

and ranking members as to how to work together to get good things done for the American people because that is what most Americans care about. They don't care about our political stripes; they want to know: What are you doing for the American people? And we have shown and led by example.

It is going to be hard for me to watch you, Mr. Chairman, leave this Chamber. You are my favorite chairman. But there is so much to celebrate with your time in Congress and the legacy that you will leave behind. So from the bottom of my heart to my dear friend, Chairman ENGEL, and to your wonderful wife Pat, who I have gotten to know over the years, who is a beautiful, precious woman, let me just say that both of you will truly be missed. We will miss you, but we know you are not going to be far away. And we know that you will be there in the future. And I look forward to working with you in your future position, which we discussed over dinner last Saturday night with Ed Royce, as well, your other dear friend, who has my utmost respect.

I would say this: Sometimes you have respect for a chairman because you fear them. We have respect for you because we admire you because you are an honest, decent man, and you are a true leader. You lead by example, and people want to follow a good man like that. You are a good man, Mr. Chairman, and it has been a great experience the time we have had together.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, we can no longer deny the Chinese Communist Party is an enemy of democracy and a threat to international security and to freedom.

Nowhere is that more clear than in Hong Kong.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the CCP's brutal crackdown on freedom and democracy there.

That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Hong Kong People's Freedom and Choice Act.

With this legislation, we have the opportunity to assist the freedom-loving people of Hong Kong and to remind the world the United States of America stands with anyone who stands for freedom.

I thank my friends and colleagues, Congressmen MALINOWSKI and KINZINGER and, most importantly, the chairman, Chairman ENGEL, for their hard work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

I want to first comment on some of the things that my good friend Mr. MCCAUL said. I am touched by his statement. I am touched by the work we have done together. It has been a

pleasure. And I think that the way we work on the Foreign Affairs Committee is the way I think all committees should work and Congress should work. I think people are tired of fighting and people want to see us work together.

It has been a pleasure for me to be chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and it has been a pleasure for me to work with such good people like Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

Saturday night we, as you alluded to, we got together for dinner, actually in your house, with Mr. Royce, as well, and we had a very good time. Most of the time we talked about work, but many of the other times we just talked about our relationships and the general direction that we would like to see the United States take in the international field.

It is very difficult to leave a place that you love. I have been fortunate to have spent 32 years in this robust body. These have been the 32 best years of my life, and something that I will always remember. I will remember it because we have done good work for people. We have done good work for Americans. We have done good work for people around the world. But I will remember it even more because of the good friends that I met, friends like Mr. MCCAUL who work hard, who reach out to the other side of the aisle.

And you know what, when you get together with people on the other side of the aisle, you realize that you have so much in common with them that perhaps you didn't even realize because the truth of the matter is, here in Congress, if somebody is not on your committee and they are from the other party, you hardly ever get to see them. You hardly ever get to know them. You hardly ever get to be able to work with them. I have tried to change that. So has Mr. MCCAUL. And we have succeeded. We really have succeeded.

I hope that the rest of the Congress in the years to come will see what we have done and will try to emulate us and try to do things that really push the government and the people of this great country to work together on issues because we all want the same thing for this wonderful country. We are all pleased to serve this wonderful country. And we want to make sure that others will get all of the benefits that we have, as well, being able to just be free, support freedom, and work together.

In closing, I want to, again, say to Mr. MCCAUL that it is a pleasure working with you. It has been a pleasure. But we are going to continue to do other things together. And I hope that all our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will see what we have done on the Foreign Affairs Committee and try to do the same thing. People want us to work together. We may disagree on issues. That is what this body is for. But I don't disagree with anybody's right to say what they want, and I don't disagree with people wanting to let everyone know how strongly they feel about the issues.

To Mr. MCCAUL, my good friend, I hope you will invite me back for dinner. It has been a pleasure being your friend. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Again, the Foreign Affairs Committee has just been a wonderful place. It was the first committee which I joined when I came to this body 32 years ago.

So I tell my friends that I am not going away. I will be around. And, hopefully, we can continue all the good things that we have done like this bill, the national security law. It is a devastating blow to the cause of human rights, democracy, and prosperity in Hong Kong. It is the national security law that Beijing has forced Hong Kong to swallow. It is a blow to the cause of human rights. We will not countenance it. H.R. 8428 opens America's doors to Hong Kongers searching for freedom from Beijing's aggression.

I once again thank Mr. MALINOWSKI for authoring this legislation, which not only protects U.S. interests but supports the people of Hong Kong whose independence has slowly been stripped away from them.

Again, let me thank all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It has been a pleasure working with you. Let me especially thank my friend, Mr. MCCAUL. In working together, we are going to make sure that the American people get the kind of government they deserve, get the kind of things that they deserve.

This is a wonderful country, and we are fortunate to be representing our home districts in this country. So let me say, God bless America. God bless all the people in our country who work every day, who want help.

We are undergoing difficulty right now with the virus in this country, but as Americans we will persevere, and we will continue to have our role as the leaders of the free world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8428, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1330

HBCU PROPELLING AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS TOWARDS A NEW ERA OF RESULTS FOR STUDENTS ACT

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 461) to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of historically Black colleges and universities through robust public-sector, private-sector, and

community partnerships and engagement, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 461

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “HBCU Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students Act” or the “HBCU PARTNERS Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) As many colleges and universities across the country kept their doors closed to African American applicants, historically Black colleges and universities (referred to in this section as “HBCUs”) played a central role in ensuring that African Americans could attain an excellent education.

(2) Today, HBCUs continue to play a critical role in ensuring that African Americans, and those of all races, can access high-quality educational opportunities.

(3) HBCUs enroll nearly 300,000 students, an estimated 70 percent of whom come from low-income backgrounds and 80 percent of whom are African American.

(4) According to the National Association For Equal Opportunity In Higher Education (referred to in this section as “NAFEO”), HBCUs make up just 3 percent of American institutions of higher education but serve more than a fifth of African American college students.

(5) According to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (referred to in this section as “TMCF”), approximately 9 percent of all African American college students attend HBCUs.

(6) A March 2017 report from the Education Trust concluded that HBCUs have higher completion rates for African American students than other institutions serving similar student populations.

(7) According to TMCF, 40 percent of African American Members of Congress, 50 percent of African American lawyers, and 80 percent of African American judges are graduates of HBCUs.

(8) According to NAFEO, HBCUs graduate approximately 50 percent of African American public school teaching professionals.

(9) According to the United Negro College Fund (referred to in this section as “UNCF”), African American graduates of HBCUs are almost twice as likely as African Americans who graduated from other institutions to report that their university prepared them well for life.

(10) According to a study commissioned by UNCF, in 2014, HBCUs generated a total direct economic impact of \$14,800,000,000 and created more than 134,000 jobs.

(11) According to a 2019 report produced by the American Council on Education and UNCF, despite efforts to counter a historical legacy of inequitable funding and notable investments by the Federal Government and many State governments, resource inequities continue to plague HBCUs.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of HBCUs to fulfill their principal mission of equalizing educational opportunity, as described in section 301(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051(b));

(2) to align HBCUs with the educational and economic competitiveness priorities of the United States;

(3) to provide students enrolled at HBCUs with the highest quality educational and economic opportunities;

(4) to bolster and facilitate productive interactions between HBCUs and Federal agencies; and

(5) to encourage HBCU participation in and benefit from Federal programs, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPLICABLE AGENCY.—The term “applicable agency” means—

(A) the Department of Agriculture;
(B) the Department of Commerce;
(C) the Department of Defense;
(D) the Department of Education;
(E) the Department of Energy;
(F) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(G) the Department of Homeland Security;
(H) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(I) the Department of the Interior;
(J) the Department of Justice;
(K) the Department of Labor;
(L) the Department of State;
(M) the Department of Transportation;
(N) the Department of Treasury;
(O) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
(P) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(Q) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
(R) the National Science Foundation;
(S) the Small Business Administration; and

(T) any other Federal agency designated as an applicable agency under section 4.

(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The term “Executive Director” means—

(A) the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as designated by the President; or

(B) if no such Executive Director is designated, such person as the President may designate to lead the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

(3) HBCU.—The term “HBCU” means a historically Black college or university.

(4) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or university” has the meaning given the term “part B institution” under section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

(5) PRESIDENT’S BOARD OF ADVISORS.—The term “President’s Board of Advisors” means the President’s Board of Advisors on historically Black colleges and universities.

(6) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(7) WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE.—The term “White House Initiative” means the White House Initiative on historically Black colleges and universities.

SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING HBCUS THROUGH FEDERAL AGENCY PLANS.

(a) DESIGNATING APPLICABLE AGENCIES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Executive Director, shall—

(1) identify each Federal agency with which an HBCU—

(A) has entered into a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement; or

(B) is eligible to participate in the programs and initiatives under the jurisdiction of such Federal agency; and

(2) designate each Federal agency so identified as an applicable agency.

(b) SUBMITTING AGENCY PLANS.—Not later than February 1 of each year, the head of each applicable agency shall submit to the Secretary, the Executive Director, the Com-

mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, and the President’s Board of Advisors an annual Agency Plan describing efforts to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to participate or be eligible to participate in the programs and initiatives under the jurisdiction of such applicable agency as described in subsection (a)(1)(B).

(c) FURTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION AND ACCESSIBILITY.—The Executive Director shall make all annual Agency Plan submissions publicly available online in a user-friendly format.

(d) AGENCY PLAN CONTENT.—Where appropriate, each Agency Plan shall include—

(1) a description of how the applicable agency intends to increase the capacity of HBCUs to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements;

(2) an identification of Federal programs and initiatives under the jurisdiction of the applicable agency in which HBCUs are under-represented;

(3) an outline of proposed efforts to improve HBCUs’ participation in such programs and initiatives;

(4) a description of any progress made towards advancing or achieving goals and efforts from previous Agency Plans submitted under this section by such applicable agency;

(5) a description of how the applicable agency plans to encourage public-sector, private-sector, and community involvement to improve the capacity of HBCUs to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, and to participate in programs and initiatives under the jurisdiction of such agency;

(6) an identification of programs and initiatives not listed in a previous Agency Plan in which an HBCU may participate;

(7) any other information the applicable agency determines is relevant to promoting opportunities to fund, partner, contract, or otherwise interact with HBCUs; and

(8) any additional criteria established by the Secretary or the White House Initiative.

(e) AGENCY ENGAGEMENT.—To help fulfill the objectives of the Agency Plans, the head of each applicable agency—

(1) shall provide, as appropriate, technical assistance and information to the Executive Director to enhance communication with HBCUs concerning the applicable agency’s—

(A) programs and initiatives described in subsection (d)(2); and

(B) the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements; and

(2) shall appoint a senior official to report directly to the agency head on the applicable agency’s progress under this section.

SEC. 5. PRESIDENT’S BOARD OF ADVISORS ON HBCUS.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established the President’s Board of Advisors on historically Black colleges and universities in the Department of Education or, if the President so elects, within the Executive Office of the President.

(2) FUNDING FROM ED.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall provide funding and administrative support for the President’s Board of Advisors, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(3) FUNDING FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.—If the President elects to locate the President’s Board of Advisors within the Executive Office of the President, the Executive Office of the President shall provide funding and administrative support for the President’s Board of Advisors, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint not more than 23 members to the President's Board of Advisors, and the Secretary and Executive Director or their designees shall serve as ex officio members.

(2) CHAIR.—

(A) DESIGNATION.—The President shall designate one member of the President's Board of Advisors to serve as its Chair, who shall help direct the Board's work in coordination with the Secretary and in consultation with the Executive Director.

(B) CONSULTATION.—The Chair shall also consult with the Executive Director regarding the time and location of meetings of the President's Board of Advisors, which shall take place not less frequently than once every 6 months.

(C) PERFORMANCE.—Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) may apply to the President's Board of Advisors, any functions of the President under such Act, except for those of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Chair, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(3) COMPENSATION.—Members of the President's Board of Advisors shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law.

(c) MISSION AND FUNCTIONS.—The President's Board of Advisors shall advise the President, through the White House Initiative, on all matters pertaining to strengthening the educational capacity of HBCUs, which shall include the following:

(1) Improving the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities, and overall competitiveness of HBCUs.

(2) Engaging the philanthropic, business, government, military, homeland-security, and education communities in a national dialogue regarding new HBCU programs and initiatives.

(3) Improving the ability of HBCUs to remain fiscally secure institutions that can assist the Nation in achieving its educational goals and in advancing the interests of all Americans.

(4) Elevating the public awareness of, and fostering appreciation of, HBCUs.

(5) Encouraging public-private investments in HBCUs.

(6) Improving government-wide strategic planning related to HBCU competitiveness to align Federal resources and provide the context for decisions about HBCU partnerships, investments, performance goals, priorities, human capital development, and budget planning.

(d) REPORT.—The President's Board of Advisors shall report annually to the President on the Board's progress in carrying out its duties under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 461, the HBCU PARTNERS Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 461, the HBCU PARTNERS Act, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, today is a special day for bipartisanship and for equity, access, and inclusion.

For centuries, this country has made promises to the African-American community that have gone largely unmet: promises of freedom, promises of justice, and promises of equal opportunity.

So, today, we vote for a fighting chance to rectify this history and the impacts it has had on the Black community. Today, we vote to give HBCUs and the communities they serve a real permanent seat at the table with the President of the United States and our Nation's Federal agencies.

You see, like the people of color they serve, HBCUs are embedded in the fabric of this Nation and they play a vital role in its prosperity. While countless other institutions have often fallen short, HBCUs have long been the means of delivering on our Nation's promise of freedom and opportunity for all, especially for communities of color.

For generations, these schools have fought to deliver for African Americans what is owed to them, a first-class education and a fair shot at pursuing happiness.

While only representing roughly 3 percent of all 4-year colleges and universities, HBCUs produce upwards of 17 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans. HBCU graduates account for 42 percent of all Black engineers and 47 percent of all Black female engineers.

What is more, these institutions produce 27 percent of all African-American STEM graduates, 50 percent of all African-American lawyers, 50 percent of all African-American public schoolteachers, and 80 percent of all African-American judges.

Further, research has found that HBCUs are more successful at boosting students out of the lowest income distributions than other institutions of higher education.

In fact, nearly 70 percent of students of HBCUs attain at least middle class incomes after graduation, including nearly 70 percent of low-income students.

On an annual basis, HBCUs contribute nearly \$15 billion to the economy, produce 134,000 jobs, and create \$46.8 billion in alumni career earnings that can be directly attributed to their degrees.

HBCUs are clearly centers of advancement and excellence in this country. It is important to note that this incredible success has been achieved despite over a century of systemic underfunding at both the State and Federal levels.

That is why my bill, the HBCU PARTNERS Act, is so very crucial. This legislation will require every administration and the Federal agencies it manages to plan and coordinate, on an annual basis, their efforts to strategically engage in investing in HBCUs.

This bill also strengthens the rigor and transparency requirements of existing law, requiring that agencies track their progress toward goals concerning HBCUs and share their plans to advance them with Congress.

In addition, it codifies the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs, ensuring an ongoing avenue for HBCU priorities and policy concerns to be raised and addressed.

In other words, this legislation provides us with an opportunity to commit to HBCUs in the same way they have committed to the well-being and prosperity of our country. And in a very real way, it provides us with a chance to try to honor our Nation's promises.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 461, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities—HBCU—PARTNERS Act, which stands for Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students.

This legislation is a result of bipartisan, bicameral collaboration and executive leadership across administrations. Executive orders on HBCUs began under Jimmy Carter and have evolved with each succeeding President.

In 1989, George H.W. Bush established the first President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs and the White House Initiative on HBCUs.

In February 2017, President Trump built upon these historic efforts and issued an executive order to promote excellence and innovation at HBCUs. S. 461 would codify President Trump's executive order to pave a brighter and stronger path forward for HBCUs.

Notably, this bill established the President's Board of Advisors, a 23-member board responsible for advising the President and reporting on strengthening the educational capacity and economic offerings of HBCUs.

The board will also work closely with the White House Initiative on HBCUs to make recommendations to improve overall competitiveness of HBCUs, their ability to remain financially secure, how to elevate public awareness and appreciation of HBCUs, and more.

Federal agencies will collaborate with the White House Initiative on HBCUs, and each agency will work to increase the capacity of HBCUs to compete effectively for Federal grants and contracts and to participate in Federal programs.

As a member of the Education & Labor Committee, I have spent time learning about the ways in which HBCUs serve our country's students and higher education community. I know I speak for many on the committee and in this Chamber when I say that HBCUs play a critical role in preparing our country's next generation of leaders and innovators.

This legislation before us today will empower HBCUs' education and economic offerings so they can continue

erving students, families, and communities across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for his kind remarks and support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the chairman of the Committee on Education & Labor and a tremendous supporter of education.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I rise in support of S. 461, as amended, the HBCU PARTNERS Act.

Since their inception, HBCUs have been engines of social mobility and a cornerstone of secondary education for underserved students, particularly Black students from low-income backgrounds.

Today, HBCUs account for no more than 3 percent of all colleges and universities in the country, yet these institutions, as we have heard, produce nearly 20 percent of all Black undergraduates, half of all Black professionals, and one-third of all Black STEM degree earners.

Despite this outsized role in expanding access to higher education, HBCUs continue to be underresourced compared to other institutions of higher learning.

This historic lack of support is being further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as HBCUs disproportionately suffer from dramatically lower enrollment and State funding.

Mr. Speaker, there is simply no better time to support these critical institutions than by passing this legislation before us today.

The HBCUs PARTNERS Act would ensure that our Federal agencies actively work with HBCUs to advance their critical mission of opening the door to higher education for students across the country.

This bipartisan bill demonstrates that regardless of political affiliation, we can all agree that during this dark hour in our higher education system, our Nation’s HBCUs are an investment worth making.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER), and the entire bipartisan HBCU Caucus for their work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER), my friend, for yielding.

I rise today in strong support of S. 461, the HBCU PARTNERS Act, intro-

duced by my friend from South Carolina in the Senate, Senator TIM SCOTT; and my good friend here in the House, Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS of North Carolina; and a strong bipartisan group, including my good friend from Virginia, our chairman of the Education & Labor Committee.

Mr. Speaker, HBCUs play a critical role in the education of our young people in this country. Throughout their history, they have helped students achieve the dream of a college education and their unique start to that pursuit of happiness.

In our central Arkansas region, we are blessed with four outstanding HBCUs, including Arkansas Baptist College, Philander Smith College, Shorter College, and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

As the vice chairman of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus, I am encouraged by the legislation that we consider today because it draws on partnerships—public, private, community—to strengthen our HBCUs. This has been a key for success of our HBCUs in Arkansas.

Inspired by the strong Federal consensus both in the executive branch and the legislative branch, last year I sponsored and hosted the first regional HBCU Summit in Little Rock to foster public- and private-sector partnerships to enhance our HBCUs for philanthropy, student recruitment and advancement, and workforce partnerships and apprenticeships.

I am committed to supporting our HBCUs to help them continue to graduate Americans who are prepared for a competitive global environment.

Every student in America deserves the opportunity to succeed. For thousands of students in Arkansas and across the country, HBCUs offer those young people the key tools to help them succeed in that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends on the HBCU Caucus, Chair ADAMS; our friend from Pennsylvania; and, of course, the chairman.

□ 1345

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The HBCU PARTNERS Act is a culmination of leadership from both Republican and Democrat administrations. This bill has been crafted with bipartisan, bicameral input and, more importantly, with input from HBCU groups themselves.

HBCUs are a critical part of America’s postsecondary education system. Today’s legislation will renew our commitment to these institutions and empower HBCUs to continue providing countless men and women opportunities to pursue their dreams.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 13½ minutes remaining.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank both of the gentlemen for their support of this bill.

Clearly, I have to put on the record, as I continue to do, that I am a proud two-time graduate of an HBCU, North Carolina A&T State University, and I spent 40 years teaching at an HBCU in Greensboro, North Carolina, Bennett College. It was an HBCU that made a committed investment in me as I prepared to come to college and molded and shaped me into what they knew I could become.

Mr. Speaker, despite limited means, HBCUs have always generously served their communities because they understand the critical role that they play in advancing equity and access. They build on the philosophy of W.E.B. DuBois, who talked about education and said: “Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental.”

The HBCU PARTNERS Act recognizes these fundamental rights and these contributions in the most important way possible, by affording these institutions the ongoing support and investment needed to deepen their transformational work.

Advancing the mission of HBCUs and the prosperity of the communities they serve must be on the minds of our country’s leaders. More importantly, it must be part of their agendas.

If America wants to deliver on its promises of equal opportunity for all, investing in HBCUs is certainly one of the most important ways to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 461, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

STOP STUDENT DEBT RELIEF SCAMS ACT OF 2019

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1153) to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of identification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act.