

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5922

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

FEBRUARY 18, 2020

Ms. LEE of California (for herself and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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 bisex-
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 4201 of the Fiscal Year 2018
16 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress reit-
17 erated the importance of prioritizing this relation-
18 ship by authorizing more than \$12,000,000 above
19 the President's requests, including 2,000,000 au-
20 thorized specifically for minority women in the fields
21 of science, technology, engineering, and mathe-
22 matics.

23 (6) While women of color have made significant
24 progress in graduating from college in the areas of

1 study related to STEAM, they continue to be under-
2 represented in the STEAM fields.

3 (7) While underrepresented minority students
4 overall face an opportunity gap in STEAM edu-
5 cation, women of color face a larger achievement gap
6 in science and engineering education.

7 (8) In 2016, of bachelor's degrees awarded in
8 STEAM majors—

9 (A) women received 36 percent;

10 (B) Black individuals received 13 percent;

11 (C) Hispanic individuals received 15 per-
12 cent;

13 (D) Native American or Alaska Native in-
14 dividuals received 14 percent; and

15 (E) Asian or Pacific Islander individuals
16 received 33 percent.

17 (9) A 2017 report published by the National
18 Science Foundation found that the percentage of all
19 bachelor's degrees in computer sciences, mathe-
20 matics, and statistics, and engineering received by
21 women of color has declined since 1996.

22 (10) Intentional and proactive strategies and
23 programs are necessary to ensure the underrepresen-
24 tation of women of color in the disciplines and pro-
25 fessions related to STEAM fields is appropriately

1 addressed to ensure broad and inclusive participa-
2 tion in areas of national importance.

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

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense
5 shall establish a fellowship program, which shall be known
6 as the “Ronald V. Dellums Memorial Fellowship for
7 Women of Color in STEAM”, to provide scholarships and
8 internships for eligible students with high potential talent
9 in STEAM.

10 (b) OBJECTIVES.—In carrying out the program, the
11 Secretary shall—

12 (1) consult with institutions of higher education
13 and relevant professional associations, nonprofit or-
14 ganizations, and relevant defense industry represent-
15 atives on the design of the program; and

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

18 (A) increases awareness of and interest in
19 employment at a Defense Agency among under-
20 represented students in the STEAM fields, par-
21 ticularly women of color, who are pursuing a
22 degree in a STEAM field;

23 (B) supports the academic careers of
24 underrepresented students, especially women of
25 color, in STEAM fields; and

1 (C) builds a pipeline of women of color
2 with exemplary academic achievements in a
3 STEAM field who can pursue careers in na-
4 tional security and in areas of national need.

5 (c) COMPONENTS.—The fellowship program shall
6 consist of—

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

8 and

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

10 (d) SELECTION.—

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

15 (2) STUDENTS FROM MINORITY-SERVING INSTI-
16 TUTIONS AND HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND
17 UNIVERSITIES.—The Secretary may not award fewer
18 than 50 percent of the fellowships under this section
19 to eligible students who attend historically Black col-
20 leges and universities and other minority-serving in-
21 stitutions, including Hispanic-serving institutions,
22 Asian American and Native American Pacific Is-
23 lander-serving institutions, American Indian Tribally
24 controlled colleges and universities, Alaska Native
25 and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, Tribal col-

1 leges and universities, Predominantly Black Institu-
2 tions, and Native American-serving, Nontribal insti-
3 tutions.

4 (3) SCHOLARSHIP.—Each fellow shall receive a
5 scholarship of up to \$50,000 each academic year of
6 the fellowship program. A fellow who receives a
7 scholarship may only use the scholarship funds to
8 pay for the cost of attendance at an institution of
9 higher education.

10 (4) CONSIDERATION OF UNDERREPRESENTED
11 STUDENTS IN STEAM FIELDS.—In awarding a fel-
12 lowship under this section, the Secretary shall con-
13 sider—

14 (A) the number and distribution of minor-
15 ity and female students nationally in science
16 and engineering majors;

17 (B) the projected need for highly trained
18 individuals in all fields of science and engineer-
19 ing;

20 (C) the present and projected need for
21 highly trained individuals in science and engi-
22 neering career fields in which minorities and
23 women are underrepresented; and

24 (D) the lack of minorities and women in
25 national security, especially in science and engi-

1 neering fields in which such individuals are tra-
2 ditionally underrepresented.

3 (5) STUDENT AGREEMENT.—As a condition of
4 the receipt of a scholarship under this section, a fel-
5 low shall agree—

6 (A) to maintain satisfactory academic
7 standing in accordance with standards deter-
8 mined by the institution of higher education at
9 which the student is enrolled;

10 (B) to complete an internship described in
11 subsection (e) in a manner that the Secretary
12 determines is satisfactory;

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

22 (D) to return the amount of the assistance
23 provided the recipient under the program with
24 interest at a rate no higher than the high yield
25 of the 10-year Treasury note auctioned at the

1 final auction held prior to such June 1 if the
2 student fails to comply with any of subsections
3 (A) through (E).

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

7 (e) INTERNSHIP.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
9 an internship program that provides each student
10 who is awarded a fellowship under this section with
11 an internship at a Defense Agency.

12 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each internship shall—

13 (A) to the extent practicable, last for a pe-
14 riod of at least 10 weeks;

15 (B) include a stipend for transportation
16 and living expenses incurred by the fellow dur-
17 ing the fellowship; and

18 (C) be completed during the initial 2-year
19 period of the fellowship.

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

24 (f) EXTENSIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to this section, a fel-
2 low may apply for, and the Secretary may grant, a
3 1-year extension of the fellowship.

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

8 (3) LIMITATION ON DEGREES.—A fellow may
9 use an extension of a fellowship under this section
10 for the pursuit of not more than the following num-
11 ber of graduate degrees:

12 (A) Two master’s degrees.

13 (B) One doctorate of philosophy.

14 (4) TREATMENT OF EXTENSIONS.—An exten-
15 sion granted under this subsection does not count
16 for the purposes of—

17 (A) the number of fellowships granted
18 under subsection (d)(1); or

19 (B) the percentage of fellowships granted
20 to eligible students.

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

23 (A) the fellow is in good academic standing
24 with the institution of higher education where
25 the fellow is enrolled;

1 (B) the fellow has satisfactorily completed
2 an internship under subsection (e); and

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

6 (i) a bachelor's degree;

7 (ii) a master's degree; or

8 (iii) a doctorate of philosophy.

9 (g) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—For
10 each academic year, the Secretary may use not more than
11 5 percent of the funds made available to carry out this
12 section for administrative purposes, including for purposes
13 of—

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

16 (2) promotion of the program to eligible stu-
17 dents.

18 (h) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
19 may appoint a lead program officer to administer the pro-
20 gram and to market the program among students and in-
21 stitution of higher education.

22 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$5,000,000 for each of the next 5 fiscal years.

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

5 (1) a description and analysis of the demo-
6 graphic information of students who receive fellow-
7 ships under this section, including information with
8 respect to such students regarding—

9 (A) race, in the aggregate and
10 disaggregated by the same major race groups
11 as the decennial census of the population;

12 (B) ethnicity;

13 (C) gender identity;

14 (D) eligibility to receive a Federal Pell
15 Grant under the Higher Education Act of 1965
16 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.); and

17 (E) eligibility of the household in which the
18 student resides to receive benefits under the
19 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
20 under section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act
21 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014), in the case of grad-
22 uate students;

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

24 (3) a description of—

1 (A) the total number of students who ob-
2 tain a degree with fellowship funds each year;
3 and

4 (B) the type and total number of degrees
5 obtained by fellows; and

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

9 (k) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

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

14 (2) DEFENSE AGENCY.—The term “Defense
15 Agency” has the meaning given the term in section
16 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

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

19 (A) submits an application for a fellowship
20 under this section;

21 (B) is enrolled, or will be enrolled for the
22 first year for which the student applies for a
23 fellowship, in either the third or fourth year of
24 a four-year academic program; and

1 (C) is enrolled, or will be enrolled for the
2 first year for which the student applies for a
3 fellowship, in a university on at least a half-
4 time basis.

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

8 (5) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNI-
9 VERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or
10 university” has the meaning given the term “part B
11 institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education
12 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

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

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

21 (8) STEAM.—The term “STEAM” means
22 science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathe-
23 matics.

24 (9) UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENT IN A
25 STEAM FIELD.—The term “underrepresented stu-

1 dent in a STEAM field” means a student who is a
2 member of a minority group for which the number
3 of individuals in such group who receive bachelor’s
4 degrees in STEAM fields per 10,000 individuals in
5 such group is substantially fewer than the number
6 of White, non-Hispanic individuals of bachelor’s de-
7 grees in STEAM fields per 10,000 such individuals.

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