

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4447

To direct institutions of higher education to improve transparency with respect to the use of personality traits in admissions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2023

Mrs. STEEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To direct institutions of higher education to improve transparency with respect to the use of personality traits in admissions, and for other purposes.

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 “Helping Applicants
5 Receive Valid And Reasonable Decisions Act” or the
6 “HARVARD Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. USE OF PERSONALITY TRAITS IN ADMISSIONS.**

8 Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
9 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

1 “(30)(A) In the case of an institution that con-
2 siders the personality traits of applicants in making
3 admission determinations, the institution shall make
4 available on the public website and application mate-
5 rials of such institution—

6 “(i) a statement informing applicants of
7 the use of personality traits in making admis-
8 sion determinations;

9 “(ii) the rationale for such use of person-
10 ality traits;

11 “(iii) a description of the process under
12 which personality traits are considered; and

13 “(iv) the standards and criteria used for
14 rating personality traits.

15 “(B) In this paragraph, the term ‘personality
16 traits’ means, with respect to an individual, the pat-
17 terns of such individual with respect to behaviors,
18 thoughts, and emotions, and may include patterns
19 relating to humor, sensitivity, grit, leadership, integ-
20 rity, helpfulness, courage, and kindness.”.

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