

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. ALSOBROOKS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields.

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 “21st Century STEM
5 for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO PREPARE GIRLS AND UNDERREP-**
2 **RESENTED MINORITIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Elementary and
4 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et
5 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“PART G—PREPARING GIRLS AND UNDERREP-**
7 **RESENTED MINORITIES FOR THE 21ST CEN-**
8 **TURY**

9 **“SEC. 4701. PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 90
11 days after the date of enactment of this part, the Sec-
12 retary shall carry out a program under which the Sec-
13 retary makes grants to qualified local educational agen-
14 cies, on a competitive basis, to pay the costs of carrying
15 out STEM education activities for girls and underrep-
16 resented minorities as described in subsection (c).

17 “(b) APPLICATION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
19 grant under this part, a qualified local educational
20 agency shall submit to the Secretary an application
21 at such time, in such form, and containing such in-
22 formation as the Secretary may reasonably require.
23 At minimum, the application shall include a descrip-
24 tion of the following:

25 “(A) The educational program that will be
26 carried out by the local educational agency

1 using the grant, including the content of the
2 program and the research and models used to
3 design the program.

4 “(B) How elementary schools and sec-
5 ondary schools served by the agency will col-
6 laborate to fulfill goals of the program.

7 “(C) How the agency will ensure that there
8 is a comprehensive plan to improve STEM edu-
9 cation for girls and underrepresented minorities
10 in grades kindergarten through grade 12.

11 “(D) The process that will be used for the
12 recruitment and selection of students for par-
13 ticipation in the program.

14 “(E) The instructional and motivational
15 activities that will be included as part of the
16 program.

17 “(F) Any expected collaboration among na-
18 tional, regional, or local institutions and organi-
19 zations for the purpose of fulfilling the goals of
20 the program.

21 “(2) PRIORITY.—In selecting among applica-
22 tions submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary
23 shall give priority to qualified local educational agen-
24 cies that partner or coordinate, to the extent prac-
25 ticable, with national, regional, or local institutions

1 and organizations that have extensive experience and
2 expertise in—

3 “(A) increasing the participation of girls or
4 underrepresented minorities in STEM fields; or
5 “(B) conducting research on methods to
6 increase such participation.

7 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—A qualified local educational
8 agency that receives a grant under this part shall use the
9 grant to carry out a STEM education program for girls
10 and underrepresented minorities from elementary schools
11 and secondary schools served by the agency. The program
12 may include the following activities:

13 “(1) Preparing girls and underrepresented mi-
14 norities for careers in STEM fields and the advan-
15 tages of pursuing careers in such fields.

16 “(2) Educating the parents of girls and under-
17 represented minorities about the opportunities and
18 advantages of STEM careers.

19 “(3) Enlisting the help of the parents of girls
20 and underrepresented minorities—

21 “(A) to overcome the obstacles faced by
22 such groups; and

23 “(B) to encourage their child’s continued
24 interest and involvement in STEM subjects.

1 “(4) Providing tutoring and mentoring pro-
2 grams in STEM subjects.

3 “(5) Establishing partnerships and other oppor-
4 tunities that expose girls and underrepresented mi-
5 norities to role models in the STEM fields.

6 “(6) Enabling female and underrepresented mi-
7 nority students and their teachers to attend events
8 and academic programs in STEM subjects.

9 “(7) Providing after school activities designed
10 to encourage interest and develop the skills of girls
11 and underrepresented minorities in STEM subjects.

12 “(8) Summer programs designed to help girls
13 and underrepresented minorities—

14 “(A) develop an interest in STEM sub-
15 jects;

16 “(B) develop skills in such subjects; and

17 “(C) understand the relevance and signifi-
18 cance of such subjects.

19 “(9) Purchasing—

20 “(A) educational instructional materials or
21 software designed to help girls and underrep-
22 resented minorities develop an interest in
23 STEM subjects; or

24 “(B) equipment, instrumentation, or hard-
25 ware for teaching STEM subjects to girls and

1 underrepresented minorities and encouraging
2 their interest in such subjects.

3 “(10) Field trips to locations, including institu-
4 tions of higher education, to expose girls and under-
5 represented minorities to STEM activities, encour-
6 age their interest in such activities, and acquaint
7 them with careers in STEM fields.

8 “(11) Providing academic advice and assistance
9 in high school course selection to encourage girls and
10 underrepresented minorities to take advanced
11 courses in STEM subjects.

12 “(12) Paying not more than 50 percent of the
13 cost of an internship in a STEM discipline for fe-
14 male and underrepresented minority students.

15 “(13) Providing professional development for
16 teachers and other school personnel, including with
17 respect to—

18 “(A) eliminating gender and racial bias in
19 the classroom;

20 “(B) sensitivity to gender and racial dif-
21 ferences;

22 “(C) engaging students in the face of gen-
23 der-based and racial peer pressure and parental
24 expectations;

1 “(D) creating and maintaining a positive
2 environment; and

3 “(E) encouraging girls and underrep-
4 resented minorities through academic advice
5 and assistance to pursue advanced classes and
6 careers in STEM fields.

7 “(14) Such other STEM-related activities as
8 the local educational agency determines to be appro-
9 priate.

10 “(d) GRANT DURATION AND AMOUNT.—

11 “(1) DURATION.—Each grant under this sec-
12 tion shall be made for a period of 4 years.

13 “(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of each grant
14 under this section shall be \$250,000 for each year
15 of the grant period.

16 “(e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A qualified
17 local educational agency that receives a grant under this
18 section shall use the grant only to supplement, and not
19 to supplant, other assistance and funds made available
20 from non-Federal sources for the activities supported by
21 the grant.

22 “(f) ANNUAL EVALUATIONS.—

23 “(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—Not later than
24 30 days after the last day of each school year for
25 which a qualified local educational agency receives a

1 grant under this section, the agency shall submit to
2 the Secretary a written evaluation of the program
3 carried out using the grant.

4 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The evaluation required
5 under paragraph (1) shall include—

6 “(A) a description of the program and ac-
7 tivities carried out using the grant;

8 “(B) a description of the curriculum and
9 any partnerships developed using the grant;

10 “(C) the percentage of time that students
11 who participated in the program spent directly
12 engaged in STEM activities;

13 “(D) an assessment of the academic
14 progress made by such students during the pro-
15 gram, which shall be based on an evaluation of
16 each student at the beginning of the program
17 and after the student completes the program;
18 and

19 “(E) such other information as the Sec-
20 retary may require.

21 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 “(1) The term ‘qualified local educational agen-
23 cy’ means a local educational agency that—

24 “(A) receives funds under part A of title I;
25 and

1 “(B) serves a total student population of
2 which not less than 40 percent are children who
3 are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch
4 under the Richard B. Russell National School
5 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

6 “(2) The term ‘STEM’ means science, tech-
7 nology, engineering, and mathematics.

8 **“SEC. 4702. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 “‘There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
10 this part \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
11 through 2029.’”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
13 in section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
14 Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item relat-
15 ing to section 4644 the following:

 “PART G—PREPARING GIRLS AND UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITIES FOR
 THE 21ST CENTURY

 “Sec. 4701. Program authority.

 “Sec. 4702. Authorization of appropriations.”.