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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish the Ronald V. Dellums Memorial Fellowship for Women of Color in STEAM fields, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish the Ronald V. Dellums Memorial Fellowship for Women of Color in STEAM fields, 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 “Ronald V. Dellums
5 Memorial Fellowship for Women of Color in STEAM and
6 National Security Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) From 1993 to 1995, Ronald V. Dellums
2 served as the Chairman of the Armed Services Com-
3 mittee of the House of Representatives after 20
4 years of service on such Committee.

5 (2) As a stalwart champion of diversity and in-
6 clusion, Chairman Dellums was an early supporter
7 of integrating lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual
8 ual individuals into the military.

9 (3) Before Chairman Dellums was elected to
10 the House of Representatives in 1970, he was a psy-
11 chiatric social worker, community organizer, and lec-
12 turer.

13 (4) Chairman Dellums served in the United
14 States Marine Corps from 1954 to 1956.

15 (5) In section 233 of the Fiscal Year 2016 Na-
16 tional Defense Authorization Act, Congress—

17 (A) identified as a priority of the Depart-
18 ment of Defense increased engagement with
19 and outreach to historically Black Colleges and
20 Universities, and other minority-serving institu-
21 tions, including Hispanic-serving institutions,
22 Asian American and Native American Pacific
23 Islander-serving institutions, American Indian
24 Tribally controlled colleges and universities,
25 Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving in-

1 stitutions, Predominantly Black Institutions,
2 Native American-serving, and Nontribal institu-
3 tions; and

4 (B) required the Department to develop a
5 strategy for improving engagement with such
6 institutions including—

7 (i) increasing efforts to include such
8 institutions in ongoing research programs
9 and activities for which institutions of
10 higher learning, in general, are the eligible
11 entities;

12 (ii) increasing the visibility of the De-
13 partment of Defense programs and activi-
14 ties among such institutions and students
15 of such institutions;

16 (iii) emphasize the need to include
17 faculty and students of such institutions in
18 Department of Defense research activities;
19 and

20 (iv) ensuring such institutions and
21 faculty and students of such institutions
22 receive mentors when participating in De-
23 partment programs.

24 (6) In section 4201 the Fiscal Year 2018 Na-
25 tional Defense Authorization Act, Congress reiter-

1 ated the importance of prioritizing this relationship
2 by authorizing more than \$12 million above the
3 President's requests, including \$2 million for minor-
4 ity women in the fields of science, technology, engi-
5 neering, and mathematics.

6 (7) While women of color have made significant
7 progress in graduating from college in the areas of
8 study related to STEAM, they continue to be under-
9 represented in the STEAM fields.

10 (8) While underrepresented minority students
11 overall face an opportunity gap in STEAM edu-
12 cation, women of color face a larger achievement gap
13 in science and engineering education.

14 (9) In 2012, of bachelor's degrees awarded in
15 science and engineering majors—

16 (A) women received 48.8 percent;

17 (B) women of color received 15.7 percent;

18 (C) Black individuals received 5.3 percent;

19 (D) Hispanic individuals received 5.5 per-
20 cent;

21 (E) Native American or Alaska Native in-
22 dividuals received 0.3 percent; and

23 (F) Asian or Pacific Islander individuals
24 received 4.6 percent.

1 (10) A 2017 report published by the National
2 Science Foundation found that the percentage of all
3 bachelor’s degrees in computer sciences, mathe-
4 matics, and statistics, and engineering received by
5 women of color has declined since 1996.

6 (11) Intentional and proactive strategies and
7 programs are necessary to ensure the under-rep-
8 resentation of women of color in the disciplines and
9 professions related to STEAM fields is appropriately
10 addressed to ensure broad and inclusive participa-
11 tion in areas of national importance.

12 **SEC. 3. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense
14 shall establish a fellowship program, which shall be known
15 as the “Ronald V. Dellums Memorial Fellowship for
16 Women of Color in STEAM”, to provide scholarships and
17 internships for eligible students with high potential talent
18 in STEAM.

19 (b) OBJECTIVES.—In carrying out the program, the
20 Secretary shall—

21 (1) consult with higher education institutions
22 and relevant professional associations, nonprofits,
23 and relevant defense industry representatives on the
24 design of the program; and

1 (2) design the program in a manner such that
2 the program—

3 (A) increases awareness of and interest in
4 employment at a Defense Agency among under-
5 represented students in the STEAM fields, par-
6 ticularly women of color, who are pursuing a
7 degree in a STEAM field;

8 (B) supports the academic careers of
9 underrepresented students, especially women of
10 color, in STEAM fields; and

11 (C) builds a pipeline of women of color
12 with exemplary academic achievements in a
13 STEAM field who can pursue careers in na-
14 tional security and in areas of national need.

15 (c) COMPONENTS.—The fellowship program shall
16 consist of—

17 (1) a scholarship program under subsection (d);

18 and

19 (2) an internship program under subsection (e).

20 (d) SELECTION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each fiscal year, subject to
22 the availability of funds, the Secretary shall select at
23 least 30 eligible students to participate in the fellow-
24 ship program for a period of 2 years.

1 (2) STUDENTS FROM MINORITY-SERVING INSTI-
2 TUTIONS AND HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND
3 UNIVERSITIES.—The Secretary may not award fewer
4 than 50 percent of the fellowships under this section
5 to eligible students who attend historically Black col-
6 leges and universities and other minority-serving in-
7 stitutions, including Hispanic-serving institutions,
8 Asian American and Native American Pacific Is-
9 lander-serving institutions, American Indian Tribally
10 controlled colleges and universities, Alaska Native
11 and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, Predomi-
12 nantly Black Institutions, and Native American-serv-
13 ing, Nontribal institutions.

14 (3) SCHOLARSHIP.— Each fellow shall receive a
15 scholarship of up to \$50,000 each academic year of
16 the fellowship program.

17 (4) CONSIDERATION OF UNDERREPRESENTED
18 STUDENTS IN STEAM FIELDS.—In awarding a schol-
19 arship under this section, the Secretary shall con-
20 sider—

21 (A) the number and distribution of minor-
22 ity and female students nationally in science
23 and engineering majors;

1 (B) the projected need for highly trained
2 individuals in all fields of science and engineer-
3 ing;

4 (C) the present and projected need for
5 highly trained individuals in science and engi-
6 neering career fields in which minorities and
7 women are underrepresented; and

8 (D) the lack of minorities and women in
9 national security, especially in science and engi-
10 neering fields in which such individuals are tra-
11 ditionally underrepresented.

12 (5) STUDENT AGREEMENT.—As a condition of
13 receipt of funds under this section, a fellow shall
14 agree—

15 (A) to use such funds solely to pay the cost
16 of attendance at the higher education institu-
17 tion at which the student is enrolled;

18 (B) to return any such funds in excess of
19 the cost of attendance at such higher education
20 institution;

21 (C) to maintain satisfactory academic
22 standing, as determined by the Secretary;

23 (D) to return such funds for an academic
24 year if—

1 (i) in such year, the fellow earns less
2 than 60 percent of the credits required at
3 the institution of higher education at which
4 the fellow is enrolled; and

5 (ii) the fellow is no longer enrolled at
6 such institution or another institution of
7 higher education at the start of the next
8 academic year;

9 (E) to complete an internship under this
10 section in a manner that is satisfactory, as de-
11 termined by the Secretary;

12 (F) upon completion of the degree that the
13 student pursues while in the fellowship pro-
14 gram, to work for the Federal Government or
15 in the field of education in the area of study for
16 which the scholarship or fellowship was award-
17 ed, for a period specified by the Secretary,
18 which shall not be longer than the period for
19 which scholarship assistance was provided to
20 such student; and

21 (G) to return the amount of the assistance
22 provided the recipient under the program with
23 interest at a rate determined by the Secretary
24 if the student fails to comply with subsections
25 (A) through (F).

1 (6) ENFORCEMENT OF AGREEMENT.—The Sec-
2 retary may enforce the agreement under paragraph
3 (5) as the Secretary determines appropriate.

4 (e) INTERNSHIP.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
6 an internship program that provides each student an
7 internship at a Defense Agency.

8 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each internship shall—

9 (A) to the extent practicable, last a period
10 of at least 10 weeks;

11 (B) to the extent practicable, be at a De-
12 fense Agency;

13 (C) include a stipend for transportation
14 and living expenses incurred by the fellow dur-
15 ing the fellowship; and

16 (D) be completed during the initial 2-year
17 period of the fellowship.

18 (3) MENTORSHIP.—To the extent practicable,
19 each fellow shall be paired with a mid-level or a sen-
20 ior-level official of the Defense Agency who shall
21 serve as a mentor during the internship.

22 (f) EXTENSIONS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this section, a fel-
24 low may apply for, and the Secretary may grant, a
25 1-year extension of the fellowship.

1 (2) NUMBER OF EXTENSIONS.—There shall be
2 no limit on the number of extensions under para-
3 graph (1) that the Secretary may grant an eligible
4 student.

5 (3) LIMITATION ON DEGREES.—Students shall
6 be limited to obtaining a maximum of the following
7 graduate degrees with fellowship funds—

8 (A) 2 master’s degrees; and

9 (B) 1 doctorate of philosophy.

10 (4) TREATMENT OF EXTENSIONS.—An exten-
11 sion granted under this subsection does not count
12 for the purposes of—

13 (A) the number of fellowships granted
14 under subsection (d)(1); or

15 (B) the percentage of fellowships granted
16 to eligible students.

17 (5) EXTENSION REQUIREMENTS.—A fellow may
18 receive an extension under this subsection only if—

19 (A) the fellow is in good academic stand-
20 ing;

21 (B) the fellow has satisfactorily completed
22 an internship under subsection (e); and

23 (C) the fellow is currently enrolled full-
24 time at an institution of higher education and
25 pursuing, in a STEAM field—

- 1 (i) a bachelor's degree;
- 2 (ii) a master's degree; or
- 3 (iii) a doctorate of philosophy.

4 (g) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—For
5 each academic year, the Secretary may use not more than
6 5 percent of the funds made available to carry out this
7 section for administrative purposes, including for purposes
8 of—

9 (1) outreach to institutions of higher education
10 to encourage participation in the program; and

11 (2) promotion of the program to eligible stu-
12 dents.

13 (h) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
14 may appoint a lead program officer to administer the pro-
15 gram and to market the program among students and
16 higher education institutions.

17 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$5,000,000 for each of the next 25 fiscal years.

20 (j) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date
21 on which the first fellowship is awarded under this section,
22 and each academic year thereafter, the Secretary of De-
23 fense shall submit to the Congress a report containing—

24 (1) a description and analysis of the demo-
25 graphic information of students who receive fellow-

1 ships under this section, including information with
2 respect to such students regarding—

3 (A) race;

4 (B) ethnicity;

5 (C) gender identity;

6 (D) eligibility to receive a Federal Pell
7 Grant under the Higher Education Act of 1965
8 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.); and

9 (E) eligibility of the household in which the
10 student resides to receive benefits under the
11 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
12 under section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act
13 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014), in the case of grad-
14 uate students;

15 (2) an analysis of the effects of the program;

16 (3) a description of—

17 (A) the total number of students who ob-
18 tain a degree with fellowship funds each year;
19 and

20 (B) the type and total number of degrees
21 obtained by fellows; and

22 (4) recommendations for changes to the pro-
23 gram and to this Act to ensure that women of color
24 are being effectively served by such program.

25 (k) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

1 (1) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term “cost of
2 attendance” has the meaning given the term in sec-
3 tion 132 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 1015a)

5 (2) DEFENSE AGENCY.—The term “Defense
6 Agency” has the meaning given the term in section
7 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

8 (3) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—The term “eligible
9 student” means an individual who—

10 (A) submits an application for a fellowship
11 under this section; and

12 (B) is either—

13 (i) an enrolled second-year student at
14 a higher education institution; or

15 (ii) a community college student who
16 intends to use scholarship funds for tuition
17 for the third year of study at a higher edu-
18 cation institution.

19 (4) FELLOW.—The term “fellow” means a stu-
20 dent that was selected for the fellowship program
21 under subsection (d).

22 (5) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNI-
23 VERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or
24 university” has the meaning given the term “part B

1 institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education
2 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

3 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
4 term “institution of higher education” has the
5 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

7 (7) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
8 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-
9 tution listed in section 371(a) of the Higher Edu-
10 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

11 (8) STEAM.—The term “STEAM” means
12 science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathe-
13 matics.

14 (9) UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENT IN A
15 STEAM FIELD.—The term “underrepresented stu-
16 dent in a STEAM field” means a student who is a
17 member of a minority group for which the number
18 of individuals in such group who receive bachelor’s
19 degrees in STEAM fields per 10,000 individuals in
20 such group is substantially fewer than the number
21 of white, non-Hispanic individuals of bachelor’s de-
22 grees in STEAM fields per 10,000 such individuals.