

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2583

To establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Unlawful
Discrimination in Higher Education within the Department of Education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2025

Mr. TAYLOR (for himself and Mrs. HOUCHIN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To establish the Office of the Special Inspector General
for Unlawful Discrimination in Higher Education within
the Department of Education.

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 “College Admissions Ac-
5 countability Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) 21st century elite college admissions func-
9 tions as the Nation’s sorting machine for prestige

1 and opportunity, allocating a limited number of valu-
2 able credentials.

3 (2) For decades United States colleges and uni-
4 versities adopted admissions policies and practices
5 that rendered special preferences to applicants on
6 the basis of race.

7 (3) In *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v.*
8 *President and Fellows of Harvard College*, 143 S.
9 Ct. 2141 (2023), the Supreme Court of the United
10 States found race-based admissions policies to be in
11 violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th
12 Amendment to the Constitution of the United
13 States. The Court further held that “universities
14 may not simply establish through application essays
15 or other means the regime we hold unlawful today”.

16 (4) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
17 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) prohibits entities that receive
18 Federal funding from discriminating based on race.

19 (5) Following the Court’s ruling, several United
20 States colleges and universities issued statements or
21 unveiled new policies at odds with its letter and spir-
22 it.

23 (6) Institutions of higher education, including
24 their offices of admission, must comply with the

1 Constitution and laws of the United States, as inter-
2 preted by the judiciary.

3 (7) It is the duty of the United States Govern-
4 ment to protect the civil rights of its citizens and to
5 enforce the Constitution and laws of the United
6 States, as interpreted by the judiciary.

7 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR UNLAWFUL**
8 **DISCRIMINATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION.**

9 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
11 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
12 gress’ means—

13 “(A) the Committee on Health, Education,
14 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

15 “(B) the Subcommittee on Labor, Health
16 and Human Services, Education, and Related
17 Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of
18 the Senate;

19 “(C) the Committee on Education and the
20 Workforce of the House of Representatives; and

21 “(D) the Subcommittee on Labor, Health
22 and Human Services, Education of the Com-
23 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives.

1 “(2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term
2 ”covered individual means any individual who—

3 “(A) files an application for admission as
4 a student at a covered institution; or

5 “(B) is enrolled as a student at a covered
6 institution.

7 “(3) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term ‘cov-
8 ered institution’ means an institution of higher edu-
9 cation that receives funds from Federal student as-
10 sistance or Federal institutional aid under the High-
11 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

12 “(b) OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.—There is
13 hereby established within the Department the Office of the
14 Special Inspector General for Unlawful Discrimination in
15 Higher Education.

16 “(c) APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL; RE-
17 MOVAL; BASIC PAY.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of the Office of
19 the Special Inspector General for Unlawful Discrimi-
20 nation in Higher Education shall be the Special In-
21 spector General for Unlawful Discrimination in
22 Higher Education (referred to in this section as the
23 ‘Special Inspector General’), who shall be appointed
24 by the President, by and with the advice and consent
25 of the Senate.

1 “(2) NOMINATION.—The nomination of the
2 Special Inspector General shall be made on the basis
3 of integrity and demonstrated familiarity with higher
4 education and admissions, in addition to expertise in
5 auditing, civil rights, law, academic administration,
6 education regulation, or investigations.

7 “(3) REMOVAL.—The Special inspector General
8 shall be removable from office in accordance with
9 the provisions of section 403(b) of title 5, United
10 States Code.

11 “(4) BASIC PAY.—The annual rate of basic pay
12 of the Special Inspector General shall be the annual
13 rate of basic pay for an Inspector General under sec-
14 tion 403 of title 5, United States Code.

15 “(d) DUTIES.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the duty of the
17 Special Inspector General to, in accordance with sec-
18 tion 404(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code—

19 “(A) receive, review, and investigate allega-
20 tions from covered individuals or employees of
21 covered institutions of admissions decisions,
22 policies, or practices, or financial aid determina-
23 tions or academic programs, that are in viola-
24 tion of—

1 “(i) the Equal Protection Clause of
2 the 14th Amendment to the Constitution
3 of the United States, pursuant to the hold-
4 ing in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc.*
5 *v. President and Fellows of Harvard Col-*
6 *lege*, 143 S. Ct. 2141 (2023) (referred to
7 in this subsection as the ‘Equal Protection
8 Clause’); or

9 “(ii) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
10 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) (referred
11 to in this subsection as ‘title VI’);

12 “(B) review any Federal policies and pro-
13 grams that have the effect of incentivizing cov-
14 ered institutions to violate the Equal Protection
15 Clause or title VI; and

16 “(C) make recommendations to the appli-
17 cable covered institution, the Secretary, the At-
18 torney General of the United States, and the
19 appropriate committees of Congress regard-
20 ing—

21 “(i) measures that the covered institu-
22 tion should take to remedy any violation
23 described in subparagraph (A) through re-
24 medial or corrective action;

1 “(ii) any employee of the covered in-
2 stitution that the Special Inspector Gen-
3 eral determines, after a review or inves-
4 tigation described in subparagraph (A),
5 should face disciplinary action (including
6 removal) as a result of a violation de-
7 scribed in such subparagraph;

8 “(iii) eligibility of the covered institu-
9 tion to receive funds from Federal student
10 assistance or Federal institutional aid;

11 “(iv) further investigation into the
12 covered institution’s compliance with the
13 Constitution of the United States, title VI,
14 and other laws of the United States; and

15 “(v) reforms to any Federal policies
16 and programs that have the effect of
17 incentivizing covered institutions to violate
18 the Equal Protection Clause or title VI.

19 “(2) MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEMS.—The Special
20 Inspector General shall establish, maintain, and
21 oversee such systems, procedures, and controls as
22 the Special Inspector General considers appropriate
23 to discharge the duties of the Special inspector Gen-
24 eral under paragraph (1).

1 “(3) ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBIL-
2 ITIES.—In addition to the duties described in para-
3 graphs (1) and (2), the Special Inspector General
4 shall also have the duties and responsibilities of in-
5 spectors general under chapter 4 of title 5, United
6 States Code.

7 “(4) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—
8 The Special inspector General shall maintain the
9 confidentiality of the identity of any person submit-
10 ting information to the Special Inspector General for
11 the purposes of carrying out the duties of the Spe-
12 cial inspector General under this section, including
13 in any report submitted under subsection (g).

14 “(e) POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties
16 of the Special Inspector General under subsection
17 (d), the Special Inspector General shall have the au-
18 thorities provided in section 406 of title 5, United
19 States Code.

20 “(2) TREATMENT OF OFFICE.—The Office of
21 the Special Inspector General shall be considered to
22 be an office described in section 406(f)(3) of title 5,
23 United States Code.

24 “(f) PERSONNEL, FACILITIES, AND OTHER RE-
25 SOURCES.—

1 “(1) APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOY-
2 EES.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Special Inspector
4 General may select, appoint, and employ such
5 officers and employees as may be necessary for
6 carrying out the duties of the Special Inspector
7 General.

8 “(B) STATUS.—The positions to which of-
9 ficers and employees are appointed under sub-
10 paragraph (A) shall be positions in schedule C
11 of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of
12 Federal Regulations, or any successor regula-
13 tions.

14 “(2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Spe-
15 cial Inspector General may obtain services as au-
16 thorized under section 3109 of title 5, United States
17 Code, at daily rates not to exceed the equivalent rate
18 prescribed for grade GS–15 of the General Schedule
19 by section 5332 of that title.

20 “(3) CONTRACTS.—The Special Inspector Gen-
21 eral may enter into contracts and other arrange-
22 ments for audits, studies, analyses, and other serv-
23 ices with public agencies and with private persons,
24 and make such payments as may be necessary to

1 carry out the duties of the Special Inspector Gen-
2 eral.

3 “(g) REPORTS.—

4 “(1) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60
6 days after the date on which the Special Inspec-
7 tor General is confirmed, and once every cal-
8 endar quarter thereafter, the Special Inspector
9 General shall submit to the appropriate commit-
10 tees of Congress a report summarizing the ac-
11 tivities of the Special Inspector General during
12 the 3-month period ending on the date on which
13 the Special Inspector General submits the re-
14 port.

15 “(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted
16 under subparagraph (A) shall include, for the
17 period covered by the report, the following:

18 “(i) A general description of the alle-
19 gations received and reviewed by the Spe-
20 cial Inspector General under subsection
21 (d)(1)(A).

22 “(ii) Recommendations of the Special
23 Inspector General regarding reforms that
24 the Special Inspector General believes
25 should be undertaken with respect to the

1 authority of the Special Inspector General
2 and matters within the authority of the
3 Special Inspector General to review and in-
4 vestigate, including the authority described
5 in subsection (d)(1)(B).

6 “(iii) For a covered institution with
7 respect to which an allegation submitted
8 under this section applies, the steps that
9 the covered institution with respect to
10 which an allegation submitted under this
11 section applies, the steps that the covered
12 institution has taken, and has yet to take,
13 to remedy the issues outlined in the allega-
14 tion.

15 “(iv) Data regarding the number of
16 allegations received and reviewed by the
17 Special Inspector General under this sec-
18 tion that document any legitimate viola-
19 tion, as determined by the Special inspec-
20 tor General, which shall—

21 “(I) be disaggregated by the
22 number of violations committed by
23 each covered institution; and

24 “(II) contain a separate provision
25 listing the number of those acts that

1 relate to racial bias, which shall be
2 disaggregated as described in sub-
3 clause (I).

4 “(v) Commentary by the Special In-
5 spector General regarding the level of co-
6 operation by each covered institution with
7 respect to reviews and investigations per-
8 formed by the Special Inspector General,
9 including, with respect to each covered in-
10 stitution has implemented recommenda-
11 tions made by the Special Inspector Gen-
12 eral and whether the covered institution
13 has provided information or access re-
14 quested by the Special Inspector General.

15 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
16 this subsection may be construed to authorize the
17 public disclosure of information that is—

18 “(A) specifically prohibited from disclosure
19 by any other provision of law;

20 “(B) specifically required by Executive
21 order to be protected from disclosure in the in-
22 terest of national defense or national security or
23 in the conduct of foreign affairs; or

24 “(C) a part of an ongoing criminal inves-
25 tigation.

1 “(h) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
2 priated \$25,000,000 to carry out this section, which shall
3 remain available until expended.

4 “(i) COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON IN-
5 TEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY.—The Special Inspector Gen-
6 eral shall be a member of the Council of the Inspectors
7 General on Integrity and Efficiency established under sec-
8 tion 424 of title 5, United States Code.

9 “(j) CORRECTIVE RESPONSES TO AUDIT PROB-
10 LEMS.—A covered institution shall—

11 “(1) take action to address deficiencies identi-
12 fied by a report or investigation of the Special In-
13 specter General; or

14 “(2) with respect to a deficiency identified
15 under paragraph (1), certify to the Special Inspector
16 General and the appropriate committees of Congress
17 that no action is necessary or appropriate.

18 “(k) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
19 tion may be construed as limiting the authority of the In-
20 specter General of the Department.

21 “(l) SUNSET.—The Office of the Special Inspector
22 General for Unlawful Discrimination in Higher Education,
23 established under this section, shall terminate on the date
24 that is 12 years after the date of enactment of the College
25 Admissions Accountability Act of 2025.”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The tables of contents
 2 in section 1 of the Department of Education Organization
 3 Act (20 U.S.C. 3401 note) is amended by inserting after
 4 the item relating to section 220 the following new item:
 5 “Sec. 221. Special Inspector General for Unlawful Dis-
 6 crimination in Higher Education.”.

7 (c) HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.—Part B of
 8 title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
 9 1011 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 10 lowing:

11 **“SEC. 124. INELIGIBILITY DUE TO DISCRIMINATION ON THE**
 12 **BASIS OF RACE IN VIOLATION OF EQUAL**
 13 **PROTECTION CLAUSE OR TITLE VI.**

14 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no in-
 15 stitution of higher education shall be eligible to receive
 16 funds from Federal student assistance or Federal institu-
 17 tional aid under this Act if the Secretary determines that
 18 the institution had an admissions decision, policy, or prac-
 19 tice, or financial aid determination or academic program,
 20 that discriminated on the basis of race in violation of—

21 “(1) the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th
 22 Amendment to the Constitution of the United
 23 States, pursuant to the holding in *Students for Fair*
 24 *Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Har-*
 25 *vard College*, 143 S. Ct. 2141 (2023); or

- 1 “(2) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
- 2 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).”.

