

**ANTELOPE VALLEY BOARD OF TRADE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

POLICY POSITION WHITE PAPER

Contact: Dr. Diane L. Walker, Co-Chair
dwalker@avhdsd.org
661-575-1025

SUBJECT: Higher Education Act Re-Authorization

SITUATIONAL BACKGROUND:

The Higher Education Act (HEA), first enacted in 1965, governs programs related to post-secondary accreditation, financial aid programs for students, teacher preparation, and graduate education. The latest authorization (PL 110-315) expired in 2013, with several temporary extensions provided.

According to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, by 2020, 65% of all jobs will require some post-secondary education. Of 11.6 million jobs created since the recovery from the Great Recession, 11.5 million have gone to those with college education. In California alone, 54% of online job postings call for college graduates. Despite this on-going trend, the US is expected to fall short by 5 million college-educated workers by 2020. The importance of widespread access to affordable post-secondary education cannot, therefore, be overstated.

Although the House passed five bi-partisan bills in 2016 (HR 5528, HR 5530, HR 5529, HR 3178 and HR 3179) related to college choice, financial aid processes, and minority-serving institutions, the bills were not taken up by the Senate. They may, however, provide a framework for discussion and future action on the HEA re-authorization.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

- Re-authorize the Higher Education Act to meet ongoing and future needs for funding of high-quality post-secondary programs;
- Reduce barriers to affordable higher education for all students;
- Support teacher preparation programs and alternative paths to certification to ease the wide-spread teacher shortage;
- Evaluate data collection requirements to reduce burden while ensuring program integrity.

ESTIMATED COSTS

The US Department of Education summary of budget appropriations for higher education in 2017 (2018 budget) was listed at \$2,484,721,000 (8.37% increase over the prior year). See summary beginning at pages 11-12

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/budget18/18action.pdf>

RESOURCES IN SUPPORT

[Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce \(Reports\)](#)

[American Association for Community Colleges](#)

[California Community Colleges](#)

[American Council on Education - HEA](#)

[ACTE Higher Education Act](#)

