

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

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To increase access to higher education and center-based Head Start programs  
by providing public transit grants.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. MCCORMICK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To increase access to higher education and center-based Head Start programs by providing public transit grants.

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 “Promoting Advance-  
5 ment Through Transit Help to Education Act” or the  
6 “PATH to Education Act”.

7       **SEC. 2. INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION THROUGH  
8 PUBLIC TRANSIT GRANTS.**

9       Chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-  
10 ed—

1 (1) in section 5307, by adding at the end the  
2 following:

3       “(i) PROMOTING ADVANCEMENT THROUGH TRANSIT  
4 HELP TO EDUCATION GRANTS.—

5                   “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

6                             “(A) CENTER-BASED HEAD START PRO-  
7                             GRAM.—The term ‘center-based Head Start  
8                             program’ means a center-based Head Start pro-  
9                             gram, including a center-based Early Head  
10                            Start program, under the Head Start Act (42  
11                            U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

14 “(i) a community college;

23 or

1 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
2 U.S.C. 1161q).

3                             “(C) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ‘eli-  
4                             gible recipient’ means a public transportation  
5                             provider that is eligible for assistance under  
6                             this section in partnership with 1 or more eligi-  
7                             ble institutions.

8                             “(D) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—  
9                             The term ‘minority-serving institution’ means  
10                            an eligible institution under section 371(a) of  
11                            the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
12                            1067q(a)).

13                   “(2) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may make  
14 grants under this subsection to eligible recipients to  
15 enable those eligible recipients to carry out projects  
16 described in paragraph (3) to better connect stu-  
17 dents with transportation to eligible institutions.

18                   “(3) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible recipi-  
19                   ent receiving a grant under this subsection shall use  
20                   grant funds to carry out 1 or more of the following  
21                   activities to better connect students with transpor-  
22                   tation to 1 or more eligible institutions that are  
23                   served by the eligible recipient partnership:

24                   “(A) Adding bus or rail stops or routes  
25                   and complementary paratransit service that

1           serve eligible institution campuses and connect  
2           to surrounding areas or other cities.

3           “(B) Increasing the frequency of service or  
4           adjusting the time of bus, rail, or paratransit  
5           routes to—

6               “(i) allow students of an eligible insti-  
7           tution to get to and from their classes; and

8               “(ii) allow participants in a center-  
9           based Head Start program, and their fami-  
10           lies, to get to and from the Head Start  
11           program.

12           “(C) Operating costs for service described  
13           in subparagraphs (A) and (B), if such costs are  
14           eligible under this section.

15           “(4) APPLICATION.—

16           “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible recipient  
17           that desires a grant under this subsection shall  
18           submit an application to the Secretary at such  
19           time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
20           formation as the Secretary may require, includ-  
21           ing information on the extent to which the pro-  
22           posed projects using grant funds will improve  
23           the availability of transit access for students of  
24           eligible institutions and participants, and fami-

1       lies of participants, in center-based Head Start  
2       programs.

3           “(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants  
4       under this subsection, the Secretary shall give  
5       priority to an eligible recipient whose partner-  
6       ship includes an eligible institution with respect  
7       to which more than 25 percent of students en-  
8       rolled in that eligible institution receive a Fed-  
9       eral Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher  
10      Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a).”;

11      (2) in section 5311—

12           (A) in subsection (c)—

13               (i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking  
14       “and”;

15               (ii) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking  
16       the period at the end and inserting “;  
17       and”; and

18               (iii) by and at the end the following:  
19               “(C) there shall be set aside to carry out  
20       subsection (k)—

21               “(i) for fiscal year 2027, \$1,000,000;

22               “(ii) for fiscal year 2028, \$2,000,000;

23               “(iii) for fiscal year 2029, \$3,000,000;

24               “(iv) for fiscal year 2030, \$4,000,000;

25       and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following:

4 "(k) PROMOTING ADVANCEMENT THROUGH TRANSIT

## 5 HELP TO EDUCATION GRANTS.—

6           “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

7                     “(A) CENTER-BASED HEAD START PRO-  
8                     GRAM.—The term ‘center-based Head Start  
9                     program’ means a center-based Head Start pro-  
10                    gram, including a center-based Early Head  
11                    Start program, under the Head Start Act (42  
12                    U.S.C. 9831 et seq.).

16 “(ii) a minority-serving institution;

24 or

5                             “(C) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ‘eli-  
6                             gible recipient’ means a public transportation  
7                             provider that is eligible for assistance under  
8                             this section in partnership with 1 or more eligi-  
9                             ble entities.

10       “(2) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may make  
11       grants under this subsection to eligible recipients to  
12       enable those eligible recipients to carry out projects  
13       described in paragraph (3) to better connect stu-  
14       dents with transportation to eligible institutions.

15                   “(3) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—An eligible recipi-  
16                   ent receiving a grant under this subsection shall use  
17                   grant funds to carry out 1 or more of the following  
18                   activities to better connect students with transpor-  
19                   tation to 1 or more eligible institutions that are  
20                   served by the eligible recipient partnership:

21                   “(A) Adding bus or rail stops or routes  
22                   and complementary paratransit service that  
23                   serve eligible institution campuses and connect  
24                   to surrounding areas or other cities.

1                   “(B) Increasing the frequency of service or  
2                   adjusting the time of bus, rail, or paratransit  
3                   routes to—

4                   “(i) allow students of an eligible insti-  
5                   tution to get to and from their classes; and  
6                   “(ii) allow participants in a center-  
7                   based Head Start program, and their fami-  
8                   lies, to get to and from the Head Start  
9                   program.

10                  “(C) Operating costs for service described  
11                  in subparagraphs (A) and (B), if such costs are  
12                  eligible under this section.

13                  “(4) APPLICATION.—

14                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible recipient  
15                  that desires a grant under this subsection shall  
16                  submit an application to the Secretary at such  
17                  time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
18                  formation as the Secretary may require, includ-  
19                  ing information on the extent to which the pro-  
20                  posed projects using grant funds will improve  
21                  the availability of transit access for students of  
22                  eligible institutions and participants, and fami-  
23                  lies of participants, in center-based Head Start  
24                  programs.

1                         “(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants  
2                         under this subsection, the Secretary shall give  
3                         priority to an eligible recipient whose partner-  
4                         ship includes an eligible institution with respect  
5                         to which more than 25 percent of students en-  
6                         rolled in that eligible institution receive a Fed-  
7                         eral Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher  
8                         Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a).”;  
9                         and

10                         (3) in section 5336(h)—

11                         (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3)  
12                         through (5) as paragraphs (4) through (6), re-  
13                         spectively;

14                         (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
15                         following:

16                         “(3) there shall be set aside to carry out section  
17                         5307(i)—

18                         “(A) for fiscal year 2027, \$1,000,000;

19                         “(B) for fiscal year 2028, \$2,000,000;

20                         “(C) for fiscal year 2029, \$3,000,000;

21                         “(D) for fiscal year 2030, \$4,000,000; and

22                         “(E) for fiscal year 2031, \$5,000,000.”;

23                         (C) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated,  
24                         by striking “and (2),” and inserting “, (2), and  
25                         (3),”; and

1 (D) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated,  
2 by striking “and (4)” and inserting “(4), and  
3 (5)”.