

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4002

To expand access to graduate education by amending the Federal Pell Grant program to include postbaccalaureate study.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2021

Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. UPTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To expand access to graduate education by amending the Federal Pell Grant program to include postbaccalaureate study.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Access to
5 Graduate Education Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL PELL GRANTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS.**

7 Section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
8 U.S.C. 1070a) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or as a
2 postbaccalaureate student in accordance with sub-
3 section (c)(1),” after “as an undergraduate,”; and

4 (2) by amending subsection (c)(1) to read as
5 follows:

6 “(c) PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—(1) The
7 period during which a student may receive Federal Pell
8 Grants shall be the period required for the completion of
9 the first undergraduate baccalaureate course of study
10 being pursued by that student at the institution at which
11 the student is in attendance except that—

12 “(A) any period during which the student is en-
13 rolled in a noncredit or remedial course of study as
14 defined in paragraph (2) shall not be counted for the
15 purpose of this paragraph; and

16 “(B) the period during which a student may re-
17 ceive Federal Pell Grants shall also include the pe-
18 riod required for the completion of the first
19 postbaccalaureate course of study in a case in
20 which—

21 “(i) the student received a Federal Pell
22 Grant during the period required for the com-
23 pletion of the student’s first undergraduate bac-
24 calaureate course of study for at least 1 but
25 fewer than 12 semesters, or the equivalent of at

1 least 1 but fewer than 12 semesters, as deter-
2 mined under paragraph (5);

3 “(ii) the student would otherwise be eligi-
4 ble for a Federal Pell Grant, but for the com-
5 pletion of such baccalaureate course of study;
6 and

7 “(iii) the period during which the student
8 receives Federal Pell Grants does not exceed
9 the student’s duration limits under paragraph
10 (5).”.

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