

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4800

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. OSSOFF, and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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 Board, in
25 consultation with the binational Fulbright Commissions
26 and United States Embassies.

1 “(d) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—

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

7 “(2) OUTREACH.—

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

11 “(i) to broaden the pool of qualified
12 applicants; and

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

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

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

22 “(ii) other appropriate institutions, as
23 determined by the Board.

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

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

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

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

19 “(e) FELLOWSHIP ORIENTATION.—Annually, and
 20 not later than 30 days before the commencement of the
 21 fellowship for the cohort of fellows most recently selected
 22 under subsection (d), the Bureau shall organize and ad-
 23 minister a fellowship orientation, which shall—

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

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

3 “(f) STRUCTURE.—

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

6 “(A) each fellow selected pursuant to sub-
7 section (d) shall arrange an internship or re-
8 search placement—

9 “(i) with a nongovernmental organiza-
10 tion, academic institution, or other organi-
11 zation approved by the Bureau; and

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

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

18 “(2) CONFERENCES; PRESENTATIONS.—Each
19 fellow shall—

20 “(A) before commencing the fellowship, at-
21 tend a fellowship orientation organized and ad-
22 ministered by the Bureau under subsection (e);

23 “(B) not later than the date that is 1 year
24 after the end of the fellowship period, attend a
25 fellowship summit organized and administered

1 by the Bureau, which shall be held in Atlanta,
2 Georgia, or at another location of importance to
3 the civil rights movement in the United States
4 and selected by the Bureau; and

5 “(C) at such summit, give a presentation
6 on lessons learned during the period of fellow-
7 ship.

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

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

15 “(1) the reasonable costs of the fellow during
16 the fellowship period; and

17 “(2) travel and lodging expenses related to at-
18 tending the orientation and summit required under
19 subsection (e)(2).

20 “(h) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date
21 of the selection of the initial cohort of fellows under sub-
22 section (d), and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State
23 shall brief Congress on the state of the Fellowship Pro-
24 gram, including—

1 “(1) a description of the demographics of the
 2 cohort of fellows that completed a fellowship during
 3 the preceding 1-year period;

4 “(2) an analysis of the diversity of fellows based
 5 on the demographics of each cohort of fellows that
 6 completed a fellowship as of the date of the briefing;
 7 and

8 “(3) an analysis of trends relating to the diver-
 9 sity of each cohort of fellows over the course of the
 10 Fellowship Program.”.

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

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

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

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

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

22 “(10) the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship
 23 Program established under section 115, which pro-
 24 vides funding for international internships and re-
 25 search placements for early- to mid-career individ-

1 uals from the United States to study nonviolent civil
2 rights movements in self-arranged placements with
3 universities or nongovernmental organizations in for-
4 eign countries.”.

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