

H.R. 5566, SMART Grant Reauthorization Act

Background:

The National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant program would create a merit based program to supplement Pell Grants for students majoring in a Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) based field. Ensuring that students are pursuing STEM education is essential for the preparation of all current and future students in America to maintain career fields in mathematics, science, and technology. By investing in research, innovation, and building the industries of the future, the U.S. will continue to grow and maintain the world's leading economy. The importance of supporting scientific research that both contributes to the public good and helps drive our competitiveness cannot be overstated. This legislation would reauthorize the SMART grant program, through the Department of Education, allowing college students from low- and middle- income families to better afford a degree in these critical STEM fields.

Bill Overview:

- \$4,000 SMART Grants would be awarded to eligible College Juniors and Seniors who are both majoring in the STEM fields and Pell Grant recipients.
- Eligible recipients would be pursuing a major in the physical, life, or computer sciences, mathematics, technology, or engineering and have a cumulative 3.0 grade point average.