

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8681

To establish the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship to fund international internships and research placements for early- to mid-career professionals to study nonviolent movements to establish and protect civil rights around the world.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2022

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Ms. MACE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. DEAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship to fund international internships and research placements for early- to mid-career professionals to study nonviolent movements to establish and protect civil rights around the world.

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 “John Lewis Civil
5 Rights Fellowship Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. JOHN LEWIS CIVIL RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

2 The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act
3 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.) is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 115. JOHN LEWIS CIVIL RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PRO-**
6 **GRAM.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the
8 John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Program (referred to
9 in this section as the ‘Fellowship Program’) within the J.
10 William Fulbright Educational Exchange Program.

11 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Fellowship
12 Program are—

13 “(1) to honor the legacy of Representative John
14 Lewis by promoting a greater understanding of the
15 history and tenets of nonviolent civil rights move-
16 ments; and

17 “(2) to promote studies, research, and inter-
18 national exchange in the subject of nonviolent move-
19 ments that established and protected civil rights
20 around the world.

21 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Bureau of Educational
22 and Cultural Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Bu-
23 reau’) shall administer the Fellowship Program in accord-
24 ance with policy guidelines established by the Fulbright
25 Foreign Scholarship Board, in consultation with the bina-

1 tional Fulbright Commissions and United States Embas-
2 sies.

3 “(d) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall annually
5 select qualified individuals to participate in the Fel-
6 lowship Program. The Board may determine the
7 number of fellows selected each year, which shall be
8 not fewer than 25 whenever feasible.

9 “(2) OUTREACH.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau should
11 conduct outreach at organizations described in
12 subparagraph (B)—

13 “(i) to broaden the pool of qualified
14 applicants; and

15 “(ii) to facilitate, to the extent prac-
16 ticable, diversity within each cohort of fel-
17 lows.

18 “(B) ORGANIZATIONS DESCRIBED.—The
19 organizations described in this subparagraph
20 are—

21 “(i) minority serving institutions, in-
22 cluding historically Black colleges and uni-
23 versities; and

24 “(ii) other appropriate institutions, as
25 determined by the Board.

1 “(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

2 “(i) DIVERSITY.—The term ‘diversity’
3 means diversity of individuals based on
4 factors including race, color, religion, sex,
5 pregnancy, gender identity, national origin,
6 political affiliation, sexual orientation, mar-
7 ital status, disability, genetic information,
8 age, parental status, or military service.

9 “(ii) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE
10 AND UNIVERSITY.—The term ‘historically
11 Black college and university’ has the mean-
12 ing given the term ‘part B institution’ in
13 section 322 of the Higher Education Act
14 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

15 “(iii) MINORITY SERVING INSTITU-
16 TION.—The term ‘minority-serving institu-
17 tion’ means an eligible institution under
18 section 371(a) of the Higher Education
19 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

20 “(e) FELLOWSHIP ORIENTATION.—The Bureau shall
21 organize and administer a fellowship orientation that
22 shall—

23 “(1) be held in Washington, DC, or at another
24 location selected by the Bureau;

1 “(2) include programming to honor the legacy
2 of Representative John Lewis; and

3 “(3) be held on an annual basis not later than
4 30 days before the commencement of the fellowship
5 program.

6 “(f) STRUCTURE.—

7 “(1) WORK PLAN.—To carry out the purposes
8 described in subsection (b)(2)—

9 “(A) each fellow selected pursuant to sub-
10 section (d) shall arrange an internship or re-
11 search placement—

12 “(i) with a nongovernmental organiza-
13 tion, academic institution, or other organi-
14 zation approved by the Bureau; and

15 “(ii) in a country with an operational
16 Fulbright U.S. Student Program; and

17 “(B) the Bureau shall, for each fellow, ap-
18 prove a work plan that identifies the target ob-
19 jectives for the fellow, including specific duties
20 and responsibilities relating to those objectives.

21 “(2) CONFERENCES; PRESENTATIONS.—Each
22 fellow shall—

23 “(A) attend the fellowship orientation de-
24 scribed in subsection (e);

1 “(B) not later than the date that is one
2 year after the end of the fellowship period, at-
3 tend a fellowship summit organized and admin-
4 istered by the Bureau, which shall be held in
5 Atlanta, Georgia, or at another location of im-
6 portance to the civil rights movement in the
7 United States and selected by the Bureau; and

8 “(C) at such summit, give a presentation
9 on lessons learned during the period of fellow-
10 ship.

11 “(3) FELLOWSHIP PERIOD.—Each fellowship
12 under this section shall continue for a period deter-
13 mined by the Bureau, which shall be not shorter
14 than 10 months whenever feasible.

15 “(g) FELLOWSHIP AWARD.—The Bureau shall pro-
16 vide each fellow under this section with an allowance that
17 is equal to the amount needed for—

18 “(1) the fellow’s reasonable costs during the fel-
19 lowship period; and

20 “(2) travel and lodging expenses related to at-
21 tending the orientation and summit required under
22 subsection (e)(2).

23 “(h) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date
24 of the selection of the initial cohort of fellows under sub-
25 section (d), and on an annual basis thereafter, the Sec-

1 retary of State shall brief Congress on the state of the
2 Fellowship Program, including—

3 “(1) the demographics of the cohort of fellows
4 who completed a fellowship during the preceding 1-
5 year period;

6 “(2) an analysis of the diversity of the Fellow-
7 ship Program based on the demographics of each co-
8 hort of fellows who completed a fellowship by the
9 date of the briefing; and

10 “(3) an analysis of trends relating to the diver-
11 sity of the cohorts of fellows over the course of the
12 Fellowship Program.”.

13 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO**
14 **THE MUTUAL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL**
15 **EXCHANGE ACT OF 1961.**

16 Section 112(a) of the Mutual Educational and Cul-
17 tural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460(a)) is
18 amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “; and” and
20 inserting a semicolon;

21 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and
22 inserting “; and”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(10) the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship
25 Program established under section 115, which pro-

1 vides funding for international internships and re-
2 search placements for early- to mid-career individ-
3 uals from the United States to study nonviolent civil
4 rights movements in self-arranged placements with
5 universities or nongovernmental organizations in for-
6 eign countries.”.

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