

(1) to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of HBCUs to fulfill their principal mission of equalizing educational opportunity, as described in section 301(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051(b));

(2) to align HBCUs with the educational and economic competitiveness priorities of the United States;

(3) to provide students enrolled at HBCUs with the highest quality educational and economic opportunities;

(4) to bolster and facilitate productive interactions between HBCUs and Federal agencies; and

(5) to encourage HBCU participation in and benefit from Federal programs, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.

### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPLICABLE AGENCY.**—The term “applicable agency” means any Federal agency designated by the Secretary, in accordance with section 4.

(2) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The term “Executive Director” means—

(A) the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as designated by the President; or

(B) if no such Executive Director is designated, such person as the President may designate to lead the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

(3) **HBCU.**—The term “HBCU” means a historically Black college or university.

(4) **HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.**—The term “historically Black college or university” has the meaning given the term “part B institution” under section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

(5) **PRESIDENT’S BOARD OF ADVISORS.**—The term “President’s Board of Advisors” means the President’s Board of Advisors on historically Black colleges and universities.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—Except as otherwise provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(7) **WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE.**—The term “White House Initiative” means the White House Initiative on historically Black colleges and universities.

### SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING HBCUS THROUGH FEDERAL AGENCY PLANS.

(a) **DESIGNATING APPLICABLE AGENCIES.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Executive Director, shall identify those Federal agencies that regularly interact with HBCUs and designate them as applicable agencies.

(b) **SUBMITTING AGENCY PLANS.**—Not later than February 1 of each year, the head of each applicable agency shall submit to the Secretary and the Executive Director an annual Agency Plan describing efforts to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to participate in relevant Federal programs and initiatives under the jurisdiction of the applicable agency.

(c) **FURTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION AND ACCESSIBILITY.**—The head of each applicable agency shall submit each annual Agency Plan described in subsection (b) to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

(d) **AGENCY PLAN CONTENT.**—Where appropriate, each Agency Plan shall, among other things—

(1) establish how the applicable agency intends to increase the capacity of HBCUs to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements;

(2) identify Federal programs and initiatives under the jurisdiction of the applicable

agency where HBCUs are not well-represented;

(3) outline proposed efforts to improve HBCUs’ participation in such programs and initiatives in which they are underrepresented;

(4) describe any progress made towards advancing or achieving goals and efforts from previous Agency Plans;

(5) encourage public-sector, private-sector, and community involvement in improving the capacity of HBCUs; and

(6) meet, where relevant, any additional criteria established by the Secretary or the White House Initiative.

(e) **AGENCY ENGAGEMENT.**—To help fulfill the objectives of the Agency Plans, the head of each applicable agency—

(1) may provide, as appropriate, technical assistance and information to the Executive Director to enhance communication with HBCUs concerning the applicable agency’s program activities and the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements; and

(2) shall appoint a senior official to report directly to the agency head on the applicable agency’s progress under this section.

### SEC. 5. PRESIDENT’S BOARD OF ADVISORS ON HBCUS.

(a) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established the President’s Board of Advisors on historically Black colleges and universities in the Department of Education or, if the President so elects, within the Executive Office of the President.

(2) **FUNDING FROM ED.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall provide funding and administrative support for the President’s Board of Advisors, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(3) **FUNDING FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.**—If the President elects to locate the President’s Board of Advisors within the Executive Office of the President, the Executive Office of the President shall provide funding and administrative support for the President’s Board of Advisors, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The President shall appoint not more than 23 members to the President’s Board of Advisors, and the Secretary and Executive Director or their designees shall serve as ex officio members. The President shall designate one member of the President’s Board of Advisors to serve as its Chair, who shall help direct the Board’s work in coordination with the Secretary and in consultation with the Executive Director. The Chair shall also consult with the Executive Director regarding the time and location of meetings of the President’s Board of Advisors, which shall take place not less frequently than once every 6 months. Members of the President’s Board of Advisors shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law. Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) may apply to the Board, any functions of the President under such Act, except for those of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Chair, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(c) **MISSION AND FUNCTIONS.**—The President’s Board of Advisors shall advise the President, through the White House Initiative, on all matters pertaining to strengthening the educational capacity of HBCUs. In particular, the President’s Board of Advisors shall advise the President in the following areas:

(1) Improving the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities, and overall competitiveness of HBCUs.

(2) Engaging the philanthropic, business, government, military, homeland-security,

and education communities in a national dialogue regarding new HBCU programs and initiatives.

(3) Improving the ability of HBCUs to remain fiscally secure institutions that can assist the Nation in achieving its educational goals and in advancing the interests of all Americans.

(4) Elevating the public awareness of, and fostering appreciation of, HBCUs.

(5) Encouraging public-private investments in HBCUs.

(6) Improving government-wide strategic planning related to HBCU competitiveness to align Federal resources and provide the context for decisions about HBCU partnerships, investments, performance goals, priorities, human capital development and budget planning.

(d) **REPORT.**—The President’s Board of Advisors shall report annually to the President on the Board’s progress in carrying out its duties under this section.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SUPPORTING THE OBSERVATION OF NATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 36 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 36) supporting the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2019, and ending on February 1, 2019, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 36) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 31, 2019, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.