

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 484

To direct the Secretary of Education to pay to Fort Lewis College in the State of Colorado an amount equal to the tuition charges for Indian students who are not residents of the State of Colorado.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2011

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to pay to Fort Lewis College in the State of Colorado an amount equal to the tuition charges for Indian students who are not residents of the State of Colorado.

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. PURPOSE.**

4 It is the purpose of this Act to ensure that Federal
5 funding is provided to support and sustain the long-
6 standing Federal mandate requiring Fort Lewis College
7 in the State of Colorado to waive tuition charges for each
8 Indian student it admits to an undergraduate program,

1 including the waiver of tuition charges for Indian students
2 who are not residents of the State of Colorado.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) Fort Lewis College in the State of Colorado
6 is a signature school for Indian students from
7 throughout the Nation and graduates more Indian
8 students than any other baccalaureate institution of
9 higher education;

10 (2) in 2009, Fort Lewis College awarded 95 de-
11 grees in science, technology, engineering, and mathe-
12 matics to Indian students, representing 13.5 percent
13 of degrees awarded by baccalaureate institutions of
14 higher education to Indian students, more degrees
15 than any other comparable baccalaureate institution
16 in the Nation;

17 (3) as of the 2010–11 academic year, Fort
18 Lewis College provides federally mandated tuition-
19 free education to approximately 786 Indian students
20 from 124 different Indian tribes and 34 different
21 States, representing approximately 20 percent of the
22 overall student population at this non-tribal institu-
23 tion of higher education that serves Indian students;

24 (4) the Federal mandate to provide tuition-free
25 education to Indian students was first placed upon

1 the State of Colorado under section 5 of the Act of
2 April 4, 1910 (36 Stat. 273, chapter 140), as a con-
3 dition of the transfer of the land, buildings, and fix-
4 tures comprising Fort Lewis School, which had been
5 federally operated;

6 (5) the amount of funds expended by the State
7 of Colorado to meet the waiver of tuition obligations
8 under section 5 of the Act of April 4, 1910 (36 Stat.
9 273, chapter 140), for all Indian students, both out-
10 of-State and in-State, far exceeds the value of the
11 land, buildings, and fixtures that the State of Colo-
12 rado holds for the benefit of Fort Lewis College;

13 (6) the State of Colorado has expended more
14 than \$110,000,000 in the past 25 years to meet the
15 costs of the tuition waivers for Indian students at
16 Fort Lewis College from 44 different States; and

17 (7) the federally mandated tuition waiver pro-
18 gram for Indian students at Fort Lewis College is
19 at risk of being reduced by the severe budget con-
20 straints of the State of Colorado, thereby jeopord-
21 izing the education of many talented Indian students
22 from around the Nation, in present and future class-
23 es.

24 **SEC. 3. STATE RELIEF FROM FEDERAL MANDATE.**

25 (a) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
2 for fiscal year 2011 and each succeeding fiscal year,
3 the Secretary of Education shall pay to Fort Lewis
4 College in the State of Colorado an amount equal to
5 the charges for tuition for all Indian students who
6 are not residents of the State of Colorado and who
7 are enrolled in Fort Lewis College for the academic
8 year ending before the beginning of such fiscal year.

9 (2) LIMITATION.—The amount paid to Fort
10 Lewis College for each fiscal year under paragraph
11 (1) may not exceed the amount equal to the charges
12 for tuition for all Indian students who were not resi-
13 dents of the State of Colorado and who were en-
14 rolled in Fort Lewis College for academic year
15 2010–2011.

16 (b) TREATMENT OF PAYMENT.—Any amounts re-
17 ceived under this section shall be treated as a reimburse-
18 ment from the State of Colorado to Fort Lewis College
19 for complying with the requirement of section 5 of the Act
20 of April 4, 1910 (36 Stat. 273, chapter 140), to admit
21 Indian students free of charge of tuition.

22 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
23 shall be construed to relieve the State of Colorado from
24 reimbursing, for purposes of complying with the require-
25 ments of section 5 of the Act of April 4, 1910 (36 Stat.

1 273, chapter 140), Fort Lewis College for each academic
2 year—

3 (1) with respect to Indian students who are not
4 residents of the State of Colorado and who are en-
5 rolled in Fort Lewis College, any amount of charges
6 for tuition for such students that exceeds the
7 amount received under this section for such aca-
8 demic year; and

9 (2) with respect to Indian students who are
10 residents of the State of Colorado and who are en-
11 rolled in Fort Lewis College, an amount equal to the
12 charges for tuition for such students for such aca-
13 demic year.

14 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Indian
15 students” refers to the term “Indian pupils” in section
16 5 of the Act of April 4, 1910 (36 Stat. 269, chapter 140).

17 (e) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
18 priated, and there are appropriated (in addition to any
19 other amounts appropriated to carry out this section and
20 out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appro-
21 priated), such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
22 section.

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