

# **Protecting Students on Campus Act**

*Chairman Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Senator John Fetterman (D-PA)*

## **Section-by-Section**

*Sec. 1. Short Title* – This section designates the act as the "Protecting Students on Campus Act of 2025."

*Sec. 2. Title VI Awareness Campaign* – This section establishes a Title VI awareness campaign. It directs the Secretary of Education, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, to launch a public awareness campaign that informs students of their rights under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.

*Sec. 3. Congressional Briefings* – This section requires regular congressional briefings. Beginning no later than 30 days after the Act's enactment and continuing for one year, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights must provide monthly briefings to Congress on the number of complaints received by the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and the Department's efforts to process those complaints.

*Sec. 4. Audit and Study* – This section mandates that every federally funded higher education institution submit an annual report to the Department of Education's Inspector General disclosing the number of Title VI discrimination complaints the institution received during the prior year and describe the steps the institution took in response. The Inspector General is then required to conduct an annual audit of institutions that fall within the top five percent of per capita complaints (adjusted for student population), to review how these institutions handle such complaints and determine whether any cases should be referred to the Office for Civil Rights.

*Sec. 5. OCR Process Reforms* – This section reforms how the Office for Civil Rights processes complaints. It explicitly prohibits the Office from dismissing or closing a discrimination complaint solely because it was resolved by another federal, state, or local civil rights agency, or because it was addressed through the institution's own internal grievance procedures.