

# NAPE PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORMS



## **S. 718: Making Education Affordable and Accessible Act (MEAA)**

### **Summary**

Introduced in the Senate on March 7, 2019, by *Senators Gary C. Peters (D-MI), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and John Boozman (R-AR)*, the Making Education Affordable and Accessible Act (MEAA) would help improve high school and college graduation rates by expanding the use of existing grants to institutions of higher education to expand their dual and concurrent enrollment initiatives and early/middle college programs.

This bipartisan legislation, which was introduced in the past two Congresses, would authorize a new grant program under Title VII of the Higher Education Act to support dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment, and early college high school programs. The bill is unchanged from the last Congress (with the exception of changing college credit to postsecondary credit—a technical correction suggested by legislative counsel.)

Concurrent enrollment provides high school students the opportunity to take college credit-bearing courses taught by college-approved high school teachers, allowing students to begin working toward their associate's degree. This saves students and families' money, while preparing them for the workforce.

### **Why This is Important to NAPE**

College in high school programs should be high quality and should provide authentic and intentionally designed college course experiences to students facilitated by a core partnership between K-12 and institutions of higher education. Access to college in high school programs should be available to all students regardless of their race, gender, income status, or their geography.

### **Current Status**

Introduced in the Senate on March 7, 2019, the legislation was read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.