

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1150

To establish the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship to fund international internships and research placements for early- to mid-career professionals to study nonviolent movements to establish and protect civil rights around the world.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Ms. MACE, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. WATERS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. CARBAJAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship to fund international internships and research placements for early- to mid-career professionals to study nonviolent movements to establish and protect civil rights around the world.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “John Lewis Civil  
3 Rights Fellowship Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. JOHN LEWIS CIVIL RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

5 The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act  
6 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.) is amended by adding  
7 at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 115. JOHN LEWIS CIVIL RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PRO-**  
9 **GRAM.**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the  
11 John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Program (referred to  
12 in this section as the ‘Fellowship Program’) within the J.  
13 William Fulbright Educational Exchange Program.

14 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Fellowship  
15 Program are—

16 “(1) to honor the legacy of Representative John  
17 Lewis by promoting a greater understanding of the  
18 history and tenets of nonviolent civil rights move-  
19 ments; and

20 “(2) to advance foreign policy priorities of the  
21 United States by promoting studies, research, and  
22 international exchange in the subject of nonviolent  
23 movements that established and protected civil  
24 rights around the world.

25 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Bureau of Educational  
26 and Cultural Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Bu-

1 reau’) shall administer the Fellowship Program in accord-  
2 ance with policy guidelines established by the Fulbright  
3 Foreign Scholarship Board, in consultation with the bina-  
4 tional Fulbright Commissions and United States Embas-  
5 sies.

6 “(d) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall annually  
8 select qualified individuals to participate in the Fel-  
9 lowship Program. The Bureau may determine the  
10 number of fellows selected each year, which, when-  
11 ever feasible, shall be not fewer than 25.

12 “(2) OUTREACH.—To the extent practicable,  
13 the Bureau shall conduct outreach at institutions  
14 the Bureau determines are likely to produce a range  
15 of qualified applicants.

16 “(e) FELLOWSHIP ORIENTATION.—The Bureau shall  
17 organize and administer a fellowship orientation that  
18 shall—

19 “(1) be held in Washington, DC, or at another  
20 location selected by the Bureau;

21 “(2) include programming to honor the legacy  
22 of Representative John Lewis; and

23 “(3) be held on an annual basis.

24 “(f) STRUCTURE.—

1           “(1) WORK PLAN.—To carry out the purposes  
2 described in subsection (b)(2)—

3           “(A) each fellow selected pursuant to sub-  
4 section (d) shall arrange an internship or re-  
5 search placement—

6           “(i) with a nongovernmental organiza-  
7 tion, academic institution, or other organi-  
8 zation approved by the Bureau; and

9           “(ii) in a country with an operational  
10 Fulbright U.S. Student Program; and

11           “(B) the Bureau shall, for each fellow, ap-  
12 prove a work plan that identifies the target ob-  
13 jectives for the fellow, including specific duties  
14 and responsibilities relating to those objectives.

15           “(2) CONFERENCES; PRESENTATIONS.—Each  
16 fellow shall—

17           “(A) attend the fellowship orientation de-  
18 scribed in subsection (e);

19           “(B) not later than the date that is 1 year  
20 after the end of the fellowship period, attend a  
21 fellowship summit organized and administered  
22 by the Bureau, which, whenever feasible, shall  
23 be held in a location of importance to the civil  
24 rights movement in the United States and may

1 coincide with other events facilitated by the Bu-  
2 reau; and

3 “(C) at such summit, give a presentation  
4 on lessons learned during the period of fellow-  
5 ship.

6 “(3) FELLOWSHIP PERIOD.—Each fellowship  
7 under this section shall continue for a period deter-  
8 mined by the Bureau, which, whenever feasible, shall  
9 be not shorter than 10 months.

10 “(g) FELLOWSHIP AWARD.—The Bureau shall pro-  
11 vide each fellow under this section with an allowance that  
12 is equal to the amount needed for—

13 “(1) the fellow’s reasonable costs during the fel-  
14 lowship period; and

15 “(2) travel and lodging expenses related to at-  
16 tending the orientation and summit required under  
17 subsection (e)(2).

18 “(h) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
19 of completion of the Fellowship Program by the initial co-  
20 hort of fellows selected under subsection (d), and on an  
21 annual basis thereafter, the Secretary of State shall sub-  
22 mit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House  
23 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-  
24 tions of the Senate a report providing information on the

1 implementation of the Fellowship Program, including  
2 on—

3 “(1) the demographics of the cohort of fellows  
4 who completed a fellowship during the preceding 1-  
5 year period;

6 “(2) a description of internship and research  
7 placements, and research projects selected, under  
8 the Fellowship Program, including participant feed-  
9 back on program implementation and feedback of  
10 the Department on lessons learned;

11 “(3) a plan for factoring such lessons learned  
12 into future programming; and

13 “(4) an analysis of trends relating to the diver-  
14 sity of the cohorts of fellows and the topics of  
15 projects completed over the course of the Fellowship  
16 Program.”.

17 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO**

18 **THE MUTUAL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL**

19 **EXCHANGE ACT OF 1961A.**

20 Section 112(a) of the Mutual Educational and Cul-  
21 tural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460(a)) is  
22 amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “; and” and  
24 inserting a semicolon;

1           (2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and  
2           inserting “; and”; and

3           (3) by adding at the end the following:

4           “(10) the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship  
5           Program established under section 115, which pro-  
6           vides funding for international internships and re-  
7           search placements for early- to mid-career individ-  
8           uals from the United States to study nonviolent civil  
9           rights movements in self-arranged placements with  
10          universities or nongovernmental organizations in for-  
11          eign countries.”.

12 **SEC. 4. SUNSET.**

13          The authority to carry out the John Lewis Civil  
14          Rights Fellowship Program established under section 115  
15          of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of  
16          1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.), as added by section 2,  
17          shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the date of  
18          the enactment of this Act.

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