

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5620
OFFERED BY MS. FRANKEL OF FLORIDA

Add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. 11. GRANT PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND**
2 **IMPROVE VETERAN STUDENT CENTERS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VIII of the Higher Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161a et seq.) is amended
5 by striking part T (20 U.S.C. 1161t) and inserting the
6 following:

7 **“PART T—GRANTS FOR VETERAN STUDENT**
8 **CENTERS**

9 **“SEC. 873. GRANTS FOR VETERAN STUDENT CENTERS.**

10 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the avail-
11 ability of appropriations under subsection (i), the Sec-
12 retary shall award grants to institutions of higher edu-
13 cation or consortia of institutions of higher education to
14 assist in the establishment, maintenance, improvement,
15 and operation of Veteran Student Centers. The Secretary
16 shall award not more than 30 grants under this sub-
17 section.

18 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

19 “(1) APPLICATION.—An institution or consor-
20 tium seeking a grant under subsection (a) shall sub-

1 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in
2 such manner, and containing such information as
3 the Secretary may require.

4 “(2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary may award a
5 grant under subsection (a) to an institution or a
6 consortium if the institution or consortium meets
7 each of the following criteria:

8 “(A) The institution or consortium enrolls
9 in undergraduate or graduate courses—

10 “(i) a significant number of veteran
11 students, members of the Armed Forces
12 serving on active duty, and members of a
13 reserve component of the Armed Forces; or

14 “(ii) a significant percentage of vet-
15 eran students,

16 as measured by comparing the overall enrollment of
17 the institution or consortium to the number, for the
18 most recent academic year for which data are avail-
19 able, of veteran students, members of the Armed
20 Forces serving on active duty, and members of a re-
21 serve component of the Armed Forces who are en-
22 rolled in undergraduate or graduate courses at the
23 institution or consortium.

24 “(B) The institution or consortium pre-
25 sents a sustainability plan to demonstrate that

1 its Veteran Student Center will be maintained
2 and will continue to operate after the grant pe-
3 riod of the grant received under subsection (a)
4 has ended.

5 “(3) ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—In awarding
6 grants under subsection (a), the Secretary—

7 “(A) shall consider institutions or con-
8 sortia representing a broad spectrum of sectors
9 and sizes, including institutions or consortia
10 from urban, suburban, and rural regions of the
11 United States; and

12 “(B) may provide consideration to institu-
13 tions or consortia that meet one or more of the
14 following criteria:

15 “(i) The institution or consortium is
16 located in a region or community that has
17 a significant population of veterans.

18 “(ii) The institution or consortium
19 carries out programs or activities that as-
20 sist veterans in the local community and
21 the spouses of veteran students.

22 “(iii) The institution or consortium
23 partners in its veteran-specific program-
24 ming with non-profit veteran service orga-
25 nizations, local workforce development or-

1 ganizations, or institutions of higher edu-
2 cation.

3 “(iv) The institution or consortium
4 commits to hiring a staff at the Veteran
5 Student Center that includes veterans (in-
6 cluding veteran student volunteers and vet-
7 eran students participating in a Federal
8 work-study program under part C of title
9 IV, a work-study program administered by
10 the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, or a
11 State work-study program).

12 “(v) The institution or consortium
13 commits to using a portion of the grant re-
14 ceived under this section to develop an
15 early-warning veteran student retention
16 program carried out by the Veteran Stu-
17 dent Center.

18 “(vi) The institution or consortium
19 commits to providing mental health coun-
20 seling to its veteran students and their
21 spouses.

22 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An institution or consor-
24 tium that is awarded a grant under subsection (a)

1 shall use such grant to establish, maintain, improve,
2 or operate a Veteran Student Center.

3 “(2) OTHER ALLOWABLE USES.—An institution
4 or consortium receiving a grant under subsection (a)
5 may use a portion of such funds to carry out sup-
6 portive instruction services for student veterans, in-
7 cluding—

8 “(A) assistance with special admissions
9 and transfer of credit from previous postsec-
10 ondary education or experience; and

11 “(B) any other support services the insti-
12 tution or consortium determines to be necessary
13 to ensure the success of veterans on campus in
14 achieving education and career goals.

15 “(d) AMOUNTS AWARDED.—

16 “(1) DURATION.—Each grant awarded under
17 subsection (a) shall be for a 4-year period.

18 “(2) TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT AND SCHED-
19 ULE.—Each grant awarded under subsection (a)
20 may not exceed a total of \$500,000. The Secretary
21 shall disburse to an institution or consortium the
22 amounts awarded under the grant in such amounts
23 and at such times during the grant period as the
24 Secretary determines appropriate.

1 “(e) REPORT.—From the amounts appropriated to
2 carry out this section, and not later than 3 years after
3 the date on which the first grant is awarded under sub-
4 section (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
5 port on the grant program established under subsection
6 (a), including—

7 “(1) the number of grants awarded;

8 “(2) the institutions of higher education and
9 consortia that have received grants;

10 “(3) with respect to each such institution of
11 higher education and consortium—

12 “(A) the amounts awarded;

13 “(B) how such institution or consortium
14 used such amounts;

15 “(C) a description of the students to whom
16 services were offered as a result of the award;
17 and

18 “(D) data enumerating whether the use of
19 the amounts awarded helped veteran students
20 at the institution or consortium toward comple-
21 tion of a degree, certificate, or credential;

22 “(4) best practices for veteran student success,
23 identified by reviewing data provided by institutions
24 and consortia that received a grant under this sec-
25 tion; and

1 “(5) a determination by the Secretary with re-
2 spect to whether the grant program under this sec-
3 tion should be extended or expanded.

4 “(f) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary
5 to carry out the grant program established under sub-
6 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after
7 the date on which the first grant is awarded under sub-
8 section (a).

9 “(g) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BEST PRACTICES
10 WEBSITE.—Subject to the availability of appropriations
11 under subsection (i) and not later than 3 years after the
12 date on which the first grant is awarded under subsection
13 (a), the Secretary shall develop and implement a website
14 for veteran student services at institutions of higher edu-
15 cation, which details best practices for serving veteran stu-
16 dents at institutions of higher education.

17 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
19 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
20 meaning given the term in section 101.

21 “(2) VETERAN STUDENT CENTER.—The term
22 ‘Veteran Student Center’ means a dedicated space
23 on a campus of an institution of higher education
24 that provides students who are veterans or members
25 of the Armed Forces with the following:

1 “(A) A lounge or meeting space for such
2 veteran students, their spouses or partners, and
3 veterans in the community.

4 “(B) A centralized office for veteran serv-
5 ices that—

6 “(i) is a single point of contact to co-
7 ordinate comprehensive support services
8 for veteran students;

9 “(ii) is staffed by trained employees
10 and volunteers, which includes veterans
11 and at least one full-time employee or vol-
12 unteer who is trained as a veterans’ bene-
13 fits counselor;

14 “(iii) provides veteran students with
15 assistance relating to—

16 “(I) transitioning from the mili-
17 tary to student life;

18 “(II) transitioning from the mili-
19 tary to the civilian workforce;

20 “(III) networking with other vet-
21 eran students and veterans in the
22 community;

23 “(IV) understanding and obtain-
24 ing benefits provided by the institu-
25 tion of higher education, Federal Gov-

1 ernment, and State for which such
2 students may be eligible;

3 “(V) understanding how to suc-
4 ceed in the institution of higher edu-
5 cation, including by understanding
6 academic policies, the course selection
7 process, and institutional policies and
8 practices related to the transfer of
9 academic credits; and

10 “(VI) understanding their dis-
11 ability-related rights and protections
12 under the Americans with Disabilities
13 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.)
14 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation
15 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) ; and

16 “(iv) provides comprehensive academic
17 and tutoring services for veteran students,
18 including peer-to-peer tutoring and aca-
19 demic mentorship.

20 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part
22 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017 and
23 each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years.”.

24 (b) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—An institution of
25 higher education that received a grant under section 873

1 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161t)
2 before the date of enactment of this Act, as such section
3 873 (20 U.S.C. 1161t) was in effect on the day before
4 the date of enactment of this Act, shall continue to receive
5 funds in accordance with the terms and conditions of such
6 grant.

