

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6232

To establish a scholarship program in the Department of State for Haitian students whose studies were interrupted as a result of the January 12, 2010, earthquake, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Ms. CLARKE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a scholarship program in the Department of State for Haitian students whose studies were interrupted as a result of the January 12, 2010, earthquake, 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 “Haitian Educational
5 Empowerment Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Haiti is the poorest country in the Western
2 Hemisphere.

3 (2) Eighty percent of the population lives below
4 the poverty line and approximately 45 percent of the
5 population is illiterate.

6 (3) On January 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude
7 earthquake struck the country of Haiti.

8 (4) The earthquake caused massive devastation
9 across Haiti, destroying government buildings, hos-
10 pitals, schools, and vital aid offices including the
11 headquarters of the United Nations mission to
12 Haiti.

13 (5) An estimated 3,000,000 people have been
14 directly affected by the earthquake in Haiti, nearly
15 one-third of the country's population, and many are
16 currently at risk of long-term displacement and vul-
17 nerability.

18 (6) Many universities suffered significant struc-
19 tural damage, including the State University of
20 Haiti, the nation's main public university, which had
21 80 percent of its buildings destroyed.

22 (7) The earthquake claimed the lives of many
23 students and several prominent academics.

24 (8) Before the earthquake, at least 85 percent
25 of Haitians with a university degree left the island.

1 (9) A more highly educated population is vital
2 to Haiti's long-term development.

3 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR**
4 **CERTAIN HAITIAN STUDENTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
6 to carry out this section, the Secretary of State, acting
7 through the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational
8 and Cultural Affairs, shall establish a scholarship program
9 for Haitian students whose studies were interrupted as a
10 result of the January 12, 2010, earthquake.

11 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a scholar-
12 ship under this section, a Haitian undergraduate or grad-
13 uate student shall—

14 (1) have been enrolled as a full-time student in
15 a Haitian university at the time of the January 12,
16 2010, earthquake; and

17 (2) submit to the Assistant Secretary of State
18 for Educational and Cultural Affairs an application
19 at such time, in such manner, and containing such
20 information as the Assistant Secretary may require.

21 (c) DURATION.—A scholarship under this section
22 shall be awarded to a Haitian student for 1 academic year
23 and may be renewed in accordance with subsection (d).

24 (d) RENEWAL.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—A scholarship awarded
2 under this section may be renewed for an additional
3 academic year upon demonstration to the Secretary
4 of State of satisfactory academic achievement in the
5 prior academic year.

6 (2) MAXIMUM RENEWALS.—A scholarship
7 awarded under this section may not be renewed for
8 more than 6 academic years.

9 (e) PREFERENCE.—Preference in the awarding of
10 scholarships shall be given to the following categories of
11 Haitian students:

12 (1) Haitian students who are studying subjects
13 of importance to Haiti’s long-term social, economic,
14 or political development.

15 (2) Haitian students who were enrolled in pro-
16 grams that were forced to cease operations as a re-
17 sult of the January 12, 2010, earthquake.

18 (f) RETURN.—Upon completion of an undergraduate
19 or graduate degree at an institution of higher education,
20 a Haitian student who has received a scholarship under
21 this section shall return to Haiti.

22 (g) SCHOLARSHIP DEFINED.—In this section, the
23 term “scholarship” means an amount awarded to a Hai-
24 tian student under this section that shall only be used to
25 pay costs related to the tuition and fees at the institution

1 of higher education in which the student is enrolled as a
2 full-time student.

3 (h) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.—A scholarship awarded
4 to a Haitian student under this section may not exceed
5 an amount equal to the total costs related to the tuition
6 and fees for 1 academic year at an institution of higher
7 education in which the student is enrolled as a full-time
8 student.

9 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO UNITED STATES COLLEGES AND UNI-**
10 **VERSITIES.**

11 The Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant
12 Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs,
13 may make grants to institutions of higher education that
14 have enrolled a significant number of Haitian students
15 who have been enrolled as full-time students in a Haitian
16 university at the time of the January 12, 2010, earth-
17 quake. Such grants shall be used to provide social and
18 educational support services to such students.

19 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

20 For purposes of this Act:

21 (1) FEES.—The term “fees” means—

22 (A) fees normally assessed a full-time stu-
23 dent, as determined by an institution of higher
24 education, including—

1 (i) costs for the rental or purchase of
2 any equipment, materials, or supplies re-
3 quired of all students in the same course
4 of study; and

5 (ii) an allowance for room and board
6 at the institution; and

7 (B) travel expenses to the institution from
8 Haiti and, upon the completion of a degree at
9 such institution, from the institution to Haiti.

10 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
11 term “institution of higher education” has the
12 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

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