

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 666

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, or the October 4, 2016, hurricane, Hurricane Matthew.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SOTO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) 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, or the October 4, 2016, hurricane, Hurricane Matthew.

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 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) On October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew
4 devastated Haiti, killing over 1,000 people, and di-
5 rectly affected 2.1 million people, including the in-
6 ternal displacement of 175,000 and 1.4 million peo-
7 ple in need of urgent humanitarian aid.

8 (2) The storm damage has been estimated to be
9 \$1,000,000,000, or about 11.4 percent of the gross
10 domestic product of Haiti.

11 (3) Hurricane Matthew was the worst hurricane
12 to hit Haiti in over 50 years.

13 (4) Haiti is the poorest country in the Western
14 Hemisphere.

15 (5) Eighty percent of the population lives below
16 the poverty line, and approximately 45 percent of
17 the population is illiterate.

18 (6) On January 12, 2010, a 7.0-magnitude
19 earthquake struck the country of Haiti.

20 (7) The earthquake caused massive devastation
21 across Haiti, destroying government buildings, hos-
22 pitals, schools, and vital aid offices, including the
23 headquarters of the United Nations mission to
24 Haiti.

1 (8) An estimated three million people were di-
2 rectly affected by the earthquake in Haiti, nearly
3 one-third of the country's population.

4 (9) Many universities suffered significant struc-
5 tural damage, including the State University of
6 Haiti, the country's main public university, which
7 had 80 percent of its buildings destroyed.

8 (10) The earthquake claimed the lives of many
9 students and several prominent academics.

10 (11) A more highly educated population is vital
11 to Haiti's long-term development.

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

14 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, acting
15 through the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational
16 and Cultural Affairs, shall establish a scholarship program
17 for Haitian students whose studies were interrupted as a
18 result of the January 12, 2010, earthquake, or the Octo-
19 ber 4, 2016, hurricane, Hurricane Matthew.

20 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a scholar-
21 ship under this section, a Haitian undergraduate or grad-
22 uate student shall—

23 (1) have been enrolled as a full-time or part-
24 time student in a Haitian university or institution of
25 higher education in the United States at the time of

1 the January 12, 2010, earthquake, or when Hurri-
2 cane Matthew hit Haiti on October 4, 2016; and

3 (2) submit to the Assistant Secretary of State
4 for Educational and Cultural Affairs an application
5 at such time, in such manner, and containing such
6 information as the Assistant Secretary may require.

7 (c) DURATION.—A scholarship under this section
8 shall be awarded to a Haitian student for one academic
9 year and may be renewed in accordance with subsection
10 (d).

11 (d) RENEWAL.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—A scholarship awarded
13 under this section may be renewed for an additional
14 academic year upon demonstration to the Secretary
15 of State of satisfactory academic achievement in the
16 prior academic year.

17 (2) MAXIMUM RENEWALS.—A scholarship
18 awarded under this section may not be renewed for
19 more than six academic years.

20 (e) PREFERENCE.—Preference in the awarding of
21 scholarships shall be given to the following categories of
22 Haitian students:

23 (1) Haitian students who are studying subjects
24 of importance to Haiti's long-term social, economic,
25 or political development.

1 2010, earthquake, or the October 4, 2016, hurricane,
2 Hurricane Matthew. Such grants shall be used to provide
3 social and educational support services to such students.

4 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

5 For purposes of this Act:

6 (1) FEES.—The term “fees” means—

7 (A) fees normally assessed a full-time stu-
8 dent, as determined by an institution of higher
9 education, including—

10 (i) costs for the rental or purchase of
11 any equipment, materials, or supplies re-
12 quired of all students in the same course
13 of study; and

14 (ii) an allowance for room and board
15 at such institution; and

16 (B) travel expenses to such institution
17 from Haiti and, upon the completion of a de-
18 gree at such institution, from such institution
19 to Haiti.

20 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
21 term “institution of higher education” has the
22 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
23 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

24 (3) SCHOLARSHIP.—The term “scholarship”
25 means an amount awarded to a Haitian student

1 under this section that shall only be used to pay
2 costs related to the tuition and fees at the institu-
3 tion of higher education in which the student is en-
4 rolled as a full-time student.

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