

Date of Hearing: March 15, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

HR 86 (Gipson) – As Introduced February 14, 2022

SUBJECT: Charles R. Drew University Of Medicine and Science.

SUMMARY: Urges recognition of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (Drew University) as a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Makes several legislative findings and declarations, including, but not limited to the following:
 - a) Drew University was founded in 1966 to ensure that residents of underserved, underresourced, and underrepresented communities would have access to health care that is high in quality and culturally competent;
 - b) Drew University is a private, nonprofit, student-centered university committed to cultivating diverse health professional leaders dedicated to social justice and health equity for underserved populations through outstanding education, research, clinical service, and community engagement;
 - c) Drew University has graduated more than 600 physicians, over 1,270 physician assistants, and over 1,700 other health professionals, as well as training over 2,700 physician specialists through its sponsored residency programs. Its School of Nursing has graduated over 1,400 nursing professionals, including more than 1,000 family nurse practitioners;
 - d) Over 80% of students and over 71% of faculty at Drew University are from communities of color, making it the second most diverse four-year private nonprofit college in the nation;
 - e) Two of Drew University's programs appeared in the *US News & World Report* "Best Colleges" rankings. The Master's program at the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing ranked 159 (out of 584 nursing schools nationwide). The College of Science and Health's Public Health program ranked 102 (out of 177 programs nationwide). The University's Physician Assistant (PA) Program placed third in the 2019 American Association of Physician Assistants National Medical Challenge Bowl, a competition among PA programs that tests participants' knowledge of practical and applied medical knowledge in the PA field;
 - f) Drew University graduates are two to three times more likely to practice in diverse and medically underserved communities than physicians trained in traditional medical schools;
 - g) In 1973, Governor Ronald Reagan signed Senate Bill 1026 by State Senator Mervyn Dymally to appropriate funds to support the clinical health sciences education, research, and public service conducted by Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School;

- h) Drew University is a charter member of the Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools organization and is also a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities;
 - i) Drew University is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) as a Historically Black Graduate Institution; but is not currently recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a HBCU;
 - j) A designation as a HBCU by the National Trust for Historic Preservation would make Drew University eligible to qualify for greater levels of federal support; and,
 - k) Activities of Drew University provide a valuable service to the people of California and to the residents of the City of Los Angeles, and specifically to the Black and Latino communities where the Drew University is located.
- 2) Urges recognition of Drew University as a HBCU by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Defines the term “HBCU” (specifying it as part B institutions) as a school of higher learning that was accredited and established before 1964, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of Black Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary of Education to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or is, according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation, except that any branch campus of a southern institution of higher education that prior to September 30, 1986, received a grant as an institution with special needs, as specified, and was formally recognized by the National Center for Education Statistics as a Historically Black College or University, but was determined not to be a part B institution on or after October 17, 1986, shall, from July 18, 1988, be considered a part B institution (Section 322(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA); 20 U.S.C., Section 1061).
- 2) Authorizes the HBCUs program and the Historically Black Graduate Institutions (HBGI) program, both of which award grants to eligible institutions to assist them in strengthening their academic, administrative, and fiscal capabilities. These programs are typically funded through annual discretionary appropriations (HEA, Title III-B).
- 3) Stipulates that in order to be eligible to participate in either the HBCU or HBGI program, per (2) above, entities must meet the following requirements:
 - a) Be legally authorized by the State in which it is located;
 - a) Be a junior or community college;
 - b) Provide an educational program for which it awards a bachelor's degree; and,
 - c) Be accredited or preaccredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association (Title 34, Subtitle B, Chapter VI, Part 608, Subpart A, Section 608.2(a), Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)).

- 4) Lists the specific institutions of higher education that have been deemed a HBCU, per (1) above (Title 34, Subtitle B, Chapter VI, Part 608, Subpart A, Section 608.2(b), CFR).

FISCAL EFFECT: None

COMMENTS: *Purpose of the measure.* According to the author, “Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) is an incredibly racially and ethnically diverse institution that has risen from the ashes of the Watts riots to meet the need of the community.”

The author states, “I take great pride in having CDU in Assembly District 64 because they have both an amazing mission and a proven record for growing diverse health professionals”

The author contends that, “HR 86 seeks to rightfully recognize CDU as a Historically Black College and University by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.”

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. Named after Dr. Charles R. Drew, a pioneering Black physician who overcame long odds and racism in the early and mid-20th century to produce seminal work on blood banking and blood plasma storage and transfusion, Drew University is a private, nonprofit, community-founded, student-centered University committed to cultivating diverse health professions leaders who are dedicated to social justice and health equity for underserved populations through outstanding education, clinical service and community engagement. Drew University is also a leader in health disparities research with a focus on education, training, treatment and care in cancer, diabetes, cardiometabolic and HIV/AIDS.

In the five decades since the school was incorporated in 1966, Drew University has graduated more than 600 physicians, over 1,270 physician assistants and over 1,700 other health professionals, as well as training over 2,700 physician specialists through its sponsored residency programs. Its School of Nursing has graduated over 1,400 nursing professionals, including more than 1,000 family nurse practitioners.

Additionally, Drew University has earned designation as a minority-serving institution by the U.S. Office for Civil Rights, and is recognized by the USDE under Title III-B as a HBGI. The University is also a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

Drew University has been ranked nationally in several studies for student income post-graduation. A Brookings Institute college evaluation system called Drew University a “hidden gem,” positioning the University third in the nation for providing the greatest value-added boost to alumni in occupational earnings power. In the 2019, the USDE College Scorecard, Drew University ranked the seventh highest college in California in median annual earnings of former students one year after graduation.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities. According to National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), HBCUs are institutions that were established prior to 1964 with the principal mission of educating Black individuals. These institutions were founded and developed in an environment of legal segregation and, by providing access to higher education, they contributed substantially to the progress Black Americans made in improving their status.

The institutions that comprise HBCUs have a proud history and legacy of achievement. HBCUs vary in size and academic focus and serve a range of diverse students and communities in urban, rural, and suburban settings. HBCU alumni are leaders in every field and include barrier-breaking public servants, scientists, physicians, artists, attorneys, judges, engineers, educators, and business owners.

Per the NCES, as of 2022, there are over 100 HBCUs located in 19 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Of the over 100 HBCUs, at least 50 are public institutions and at least 49 are private nonprofit institutions. According to the NCES, the number of HBCU students increased by 47% (from 223,000 to 327,000 students) between 1976 and 2010, then decreased by 15% (to 279,000 students) between 2010 and 2020. In comparison, the number of students in all degree-granting institutions increased 91% (from 11 million to 21 million students) between 1976 and 2010, then decreased 10% (to 19 million students) between 2010 and 2020.

Although HBCUs were originally founded to educate Black students, they enroll students of other races as well. The composition of HBCUs has changed over time. In 2020, non-Black students made up 24% of enrollment at HBCUs, compared with 15% in 1976.

While Black enrollment at HBCUs increased by 11% between 1976 and 2020, the total number of Black students enrolled in all degree-granting postsecondary institutions more than doubled during this period. As a result, the percentage of Black students enrolled at HBCUs fell from 18% in 1976 to 8% in 2014 and then increased to 9% in 2020.

Historic Investments in HBCUs. Despite the record of success of HBCUs, disparities in resources and opportunities for HBCUs and their students persist; and the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted continuing and new challenges for HBCUs. With that in mind, the Biden-Harris Administration prioritized and delivered historic levels of investment in support for HBCUs. Said actions include, in part, the following:

- American Rescue Plan – which provided nearly \$3.7 billion in relief funding to HBCUs; and,
- Fiscal Year (FY) 21 Grant Funding – which, in FY 2021 USDE awarded a total of \$1 billion to build the capacity of institutions that serve large numbers of students of color and low-income students..

Additionally, the Administration signed an Executive Order (EO) to re-establish the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through HBCUs and issued a proclamation recognizing National HBCU Week. The EO also recognizes the historic underfunding of HBCUs and other institutions that serve large numbers of students of color, with a plan to invest \$20 billion in upgrading research infrastructure for HBCUs. Further, the EO proposes creating a new national lab focused on climate that would be affiliated with an HBCU.

National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more than 70 years, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has led the movement to save America's historic places. A privately funded nonprofit organization; its mission is to save America's historic sites; tell the full American story; build stronger communities; and, invest in the future.

Since listing HBCUs as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in 1998, the National Trust has advocated and worked to strengthen the stewardship capacity of HBCUs, while also raising national awareness of their significance and the ongoing threats of demolition, deferred maintenance, and insufficient funding. The National Trust and its partners aim to grow the leadership and preservation capacity of HBCUs that steward some of the most diverse and exceptional collective of historic assets in the world.

Committee comments. Committee Staff understands that Drew University, if granted HBCU status, would be eligible to receive additional federal funding, which would further benefit its students, many who are local residents in the greater Los Angeles region.

Prior legislation. SR 43 (Bradford), Adopted by the State Senate on June 19, 2017, was substantially similar in nature to this resolution.

AJR 1 (Dymally), Resolution Chapter 45, Statutes of 2007, memorialized Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation to allow the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science to become a legally designated Historically Black College and University.

SB 1026 (Dymally), Chapter 1140, Statutes of 1973, appropriated \$1.2 million from the General Fund to the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School programs.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Jeanice Warden / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960