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 science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY (for herself, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WATSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. LEE of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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 science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “21st Century STEM for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act”.

SEC. 2. GRANTS TO PREPARE GIRLS AND UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES.

Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART E—PREPARING GIRLS AND UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

“SEC. 5701. PROGRAM AUTHORITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From funds provided under section 5702, the Secretary is authorized to provide grants to, and enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, local educational agencies on behalf of elementary and secondary schools to establish and implement a program to encourage the ongoing interest of girls and underrepresented minorities in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology and to prepare girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees and careers in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology.

“(b) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant, or enter into a contract or cooperative agree-
ment, under this part, a local educational agency
shall submit an application to the Secretary at such
time, in such form, and containing such information
as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The application shall con-
tain, at a minimum, the following:

“(A) A program description, including the
content of the program and the research and
models used to design the program.

“(B) A description of the collaboration be-
tween elementary and secondary schools to ful-
fill goals of the program and how the applicant
will ensure that there is a comprehensive plan
to improve science, mathematics, engineering,
and technology education for girls and under-
represented minorities in grades kindergarten
through 12.

“(C) A description of the process for re-
cruitment and selection of participants.

“(D) A description of the planned instruc-
tional and motivational activities.

“(E) A description of any collaboration
among local, regional, or national institutions
and organizations that will occur in order to
fulfill the goals of the program.
“(3) PRIORITY.—In selecting among applications, the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that partner or coordinate, to the extent possible, with local, regional, or national institutions and organizations.

“(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds provided under this section shall be used for the following:

“(1) Acquainting and preparing girls and underrepresented minorities with careers in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology, and the advantages of pursuing careers in these areas.

“(2) Educating the parents of girls and underrepresented minorities about the opportunities and advantages of science, mathematics, engineering, and technology careers.

“(3) Enlisting the help of the parents of girls and unrepresented minorities in overcoming the obstacles these groups face and encouraging their child’s continued interest and involvement in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

“(4) Providing tutoring and mentoring programs in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

“(5) Enabling female and underrepresented minority students and their teachers to attend events
and academic programs in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

“(6) Providing after-school activities designed to encourage interest, and develop skills of girls and underrepresented minorities, in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

“(7) Summer programs designed to encourage interest, and develop skills of girls and underrepresented minorities, in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

“(8) Purchasing—

“(A) educational instructional materials or software designed to encourage interest of girls and underrepresented minorities in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology; or

“(B) equipment, instrumentation, or hardware used for teaching and to encourage interest of girls and underrepresented minorities in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

“(9) Field trips to locations, including institutions of higher education, to educate and encourage girls’ and underrepresented minorities’ interest in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology and acquaint them with careers in these fields.
'“(10) Providing academic advice and assistance in high school course selection that encourages girls and underrepresented minorities to take advanced courses in areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

“(11) Paying up to 50 percent of the cost of an internship in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology for female and underrepresented minority students.

“(12) Providing professional development for teachers and other school personnel, including—

“(A) how to eliminate gender and racial bias in the classroom;

“(B) how to be sensitive to gender and racial differences;

“(C) how to engage students in the face of gender-based and racial peer pressure and parental expectations;

“(D) how to create and maintain a positive environment; and

“(E) how to encourage girls and underserved minorities through academic advice and assistance to pursue advanced classes and careers in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology fields.
“(d) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—The Secretary shall require each local educational agency to use the assistance provided under this section only to supplement, and not to supplant, any other assistance or funds made available from non-Federal sources for the activities assisted under this section.

“(e) EVALUATIONS.—Each local educational agency that receives funds under this section shall provide the Secretary, at the conclusion of every school year during which the funds are received, with an evaluation, in a form prescribed by the Secretary. This evaluation shall include—

“(1) a description of the programs and activities conducted by the local educational agency using the funds;

“(2) data on curriculum and partnerships developed using the funds;

“(3) data on the amount of time spent on subjects allowed for under the grant; and

“(4) such other information as may be required by the Secretary.

“SEC. 5702. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2011 and such sums
as may be necessary for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.