low income individuals. Bipartisan support for more simplified direct loan programs but the single income based repayment plan gives preference to upper-income borrowers. The HOPE Act eliminates PSLF for new borrowers and create inconsistencies in loan forgiveness across the states along with the caps cancellation under state workforce incentive programs. These changes fail to increase Pell award or adjust for inflation, which means this fails to invest in these cornerstone federal financial aid programs. This amendment refers to support for for-profit colleges as innovative with few guardrails to oversight.

Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA): The HOPE Act addresses the skills gaps by equipping institutions with the tools they need to help prepare students for successful careers and awards Pell to qualified students enrolled in short-term programs and allows for competency based education (CBE) to facilitate stackable credentials and workforce success. The HOPE Act create a new state and workforce center program to allow states to determine high need or public serve occupations. The HOPE Act nearly double FWS funding and increases funding that allows institutions to locate and develop work based learning.

Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee Ranking Member Lloyd Smucker (R-PA): A loan forgiveness program is included in the HOPE Act and wasn't in the PROSPER Act. We think the HOPE Act will be revenue neutral although it hasn't been scored by CBO yet.

Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC): Young people are concerned not just about debt but the debt of this country. We think our colleagues are taxing and putting into debt 100% of Americans to attempt to benefit 30% of Americans who choose to go to postsecondary education. We want everyone to think about not being in debt. Much of CAA helps millionaires. We want to help people who aren't millionaires.

Amendment to ensure SNAP-eligible students are aware of their eligibility introduced by Rep. Bonamici

Voice Vote – Passed by Voice Vote

Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee Chairwoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR): Amendment will include text of the [Opportunity to Address College Hunger Act](#) that I'm working with Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) into the bill. The Wisconsin HOPE Center released a [report](#) on food and housing insecurity. 7/10 students at 2 year colleges and 6/10 students at 4 year colleges face food or housing insecurity over a course of a year. Only 20% of food insecure students receive SNAP. Only 7% who experience homelessness receive housing

assistant. This amendment will ensure students eligible for SNAP are aware of their eligibility and have their support to secure these benefits.

Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC): This should be part of a SNAP reauthorization discussion under the House Ag discussion. Having the Secretary of Ed provide this guidance in consultation with Secretary of Ag is misplaced.

Amendment to implement means testing for free/reduced cost college introduced by Rep. Smucker
Failed by Voice Vote & Roll Call Vote 18 Yeas – 28 Nays

Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee Ranking Member Lloyd Smucker (R-PA): CAA increases free or reduced price college in many ways and is a significant part of the cost of the bill. It doesn't implement any means test for student eligibility for those programs. Means testing is not unusual for federal programs. Why in this billions of dollar tax proposal did Dems not include a basic tax payer protection such as means testing for those who would receive the benefit? The amendment would use a threshold, based on the Dems own metrics, in their income driven repayment plan proposal. Basically saying \$80k or less for single students for \$160k or less for dependent students would be the delineation for eligibility for free or reduced price college. Taxpayer dollars should be for those who actually need it, not for children of millionaires.

Amendment to promote collaboration between community colleges and employers introduced by Rep. McBath

Passed by Voice Vote & Roll Call Vote 46 Yeas – 0 Nays

Rep. Lucy McBath (D-GA): It's important to strengthen the workforce pipeline. I'm introducing my amendment which would promote collaboration between community colleges and the business and industry sector. This will put us one step closer to maintaining a strong economy. The best way for student to learn is by engaging and working in the jobs their preparing for. Students will engage with industry leaders and gain insight that cannot be learned from a textbook.

Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee Ranking Member Lloyd Smucker (R-PA):

The biggest need I hear in my district is finding people to fill open positions. We seem to have millions of individuals not participating in the workforce, mostly due to a skills gap. A partnership between higher education institutions and businesses is a fabulous idea. This amendment would update the allowable use of funds under the federal state partnership proposed in the CAA to allow those participating educational institutions to collaborate with employers. I don't agree with the way the state federal partnership is designed. If this program was to get signed into law, it should include this provision.

Amendment to quadruple funding for CCAMPIS introduced by Rep. Norcross

Passed by Voice Vote

Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ): This amendment helps students and families by expanding childcare access, CCAMPIS. This supports the family unit. 22% of undergrad students are raising children. 44% of student parents work full time while attending classes. This amendment quadruples the funding for CCAMPIS and provides funding for evening, before, and after school, those non-traditional hours.

Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee Chairwoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR): When I visit Head Start facilities, I always ask about unmet need. They always have a waitlist. Making sure childcare is available which we know is for the time the student is learning is very good investment. Existing programs are already full.

Amendment to authorize apprenticeship grant program introduced by Rep. Guthrie

Failed by Voice Vote & Roll Call Vote 18 Yeas – 28 Nays

Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY): This amendment would help students get jobs through apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeships are a proven tool for equipping individuals with the knowledge skills and hands-on experience to compete in the global marketplace. This amendment authorizes an apprenticeship grant program to support

students, institutions, and businesses in the development and operation of earn and learn programs. The amendment would also direct Secretary through the Institute of Education Sciences to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs in having students move into jobs. This evaluation is key to confirm what we already know that apprenticeships work.

Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee Chairwoman Susan Davis (D-CA): This amendment would allow for-profit companies to access federal funds for non-registered apprenticeships and is unnecessary. CAA has several earn and learn strategies, like FWS, short term Pell expansion, CTE, and expanded support for postsecondary Perkins career.

Chairman Bobby Scott opposes the amendment because it attempts to create IRAPs.

Amendment to equalize the federal and institution federal work study match and expand apprenticeships introduced by Rep. Guthrie

Failed by Voice Vote & Roll Call Vote 18 Yeas – 28 Nays

Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY): My amendment is to help students make sure they gain valuable work. My amendment eliminates a 25% cap on FWS dollars spent on private companies and equalizes the federal to institution of higher education match. So \$1 from federal government is matched by \$1 of the institution. Allows schools to use FWS job location and development program to identify and expand apprenticeships. FWS would be more work centered providing access to apprenticeships with a variety of companies.

Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee Chairwoman Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR): I oppose this amendment because it would increase the amount institutions have to pay to receive FWS funds. This would add unregistered apprenticeships to this program. We need to make sure apprenticeships are not job shadowing opportunities but it leads to portable credentials and a pathway to a permanent job.

Amendment to ensure additional CAA regulations for institutions do not increase tuition costs introduced by Rep. Roe

Failed by Voice Vote & Roll Call Vote 17 Yeas – 28 Nays

Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN): My amendment seeks to address the regulatory burden on colleges and universities. The CAA adds regulations, such as, adding extensive requirements to track categories of spending. I want to make sure the additional regulations will not add to the cost of college.

Amendment to would define CBE in statute and allow programs to be term-based introduced by Rep. Grothman

Failed by voice vote & Roll Call Vote 17 Yeas – 28 Nays

Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI): Nationwide, competency based education (CBE) has been common enough that it deserves a more prominent role in the bill. My amendment offers an alternative pathway for CBE. Defines it in the statute and allows programs to use a subscription model to be treated as term-based. It will allow more people to get more involved in these programs which is a way to get your degree.

Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA): This amendment would loosely define CBE and give institutions with programs, meeting that loosely defined program, untethered access to student aid. The amendment expands Title IV eligibility to CBE programs with very little quality control. What defines competency unit in an academic year is up to the school and accreditor. Meaningful evaluation is impossible. Recent research found that CBE does not always reduce time or cost for a program. Congress needs data before expanding.

Amendment Withdrawn

Ranking Member Virginia Foxx (R-NC): CAA requires all short term education programs to prove that their graduate earnings are exceeding that of an average high school graduate. My amendment would expand this metric to all programs at all colleges and universities regardless of program length.

Recess until October 30, 2019