

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1299

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2019

Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields.

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 “21st Century STEM
5 for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO PREPARE GIRLS AND UNDERREP-**
 2 **RESENTED MINORITIES.**

3 Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education
 4 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) is amended by add-
 5 ing at the end the following:

6 **“PART G—PREPARING GIRLS AND UNDERREP-**
 7 **RESENTED MINORITIES FOR THE 21ST CEN-**
 8 **TURY**

9 **“SEC. 4701. PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 90
 11 days after the date of enactment of the 21st Century
 12 STEM for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act, the
 13 Secretary shall carry out a program under which the Sec-
 14 retary makes grants to qualified local educational agen-
 15 cies, on a competitive basis, to pay the costs of carrying
 16 out STEM education activities for girls and underrep-
 17 resented minorities as described in subsection (c).

18 “(b) APPLICATION.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
 20 grant under this part, a qualified local educational
 21 agency shall submit to the Secretary an application
 22 at such time, in such form, and containing such in-
 23 formation as the Secretary may reasonably require.
 24 At minimum, the application shall include a descrip-
 25 tion of the following:

1 “(A) The educational program that will be
2 carried out by the local educational agency
3 using the grant, including the content of the
4 program and the research and models used to
5 design the program.

6 “(B) How elementary schools and sec-
7 ondary schools served by the agency will col-
8 laborate to fulfill goals of the program.

9 “(C) How the agency will ensure that there
10 is a comprehensive plan to improve STEM edu-
11 cation for girls and underrepresented minorities
12 in grades kindergarten through grade 12.

13 “(D) The process that will be used for the
14 recruitment and selection of students for par-
15 ticipation in the program.

16 “(E) The instructional and motivational
17 activities that will be included as part of the
18 program.

19 “(F) Any expected collaboration among
20 local, regional, or national institutions and or-
21 ganizations for the purpose of fulfilling the
22 goals of the program.

23 “(2) PRIORITY.—In selecting among applica-
24 tions, the Secretary shall give priority to qualified
25 local educational agencies that partner or coordinate,

1 to the extent practicable, with local, regional, or na-
2 tional institutions and organizations that have exten-
3 sive experience and expertise in—

4 “(A) increasing the participation of girls or
5 underrepresented minorities in STEM fields; or

6 “(B) conducting research on methods to
7 increase such participation.

8 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—A qualified local educational
9 agency that receives a grant under this part shall use the
10 grant to carry out a STEM education program for girls
11 and underrepresented minorities from elementary schools
12 and secondary schools served by the agency. The program
13 may include the following activities:

14 “(1) Preparing girls and underrepresented mi-
15 norities for careers in STEM fields and the advan-
16 tages of pursuing careers in such fields.

17 “(2) Educating the families of girls and under-
18 represented minorities about the opportunities and
19 advantages of STEM careers.

20 “(3) Enlisting the help of the families of girls
21 and underrepresented minorities—

22 “(A) to overcome the obstacles faced by
23 such groups; and

24 “(B) to encourage their child’s continued
25 interest and involvement in STEM subjects.

1 “(4) Providing tutoring and mentoring pro-
2 grams in STEM subjects.

3 “(5) Establishing partnerships and other oppor-
4 tunities that expose girls and underrepresented mi-
5 norities to role models in the STEM fields.

6 “(6) Enabling girls and underrepresented mi-
7 nority students and their teachers to attend events
8 and academic programs in STEM subjects.

9 “(7) Providing after school and summer activi-
10 ties designed to encourage interest and develop the
11 skills of girls and underrepresented minorities in
12 STEM subjects.

13 “(8) Summer programs designed to help girls
14 and underrepresented minorities—

15 “(A) develop an interest in STEM sub-
16 jects;

17 “(B) develop skills in such subjects; and

18 “(C) understand the relevance and signifi-
19 cance of such subjects.

20 “(9) In accordance with subsection (d), pur-
21 chasing—

22 “(A) educational instructional materials or
23 software designed to help girls and underrep-
24 resented minorities develop an interest in
25 STEM subjects; or

1 “(B) equipment, instrumentation, or hard-
 2 ware for teaching STEM subjects to girls and
 3 underrepresented minorities and encouraging
 4 their interest in such subjects.

5 “(10) Field trips to locations, including institu-
 6 tions of higher education, to expose girls and under-
 7 represented minorities to STEM activities, encour-
 8 age their interest in such activities, and acquaint
 9 them with careers in STEM fields.

10 “(11) Providing academic advice and assistance
 11 in high school course selection to encourage girls and
 12 underrepresented minorities to take advanced
 13 courses in STEM subjects.

14 “(12) Paying up to 50 percent of the cost of an
 15 internship in a STEM discipline for girls and under-
 16 represented minority students.

17 “(13) Providing professional development for
 18 teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional
 19 support personnel, including with respect to—

20 “(A) eliminating gender, racial, and other
 21 biases in the classroom;

22 “(B) developing cultural competence;

23 “(C) sensitivity to gender and racial dif-
 24 ferences;

1 “(D) engaging students in the face of gen-
2 der-based and racial peer pressure and parental
3 expectations;

4 “(E) creating and maintaining a positive
5 environment; and

6 “(F) encouraging girls and underrep-
7 resented minorities through academic advice
8 and assistance to pursue advanced classes and
9 careers in STEM fields.

10 “(14) Such other STEM-related activities as
11 the local educational agency determines to be appro-
12 priate.

13 “(d) SPECIAL RULE.—A qualified local educational
14 agency shall not use more than 15 percent of grant funds
15 under this part for purchases described in subsection
16 (c)(9).

17 “(e) GRANT DURATION AND AMOUNT.—

18 “(1) DURATION.—Each grant under this sec-
19 tion shall be made for a period of 4 years.

20 “(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of each grant
21 under this section shall be \$250,000 for each year
22 of the grant period.

23 “(f) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A qualified
24 local educational agency that receives a grant under this
25 section shall use the grant only to supplement, and not

1 to supplant, other assistance and funds made available
 2 from non-Federal sources for the activities supported by
 3 the grant.

4 “(g) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

5 “(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 30
 6 days after last day of each school year for which a
 7 qualified local educational agency receives a grant
 8 under this section, the agency shall submit to the
 9 Secretary a written report regarding the program
 10 carried out using the grant.

11 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
 12 paragraph (1) shall include—

13 “(A) a description of the program and ac-
 14 tivities carried out using the grant;

15 “(B) a description of the curriculum and
 16 any partnerships developed using the grant;

17 “(C) the percentage of time that students
 18 who participated in the program spent directly
 19 engaged in STEM activities;

20 “(D) an assessment of the academic
 21 progress made by such students during the pro-
 22 gram, which shall be based on an evaluation of
 23 each student at the beginning of the program
 24 and after the student completes the program;

1 “(E) participant data disaggregated and
2 cross tabulated by race and gender; and

3 “(F) such other information as the Sec-
4 retary may require.

5 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) The term ‘STEM’ means science, tech-
7 nology, engineering, and mathematics, and is inclu-
8 sive of computer science.

9 “(2) The term ‘qualified local educational agen-
10 cy’ means a local educational agency or educational
11 service agency that—

12 “(A) receives funds under part A of title I;
13 and

14 “(B) serves a total student population of
15 which not less than 40 percent are children who
16 are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch
17 under the Richard B. Russell National School
18 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

19 “(3) The term ‘underrepresented minority’ in-
20 cludes an individual who is Black, Latino, Native
21 American, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,
22 or a child with a disability.

1 **“SEC. 4702. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this part \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
4 through 2023.”.

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