

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5528
OFFERED BY MR. HECK OF NEVADA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Simplifying the Appli-
3 cation for Student Aid Act”.

4 SEC. 2. USING DATA FROM SECOND PRECEDING YEAR.

5 Section 480(a)(1)(B) of the Higher Education Act of
6 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking
7 “may” in both places it appears and inserting “shall”.

**8 SEC. 3. CALCULATION OF ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT PERCENT-
9 AGE FOR FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.**

10 Section 401(b)(7)(C)(iv)(I) of the Higher Education
11 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(C)(iv)(I)) is amended
12 by striking “calendar year” and inserting “fiscal year”.

13 SEC. 4. FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION.

14 (a) FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION.—Section 483 of the
15 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090) is
16 amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by adding at the end
18 the following:

1 “(I) **FORMAT.**—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of the Simpli-
3 fying the Application for Student Aid Act, the
4 Secretary shall make the electronic version of
5 the forms under this paragraph available
6 through a technology tool that can be used on
7 mobile devices. Such technology tool shall, at
8 minimum, enable applicants to—

9 “(i) save data; and

10 “(ii) submit their FAFSA to the Sec-
11 retary through such tool.

12 “(J) **CONSUMER TESTING.**—In developing
13 and maintaining the electronic version of the
14 forms under this paragraph and the technology
15 tool for mobile devices under subparagraph (I),
16 the Secretary shall conduct consumer testing
17 with appropriate persons to ensure the forms
18 and technology tool are designed to be easily
19 usable and understandable by students and
20 families. Such consumer testing shall include—

21 “(i) current and prospective college
22 students, family members of such students,
23 and other individuals with expertise in stu-
24 dent financial assistance application proc-
25 esses;

1 “(ii) dependent students and inde-
2 pendent students meeting the requirements
3 under subsection (b) or (c) of section 479;
4 and

5 “(iii) dependent students and inde-
6 pendent students who do not meet the re-
7 quirements under subsection (b) or (c) of
8 section 479.”; and

9 (2) by amending subsection (f) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(f) USE OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE DATA
12 RETRIEVAL TOOL TO POPULATE FAFSA.—

13 “(1) SIMPLIFICATION EFFORTS.—The Sec-
14 retary shall—

15 “(A) make every effort to use data avail-
16 able from the Internal Revenue Service to re-
17 duce the amount of original data entry by appli-
18 cants and strengthen the reliability of data used
19 to calculate expected family contributions, in-
20 cluding through the use of technology to—

21 “(i) automatically populate the elec-
22 tronic version of the forms under this
23 paragraph with data available from the In-
24 ternal Revenue Service; and

1 “(ii) direct an applicant to appro-
2 priate questions on such forms based on
3 the applicant’s answers to previous ques-
4 tions; and

5 “(B) allow single taxpayers, married tax-
6 payers filing jointly, and married taxpayers fil-
7 ing separately to utilize the data retrieval tool
8 to its full capacity.

9 “(2) USE OF TAX RETURN IN APPLICATION
10 PROCESS.—The Secretary shall continue to examine
11 whether data provided by the Internal Revenue Serv-
12 ice can be used to generate an expected family con-
13 tribution without additional action on the part of the
14 student and taxpayer.

15 “(3) REPORTS ON FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION EF-
16 FORTS.—Not less than once every other year, the
17 Secretary shall report to the authorizing committees
18 on the progress of the simplification efforts under
19 this subsection.

20 “(4) REPORTS ON FAFSA ACCESS.—Not less
21 than once every 10 years, the Secretary shall report
22 to the authorizing committees on the needs of lim-
23 ited English proficient students using the FAFSA.”.

24 (b) FUNDING.—

1 (1) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—Of the amount
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Department of
3 Education to maintain the Free Application for Fed-
4 eral Student Aid, \$3,000,000 shall be available to
5 carry out this Act and the amendments made by this
6 Act.

7 (2) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No
8 funds are authorized by this Act to be appropriated
9 to carry out this Act or the amendments made by
10 this Act.

