

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7894

To make improvements to the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholarship Act,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2026

Ms. STEFANIK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To make improvements to the Harry S Truman Memorial  
Scholarship Act, and for other purposes.

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 “Truman Scholarship  
5       Clean House Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       Section 3 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholar-  
8       ship Act (20 U.S.C. 2002) is amended—

9               (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through  
10              (6) as paragraphs (2) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

“(1) ‘affiliated with’, when used with respect to an individual’s relationship to a certain political party, means that the individual—

“(A) is a registered member of that political party;

“(B) is a current or former holder of elected public office from that political party;

“(C) is a current or former candidate for public office from that political party;

“(D) is a current or former political appointee associated with that political party;

“(E) is a current staffer of—

“(i) a holder of elected public office from that political party;

“(ii) a candidate of that political party; or

“(iii) a fundraising organization for such members or candidates; or

“(F) is a current or former judicial appointee nominated or otherwise selected by a holder of elected public office from that political party.”.

1 **SEC. 3. HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION.**

2 (a) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—Section 5 of the Harry  
3 S Truman Memorial Scholarship Act (20 U.S.C. 2004)  
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “The  
7 Board shall be composed of” and all that fol-  
8 lows through the end of subparagraph (D); and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(2) The Board shall be composed of 13 members,  
11 as follows:

12 “(A) One member appointed by the Speaker of  
13 the House of Representatives.

14 “(B) One member appointed by the minority  
15 leader of the House of Representatives.

16 “(C) One member appointed by the majority  
17 leader of the Senate.

18 “(D) One member appointed by the minority  
19 leader of the Senate.

20 “(E) Eight members, not more than four of  
21 whom may be affiliated with the same political party  
22 at the time of appointment, to be appointed by the  
23 President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

24 “(F) The Secretary of Education or the Sec-  
25 retary’s designee, who shall serve ex officio as a

1 member of the Board, but shall not be eligible to  
2 serve as Chairperson.”;

3 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-  
4 lows:

5 “(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the term  
6 of office of each member of the Board (other than Sec-  
7 retary of Education or the Secretary’s designee serving ex  
8 officio) shall be six years.

9 “(2) As designated by the President at the time of  
10 appointment, of the members first appointed under sub-  
11 section (b)(2)(E) after the date of enactment of this para-  
12 graph—

13 “(A) three shall be appointed for terms of two  
14 years;

15 “(B) three shall be appointed for terms of four  
16 years; and

17 “(C) two shall be appointed for terms of six  
18 years.

19 “(3) Any member of the Board appointed to fill a  
20 vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term for  
21 which the member’s predecessor was appointed, and shall  
22 be appointed in the same manner as the original appoint-  
23 ment for that vacancy was made.

24 “(4) No member of the Board (other than the Sec-  
25 retary of Education or the Secretary’s designee serving ex

1 officio) may serve more than two six-year terms, regard-  
2 less of whether the terms are consecutive. A member de-  
3 scribed in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) who  
4 serves an initial term of less than six years, may serve  
5 up to two additional six-year terms following the expira-  
6 tion of such member's initial term.”; and

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

8 “(e) Seven members of the Board shall constitute a  
9 quorum.”.

10 (b) TRANSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION.—

11 (1) DISSOLUTION OF EXISTING BOARD OF  
12 TRUSTEES.—Effective on the date that is 90 days  
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board  
14 of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship  
15 Foundation (as established under section 5 of the  
16 Harry S Truman Memorial Scholarship Act (20  
17 U.S.C. 2004)) is dissolved and all members of the  
18 Board are terminated.

19 (2) APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.—As  
20 soon as practicable after the effective date specified  
21 in paragraph (1), new members shall be appointed  
22 to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman  
23 Scholarship Foundation in accordance with section 5  
24 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholarship Act  
25 (20 U.S.C. 2004), as amended by subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 4. SELECTION OF TRUMAN SCHOLARS.**

2 Section 7 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholar-  
3 ship Act (20 U.S.C. 2006) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) by inserting “the eligibility require-  
6 ments described in subsection (c) and” before  
7 “minimum criteria”; and

8 (B) by inserting “in accordance with sub-  
9 section (d)(4)” before the period at the end;

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(c) A student is eligible to be nominated for a schol-  
12 arship under this Act if such student—

13 “(1) is—

14 “(A) a full-time undergraduate student en-  
15 rolled at an institution of higher education who  
16 will receive a bachelor’s degree in the academic  
17 year following the academic year in which the  
18 student is applying for a scholarship; or

19 “(B) a full-time senior level student from  
20 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or from The  
21 Islands (as defined in section 1801.2(b) of title  
22 45, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on  
23 the date of the enactment of this subsection));

24 “(2) is enrolled in a course of study that quali-  
25 fies the student for admission to a graduate pro-  
26 gram leading to a career in public service;

1           “(3) has a demonstrated record of academic ex-  
2           cellence; and

3           “(4) is a citizen or national of the United  
4           States or a permanent resident of the Common-  
5           wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6           “(d)(1) The Foundation shall establish and maintain  
7           Regional Review Panels for purposes of carrying out sub-  
8           section (a).

9           “(2) Each Regional Review Panel shall be responsible  
10          for selecting scholarship recipients from one or more  
11          States assigned to the Panel by the Board.

12          “(3)(A) Each Regional Review Panel shall consist of  
13          not fewer than five members, each of whom shall be ap-  
14          pointed on an annual basis by an affirmative vote of not  
15          less than two-thirds of the members of the Board.

16          “(B) Not more than half of the members of a Re-  
17          gional Review Panel may be affiliated with the same polit-  
18          ical party at the time of appointment.

19          “(4) In selecting students to be scholarship recipients  
20          under this Act, each Regional Review Panel—

21          “(A) shall select students based on—

22                  “(i) the extent and quality of community service  
23                  and government involvement of the student;

24                  “(ii) the leadership record of the student;

1           “(iii) the academic performance of the student,  
2           including with respect to and writing and analytical  
3           skills; and

4           “(iv) the suitability and appropriateness of the  
5           student’s proposed graduate program of study for a  
6           career in public service;

7           “(B) shall not select any student who—

8           “(i) served as a leader, officer, director, or or-  
9           ganizer of a student organization recognized by the  
10          institution of higher education at which the student  
11          is enrolled at time of an incident or conduct that led  
12          to the suspension or expulsion of such organization  
13          from such institution;

14          “(ii) has been suspended or expelled by an insti-  
15          tution of higher education due to a violation of such  
16          institution’s code of conduct or other disciplinary ac-  
17          tion by such institution; or

18          “(iii) has been convicted by any Federal, State,  
19          or local court of competent jurisdiction of a felony;  
20          and

21          “(C) may not disfavor or otherwise apply adverse con-  
22          siderations to a student because the student intends to  
23          pursue a particular type of graduate degree, including  
24          with respect to a Master of Business Administration de-  
25          gree or Doctor of Medicine degree.”.



1 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP.**

2 Section 9 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholar-  
3 ship Act (20 U.S.C. 2008) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “in accord-  
5 ance with subsection (c) and” after “provided in this  
6 Act”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(c)(1) In accordance with paragraph (2), a student  
9 awarded a scholarship under the provisions of this Act  
10 may not continue to receive the payments provided in this  
11 Act if, at any point after the date on which the scholarship  
12 is received, the student—

13 “(A) with respect to a report or request re-  
14 quired by the Foundation—

15 “(i) fails to submit such a report or re-  
16 quest; or

17 “(ii) provides false, misleading, or materi-  
18 ally incomplete information on any such report  
19 or request;

20 “(B) fails to begin use of the scholarship within  
21 four years of the date of receipt of a bachelor’s de-  
22 gree, unless granted an extension in writing by the  
23 Foundation;

24 “(C) serves as a leader, officer, director, or or-  
25 ganizer of a student organization recognized by the  
26 institution of higher education at which the student

1 is enrolled at time of an incident or conduct that  
2 leads to the suspension or expulsion of such organi-  
3 zation from such institution;

4 “(D) is suspended or expelled by the institution  
5 of higher education at which the student is enrolled  
6 due to a violation of the institution’s code of conduct  
7 or other disciplinary action by the institution; or

8 “(E) is convicted by any Federal, State, or local  
9 court of competent jurisdiction of a felony.

10 “(2)(A) The Foundation may not stop the payments  
11 provided in this Act without first affording the student—

12 “(i) reasonable notice, which shall include the  
13 reason for stopping such payments identified under  
14 subsection (a) or subsection (c)(1) and any addi-  
15 tional relevant information, as determined by the  
16 Foundation; and

17 “(ii) opportunity for a hearing.

18 “(B) If the Foundation, after reasonable notice and  
19 opportunity for hearing, finds that a student does not  
20 meet the conditions of receiving payment in accordance  
21 with subsection (a) or subsection (c)(1), the Foundation  
22 shall—

23 “(i) stop the payments provided in this Act for  
24 such student; and

1           “(ii) provide written notice to such student,  
 2           which shall include the reason for stopping such pay-  
 3           ments identified under subsection (a) or subsection  
 4           (c)(1) and any additional relevant information, as  
 5           determined by the Foundation.

6           “(d) A student whose payments are stopped pursuant  
 7           to subsection (a) or subsection (c)(1) or an individual who  
 8           fails to be employed in public service for three out of the  
 9           first seven years of employment following completion of  
 10          the graduate degree for which the individual used such  
 11          payments shall repay to the Foundation an amount equal  
 12          to the sum of—

13           “(1) the total amount of payments provided in  
 14          this Act to such student; and

15           “(2) interest at the rate of 6 percent per  
 16          annum on the total amount described in paragraph  
 17          (1).

18          “(e) The Foundation shall ensure all scholarship re-  
 19          cipients are notified of the conditions that apply to receiv-  
 20          ing payments provided in this Act as described in this sec-  
 21          tion, prior to the date of the first such payment.”.

22   **SEC. 6. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF FOUNDATION.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12 of the Harry S Tru-  
 24          man Memorial Scholarship Act (20 U.S.C. 2011) is  
 25          amended—

1           (1) in subsection (a), by striking “who shall be  
2           appointed by the Board” and inserting “who shall be  
3           appointed by an affirmative vote of not less than  
4           two-thirds of the members of the Board”; and

5           (2) by adding at the end the following:

6           “(c) The Executive Secretary shall serve a term of  
7   4 years and may be reappointed to up to two additional  
8   terms of four years in accordance with subsection (a).”.

9           (b) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after a  
10   quorum of the members of the Board of Trustees of the  
11   Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation have been ap-  
12   pointed in accordance with section 3(b)(2) of this Act, the  
13   Board shall appoint an Executive Secretary of the Foun-  
14   dation in accordance with section 12 of the Harry S Tru-  
15   man Memorial Scholarship Act (20 U.S.C. 2011), as  
16   amended by subsection (a).

17          (c) SERVICE OF INCUMBENT.—The individual serving  
18   as Executive Secretary of the Harry S Truman Scholar-  
19   ship Foundation as of the date of enactment of this Act  
20   may only continue serving in such position until the earlier  
21   of—

22           (1) the date on which the Board of Trustees of  
23           the Foundation appoints a new Executive Secretary  
24           in accordance with subsection (b); or

1           (2) the expiration of the 90 day period begin-  
2           ning on the date that a quorum of the members of  
3           the Board have been appointed in accordance with  
4           section 3(b)(2).

5 **SEC. 7. TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS.**

6           Section 13 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholar-  
7           ship Act (20 U.S.C. 2012) is amended by adding at the  
8           end the following:

9           “(c)(1) The Foundation shall preserve in unaltered  
10          format, and make available on a publicly accessible website  
11          of the Foundation, the following materials of the Founda-  
12          tion:

13                       “(A) Press releases.

14                       “(B) Program announcements.

15                       “(C) Biographies of scholarship recipients.

16          “(2) The materials described in paragraph (1) may  
17          not be deleted, hidden, or password-protected.

18          “(3) Any edits made to the materials described in  
19          paragraph (1) after such materials were initially published  
20          shall be clearly identified and, in a case in which an edit  
21          has been made to such materials, a copy of the original,  
22          unaltered materials shall remain available to the public on  
23          a website of the Foundation.

1       “(4) The requirements of this subsection shall apply  
2 to any materials published by the Foundation before, on,  
3 or after the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

4 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.**

5       (a) **APPLICABILITY.**—This Act and the amendments  
6 made by this Act shall apply only with respect to scholar-  
7 ships awarded under the Harry S Truman Memorial  
8 Scholarship Act (20 U.S.C. 2002) on or after the date  
9 of enactment of this Act.

10       (b) **TREATMENT OF PREVIOUSLY AWARDED SCHOL-**  
11 **ARSHIPS.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made  
12 by this Act shall be construed to invalidate or revoke, or  
13 alter the terms and conditions of, a scholarship that was  
14 awarded under the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholar-  
15 ship Act (20 U.S.C. 2002) before the date of enactment  
16 of this Act. The Harry S Truman foundation shall take  
17 such steps as may be necessary to continue to fund and  
18 administer such previously awarded scholarships.

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