

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 169

Reps. Frederick, Anthony, Martin, Bellino, Beson, Wakeman, Tisdell, Roth, Eisen, Outman, Thanedar, O'Neal and Hauck offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Congress of the United States to
2 allow students in short-term training programs to apply for federal
3 Pell grants.

4 Whereas, The federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based
5 grants to low- and moderate-income undergraduate and certain
6 postbaccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary
7 education. Pell grants have been helping millions of students in
8 need across the country access postsecondary education for 45
9 years; and

10 Whereas, Pell grants are available to students enrolled in an
11 eligible program at a participating institution of higher

1 education, as defined by Title IV of the Higher Education Act, for
2 the purpose of earning a certificate or degree. Eligible
3 institutions include public and nonprofit institutions, proprietary
4 institutions, and postsecondary vocational institutions. Eligible
5 programs require at least 16 semester hours offered during a
6 minimum of 15 weeks. Graduate and professional programs that run
7 for a minimum of 8 semester hours over 10 weeks may be eligible for
8 a Pell grant as long as the programs admit individuals who have
9 completed the equivalent of an associate's degree; and

10 Whereas, Students in many short-term training programs under
11 15 weeks are currently unable to apply for a Pell grant.
12 Certificate programs of any length enroll a large number of low-
13 income students, and short-term programs are particularly appealing
14 for individuals who need to make a quick return on their investment
15 with limited resources. The short eligibility length of these
16 programs, therefore, disproportionately disadvantages low-income
17 students by depriving them of a the maximum range of options for
18 seeking postsecondary attainment; and

19 Whereas, Short-term training programs are extremely valuable
20 as they prepare individuals for fields that do not require a
21 college education and are experiencing labor shortages, such as
22 truck driving, the skilled trades, and some entry-level care and
23 retail occupations. Incorporating shorter duration programs which
24 are linked to industry-recognized credentials and certifications
25 would provide more individuals with the assistance needed to obtain
26 employment in their desired field in keeping with the mission of
27 the Pell Grant Program; now, therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
29 Congress of the United States to allow students in short-term

1 training programs to apply for federal Pell grants; and be it
2 further

3 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
4 U.S. Secretary of Education, the President of the United States
5 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
6 and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation