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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the front-loading of grant aid by institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KIM of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the front-loading of grant aid by institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

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 “Front-Loaded Aid
5 Transparency Act” or the “FLAT Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT ON FRONT-LOADING OF GRANT**
2 **AID BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-**
3 **CATION.**

4 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
5 States shall conduct a study on the front-loading of insti-
6 tutional grant aid by covered institutions of higher edu-
7 cation during the period beginning with fiscal year 2007
8 and ending with fiscal year 2020.

9 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study conducted under sub-
10 section (a) shall include an assessment of the following:

11 (1) Any information known about the preva-
12 lence of front-loading by covered institutions and
13 trends in how average grant aid for first-year under-
14 graduate students compared to amounts for subse-
15 quent years of undergraduate study, including
16 whether the covered institution is public, private
17 non-profit, or for-profit.

18 (2) Potential reasons why an institution would
19 reduce the amount of grant aid provided to indi-
20 vidual students after their first year, and why, if at
21 all, the magnitude of these reductions would be high-
22 er at some covered institutions.

23 (3) Any information known about how de-
24 creases in students' grant aid after their first year
25 of undergraduate study affects subsequent enroll-

1 ment intensity and student loan borrowing, reten-
2 tion, transfer, and graduation rates.

3 (4) The extent to which covered institutions in-
4 form prospective students about how their aid pack-
5 ages are likely to change after their first year of
6 study.

7 (c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
8 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
9 submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
10 Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education
11 and Labor of the House of Representatives a report that
12 includes—

13 (1) the results of the study conducted under
14 subsection (a); and

15 (2) recommendations for legislative action to
16 address the front-loading of institutional grant aid
17 by covered institutions.

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

20 (1) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term “cov-
21 ered institution” means an institution of higher edu-
22 cation that—

23 (A) provides a four-year educational pro-
24 gram; and

1 (B) participates in programs authorized
2 under title IV of the Higher Education Act of
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

4 (2) FRONT-LOADING.—The term “front load-
5 ing”, when used with respect to institutional grant
6 aid, means the practice by which a covered institu-
7 tion provides first-year students with a higher
8 amount or percentage of institutional grant aid than
9 the institution provides to second-year, third-year, or
10 fourth-year students.

11 (3) INSTITUTIONAL GRANT AID.—The term “in-
12 stitutional grant aid” means grant aid—

13 (A) provided to a student by a covered in-
14 stitution; and

15 (B) that is directly funded by such institu-
16 tion using funds from non-Federal sources.