

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 4508
OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA OF ARIZONA**

Strike subsection (a) of section 801 of the amendment.

Redesignate titles VIII and IX of the amendment as titles IX and X, respectively.

Insert after title VII of the amendment the following:

1 **TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL**
2 **PROGRAMS**

3 **SEC. 801. GRANT PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND**
4 **IMPROVE VETERAN STUDENT CENTERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VIII (20 U.S.C. 1161a et
6 seq.) is amended by striking part T (20 U.S.C. 1161t)
7 and inserting the following:

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

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

11 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the avail-
12 ability of appropriations under subsection (i), the Sec-
13 retary shall award grants to institutions of higher edu-

1 cation or consortia of institutions of higher education to
2 assist in the establishment, maintenance, improvement,
3 and operation of Veteran Student Centers. The Secretary
4 shall award not more than 30 grants under this sub-
5 section.

6 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

7 “(1) APPLICATION.—An institution or consor-
8 tium seeking a grant under subsection (a) shall sub-
9 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in
10 such manner, and containing such information as
11 the Secretary may require.

12 “(2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary may award a
13 grant under subsection (a) to an institution or a
14 consortium if the institution or consortium meets
15 each of the following criteria:

16 “(A) The institution or consortium enrolls
17 in undergraduate or graduate courses—

18 “(i) a significant number of veteran
19 students, members of the Armed Forces
20 serving on active duty, and members of a
21 reserve component of the Armed Forces; or

22 “(ii) a significant percentage of vet-
23 eran students,

24 as measured by comparing the overall enrollment of
25 the institution or consortium to the number, for the

1 most recent academic year for which data are avail-
2 able, of veteran students, members of the Armed
3 Forces serving on active duty, and members of a re-
4 serve component of the Armed Forces who are en-
5 rolled in undergraduate or graduate courses at the
6 institution or consortium.

7 “(B) The institution or consortium pre-
8 sents a sustainability plan to demonstrate that
9 its Veteran Student Center will be maintained
10 and will continue to operate after the grant pe-
11 riod of the grant received under subsection (a)
12 has ended.

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

15 “(A) shall consider institutions or con-
16 sortia representing a broad spectrum of sectors
17 and sizes, including institutions or consortia
18 from urban, suburban, and rural regions of the
19 United States; and

20 “(B) may provide consideration to institu-
21 tions or consortia that meet one or more of the
22 following criteria:

23 “(i) The institution or consortium is
24 located in a region or community that has
25 a significant population of veterans.

1 “(ii) The institution or consortium
2 carries out programs or activities that as-
3 sist veterans in the local community and
4 the spouses of veteran students.

5 “(iii) The institution or consortium
6 partners in its veteran-specific program-
7 ming with non-profit veteran service orga-
8 nizations, local workforce development or-
9 ganizations, or institutions of higher edu-
10 cation.

11 “(iv) The institution or consortium
12 commits to hiring a staff at the Veteran
13 Student Center that includes veterans (in-
14 cluding veteran student volunteers and vet-
15 eran students participating in a Federal
16 work-study program under part C of title
17 IV, a work-study program administered by
18 the Secretary of Veteran Affairs, or a
19 State work-study program).

20 “(v) The institution or consortium
21 commits to using a portion of the grant re-
22 ceived under this section to develop an
23 early-warning veteran student retention
24 program carried out by the Veteran Stu-
25 dent Center.

1 “(vi) The institution or consortium
2 commits to providing mental health coun-
3 seling to its veteran students and their
4 spouses.

5 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An institution or consor-
7 tium that is awarded a grant under subsection (a)
8 shall use such grant to establish, maintain, improve,
9 or operate a Veteran Student Center.

10 “(2) OTHER ALLOWABLE USES.—An institution
11 or consortium receiving a grant under subsection (a)
12 may use a portion of such funds to carry out sup-
13 portive instruction services for student veterans, in-
14 cluding—

15 “(A) assistance with special admissions
16 and transfer of credit from previous postsec-
17 ondary education or experience; and

18 “(B) any other support services the insti-
19 tution or consortium determines to be necessary
20 to ensure the success of veterans on campus in
21 achieving education and career goals.

22 “(d) AMOUNTS AWARDED.—

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

1 “(2) TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT AND SCHED-
2 ULE.—Each grant awarded under subsection (a)
3 may not exceed a total of \$500,000. The Secretary
4 shall disburse to an institution or consortium the
5 amounts awarded under the grant in such amounts
6 and at such times during the grant period as the
7 Secretary determines appropriate.

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

14 “(1) the number of grants awarded;

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

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

19 “(A) the amounts awarded;

20 “(B) how such institution or consortium
21 used such amounts;

22 “(C) a description of the students to whom
23 services were offered as a result of the award;
24 and

1 “(D) data enumerating whether the use of
2 the amounts awarded helped veteran students
3 at the institution or consortium toward comple-
4 tion of a degree, certificate, or credential;

5 “(4) best practices for veteran student success,
6 identified by reviewing data provided by institutions
7 and consortia that received a grant under this sec-
8 tion; and

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

12 “(f) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary
13 to carry out the grant program established under sub-
14 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after
15 the date on which the first grant is awarded under sub-
16 section (a).

17 “(g) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BEST PRACTICES
18 WEBSITE.—Subject to the availability of appropriations
19 under subsection (i) and not later than 3 years after the
20 date on which the first grant is awarded under subsection
21 (a), the Secretary shall develop and implement a website
22 for veteran student services at institutions of higher edu-
23 cation, which details best practices for serving veteran stu-
24 dents at institutions of higher education.

25 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

9 “(A) A lounge or meeting space for such
10 veteran students, their spouses or partners, and
11 veterans in the community.

12 “(B) A centralized office for veteran serv-
13 ices that—

14 “(i) is a single point of contact to co-
15 ordinate comprehensive support services
16 for veteran students;

17 “(ii) is staffed by trained employees
18 and volunteers, which includes veterans
19 and at least one full-time employee or vol-
20 unteer who is trained as a veterans’ bene-
21 fits counselor;

22 “(iii) provides veteran students with
23 assistance relating to—

24 “(I) transitioning from the mili-
25 tary to student life;

1 “(II) transitioning from the mili-
2 tary to the civilian workforce;

3 “(III) networking with other vet-
4 eran students and veterans in the
5 community;

6 “(IV) understanding and obtain-
7 ing benefits provided by the institu-
8 tion of higher education, Federal Gov-
9 ernment, and State for which such
10 students may be eligible;

11 “(V) understanding how to suc-
12 ceed in the institution of higher edu-
13 cation, including by understanding
14 academic policies, the course selection
15 process, and institutional policies and
16 practices related to the transfer of
17 academic credits; and

18 “(VI) understanding their dis-
19 ability-related rights and protections
20 under the Americans with Disabilities
21 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.)
22 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation
23 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) ; and

24 “(iv) provides comprehensive academic
25 and tutoring services for veteran students,

1 including peer-to-peer tutoring and aca-
2 demic mentorship.

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

7 (b) CONTINUATION OF AWARDS.—An institution of
8 higher education that received a grant under section 873
9 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161t)
10 before the date of enactment of this Act, as such section
11 873 (20 U.S.C. 1161t) was in effect on the day before
12 the date of enactment of this Act, shall continue to receive
13 funds in accordance with the terms and conditions of such
14 grant.

