

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4137
OFFERED BY MR. ALTMIRE OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of title VIII of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as added by section 801 of the bill, add the following new part:

1 **“PART Q—BUSINESS WORKFORCE**
2 **PARTNERSHIPS**
3 **“SEC. 887. GRANTS TO CREATE BUSINESS WORKFORCE**
4 **PARTNERSHIPS.**

5 “(a) PURPOSE AND AUTHORIZATION.—

6 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is
7 to provide grants to colleges partnering with employ-
8 ers to strengthen ties between college degree credit
9 offerings and business and industry workforce needs,
10 and expand opportunities for worksite learning.

11 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—The Sec-
12 retary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to
13 eligible partnerships for the purposes of creating
14 business and industry workforce partnerships.

15 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

16 “(1) BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY WORKFORCE
17 PARTNERSHIP.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘business
2 and industry workforce partnership’ means a
3 partnership between an eligible institution
4 and—

5 “(i) an employer or group of employ-
6 ers, or a local board (as such term is de-
7 fined in section 101 of the Workforce In-
8 vestment Act of 1998), or both; and

9 “(ii) labor organizations, where appli-
10 cable, that represent workers locally in the
11 businesses or industries that are the focus
12 of the partnership, including as a result of
13 such organization’s representation of em-
14 ployees at a worksite at which the partner-
15 ship proposes to conduct activities under
16 this section.

17 “(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a State
18 that does not operate local boards, subpara-
19 graph (A)(i) shall be applied by substituting
20 ‘State board’ for ‘local board’.

21 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
22 ble institution’ means an institution of higher edu-
23 cation (as defined in section 101(a)).

24 “(c) APPLICATION.—A business and industry work-
25 force partnership seeking a grant under this section shall

1 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
2 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
3 retary may require.

4 “(d) PRIORITY FOR APPLICATIONS FOCUSED ON
5 SERVING NONTRADITIONAL STUDENTS.—The Secretary
6 shall give priority to applications focused on serving non-
7 traditional students who are independent, as defined in
8 section 480(d), do not already have a bachelor’s degree,
9 and who have one or more of the following characteristics:

10 “(1) Are the first generation in their family to
11 attend college.

12 “(2) Have delayed enrollment in college.

13 “(3) Have dependents.

14 “(e) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall convene a
15 peer review process, which shall include individuals knowl-
16 edgeable about workforce education for working adults, to
17 review applications for grants under this section, and
18 make recommendations to the Secretary on the selection
19 of grant recipients.

20 “(f) MANDATORY ACTIVITIES.—A partnership that
21 receives a grant under this section shall use the grant
22 funds to carry out all of the following activities:

23 “(1) Identify high demand occupations in the
24 regional labor market which offer or can lead to high
25 wages, in coordination with the State employment

1 security agency funded under the Wagner-Peyser
2 Act.

3 “(2) Develop linked career and educational
4 pathways for those occupations and related ones, in-
5 cluding, where appropriate, pathways involving reg-
6 istered apprenticeships.

7 “(3) Consult with employers offering jobs in oc-
8 cupations identified under paragraph (1) to deter-
9 mine workforce development needs.

10 “(4) Consult with labor organizations rep-
11 resenting workers locally in the occupations identi-
12 fied in paragraph (1), where applicable.

13 “(5) Identify existing college degree credit of-
14 ferings or create new degree credit offerings that
15 prepare students to meet business and industry
16 workforce needs, including offerings connected to
17 registered apprenticeship programs.

18 “(g) PERMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES.—A partnership that
19 receives a grant under this section may use the grant
20 funds to carry out one or more of the following activities:

21 “(1) In consultation with faculty in the appro-
22 priate departments, adapt college offerings identified
23 and created under subsection (f)(5) to the schedules
24 and needs of working students, such as by creating
25 evening, weekend, modular, compressed, or distance

1 learning formats, enrolling students in learning com-
2 munities, or other relevant innovations.

3 “(2) Create bridge programs that prepare stu-
4 dents with lower skills or limited English proficiency
5 to enter the college offerings identified or created
6 under subsection (f)(5).

7 “(3) Expand worksite learning opportunities.

8 “(4) Other activities that the institution and
9 the Secretary deem appropriate to carry out the pur-
10 poses of this program.

11 “(h) GRANT PERIOD.—Grants made under this sec-
12 tion shall be for a period of at least 36 months and not
13 more than 60 months.

14 “(i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
15 provide technical assistance to grantees under this section
16 throughout the grant period.

17 “(j) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall conduct an
18 evaluation of the effectiveness of the program under this
19 section and disseminate the findings of such evaluation,
20 as well as information on promising practices developed
21 under this section.

22 “(k) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 36
23 months after the first grant is awarded under this section,
24 the Secretary, jointly with the Secretary of Labor, shall
25 report to Congress on:

1 “(1) Changes to the Higher Education Act and
2 related Acts, such as the Perkins Vocational and
3 Technical Education Act and the Workforce Invest-
4 ment Act (both Title I and Title II), that would help
5 create and sustain business and industry workforce
6 partnerships at colleges.

7 “(2) Other changes to the Higher Education
8 Act and related Acts, such as the Perkins Vocational
9 and Technical Education Act and the Workforce In-
10 vestment Act, that would more generally strengthen
11 the links between business and industry workforce
12 needs, workforce development programs, and other
13 college degree credit offerings.”.