

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5399

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support arts education at minority-serving institutions of higher education.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. THANEDAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support arts education at minority-serving institutions of higher education.

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 “Equitable Arts Edu-  
5       cation Enhancement Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) According to a 2021 study by Americans for  
9       the Arts, the arts are an invaluable aspect of Amer-

1        ican society, as they strengthen the economy, im-  
2        prove healthcare, spark creativity and innovation,  
3        and unify communities, with 73 percent of partici-  
4        pants agreeing that the arts help them to better un-  
5        derstand other cultures.

6            (2) The American Alliance of Museums found  
7        that “93 percent of museum directors are white, as  
8        are 92.6 percent of board chairs and 89.3 percent of  
9        board members”, reflecting a clear lack of diversity  
10       in the leadership of museums.

11           (3) Minority-serving institutions, or “MSIs”,  
12       are uniquely positioned to produce a diverse genera-  
13       tion of art professionals and help bring much needed  
14       attention to works by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous,  
15       People of Color) artists. MSIs have historically  
16       served as long-standing conservators and crucial  
17       supporters of artist from diverse backgrounds. At a  
18       time when diversity, equity, and inclusion are being  
19       targeted, the teaching, supporting, and displaying of  
20       essential Minority artists who may otherwise have  
21       remained unrecognized must be prioritized.

22           (4) Arts programs and arts departments are ex-  
23       pensive and have often fallen victim to funding  
24       shortfalls. In 2018, the College Art Association re-  
25       ported that at least 18 institutions of higher edu-

1 cation planned to severely curtail or eliminate their  
2 arts departments.

3 (5) An increased investment in MSI arts, arts  
4 education, and culture programs can further help  
5 Black, Indigenous, students of color access an af-  
6 fordable arts education and ensure the continued  
7 preparation, conservation, display, and study of  
8 works by Minority artists.

9 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education (re-  
11 ferred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall carry  
12 out a program under which the Secretary makes grants  
13 to minority-serving institutions, on a competitive basis, to  
14 support arts education at such institutions.

15 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
16 under this section, a minority-serving institution shall sub-  
17 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such  
18 manner, and containing such information as the Secretary  
19 may require.

20 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—A minority-serving institution  
21 that receives a grant under this section shall use such  
22 grant to support increased racial minority access to arts  
23 education at the institution, which may include—

1           (1) providing financial and other assistance to  
2           students in arts, arts education, and cultural pro-  
3           grams;

4           (2) establishing outreach programs and develop-  
5           ment offices for arts, arts education, and cultural  
6           departments;

7           (3) providing comprehensive wraparound serv-  
8           ices for arts, arts education, and cultural students,  
9           including faculty and peer mentorship, work-based  
10          learning opportunities, guidance counseling, and ca-  
11          reer advising;

12          (4) presenting and exhibiting art and perform-  
13          ances produced by minority-serving institutions, and  
14          maintaining, monitoring, and protecting minority art  
15          collections in exhibition and in storage;

16          (5) providing well-paid apprenticeship, intern-  
17          ship, and fellowship opportunities to students in  
18          arts, arts education, and cultural programs through  
19          partnerships with nonprofit arts, arts education, and  
20          cultural institutes;

21          (6) offering stipends to students in arts edu-  
22          cation preparation programs to enable such students  
23          to participate in clinical experiences;

24          (7) developing mentoring programs for future  
25          arts educators;

1           (8) providing training and stipends for mentor  
2 teachers; and

3           (9) paying for future arts educators and mentor  
4 teachers to participate in professional learning op-  
5 portunities offered by nonprofit arts education orga-  
6 nizations.

7       (d) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the appro-  
8 priate uses of funds under subsection (c), a minority-serv-  
9 ing institution shall give special consideration to uses of  
10 funds that directly benefit minority students.

11       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
12 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
13 necessary to carry out this section.

14 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

15       In this Act:

16           (1) The term “arts” means art forms used for  
17 self-expression and interpretation, including dance,  
18 music, theater, literary, visual, graphic, media arts,  
19 plastic, and decorative arts.

20           (2) The term “minority” means an individual  
21 from an underrepresented racial minority.

22           (3) The term “minority-serving institution”  
23 means an institution specified in section 371(a) of

1       the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
2       1067q(a)).

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