

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 795

Condemning the botched rollout by the Department of Education of the
FAFSA Simplification Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2024

Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Condemning the botched rollout by the Department of
Education of the FAFSA Simplification Act.

Whereas the FAFSA Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law 116–260) was intended to make the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (referred to in this preamble as “FAFSA”) simpler and easier to complete for the 2024–2025 academic year;

Whereas the Department of Education (referred to in this preamble as the “Department”) reported on May 24, 2024, that it had processed more than 10,000,000 FAFSA applications for the 2024–2025 academic year;

Whereas, in previous years, the FAFSA application for an academic year opened on October 1st of the preceding year;

Whereas the 2024–2025 FAFSA launched on December 31, 2023;

Whereas, in previous years, the Department sent out student FAFSA data to institutions of higher education just days after the student filed their FAFSA application;

Whereas, for the 2024–2025 school year, the Department did not start sending student FAFSA data to institutions of higher education until the beginning of March;

Whereas many students did not receive financial aid awards until after National College Decision Day on May 1, 2024;

Whereas Department officials were aware of implementation challenges associated with the rollout of the FAFSA Simplification Act as early as December 2020;

Whereas students in pursuit of attending institutions of higher education across the United States depend on the resources made available by FAFSA;

Whereas the FAFSA delays have been particularly burdensome for students in foster care and youth experiencing homelessness;

Whereas the delay in the 2024–2025 FAFSA application timeline cut down the time students had to weigh options when considering financial components for attending institutions of higher education; and

Whereas many offices of financial aid in institutions of higher education fear that this delay will discourage students

from attending a college or university in the fall of 2024:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) strongly condemns the delayed and problem-
3 atic rollout of the FAFSA Simplification Act (title
4 VII of division FF of Public Law 116–260);

5 (2) calls for the Department of Education to
6 take the necessary actions to identify the issues that
7 led to the botched rollout of the FAFSA Simplifica-
8 tion Act and fix them for the 2025–2026 Free Ap-
9 plication for Federal Student Aid cycle; and

10 (3) urges the Secretary of Education to testify
11 before the relevant congressional committees regard-
12 ing the rollout of the FAFSA Simplification Act.

○