

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7158

To support a broad and diverse interdisciplinary research community for the advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-powered innovation through partnerships and capacity building at certain institutions of higher education and other institutions to expand AI capacity in populations historically underrepresented in STEM, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 2026

Mrs. FOUSHEE (for herself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To support a broad and diverse interdisciplinary research community for the advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-powered innovation through partnerships and capacity building at certain institutions of higher education and other institutions to expand AI capacity in populations historically underrepresented in STEM, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Expanding AI Voices
3 through Capacity Building Act” or the “Expanding AI
4 Voices Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING CAPACITY IN ARTIFICIAL INTEL-**
6 **LIGENCE SCIENCE.**

7 Section 5401 of the National AI Initiative Act (15
8 U.S.C. 9451; enacted as part of title LIV of division E
9 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Au-
10 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021; Public Law 116–
11 283) is amended by—

12 (1) redesignating subsection (g) as subsection
13 (h); and

14 (2) inserting after subsection (f) the following
15 new subsection:

16 “(g) EXPANDING CAPACITY IN ARTIFICIAL INTEL-
17 LIGENCE.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Na-
19 tional Science Foundation, in consultation with the
20 heads of Federal agencies the Director considers ap-
21 propriate, shall make awards on a competitive,
22 merit-reviewed basis to eligible institutions of higher
23 education specified in paragraph (2) or eligible non-
24 profit organizations (or consortia thereof) to broaden
25 participation in artificial intelligence research, edu-
26 cation, and workforce development by increasing the

1 ability of the United States to increase capacity and
2 partnerships for artificial intelligence research and
3 development.

4 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-
5 CATION SPECIFIED.—Eligible institution of higher
6 education specified in this paragraph the following:

7 “(A) An institution of higher education,
8 that, according to the data published by the
9 National Center for Science and Engineering
10 Statistics, is not, on average, among the top
11 100 institutions in Federal research and devel-
12 opment expenditures during the 3-year period
13 prior to the year of the award concerned.

14 “(B) A historically Black college or univer-
15 sity.

16 “(C) A minority-serving institution.

17 “(D) A Tribal College or University.

18 “(E) A consortia of any of the entities
19 specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

20 “(3) COLLABORATIONS.—A consortia receiving
21 an award under this subsection may include the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(A) Mutually beneficial partnerships with
24 institutions of higher education, nonprofit orga-
25 nizations, Federal agencies, State, local, Tribal,

1 and territorial governments, and private sector
2 entities.

3 “(B) Developing partnerships with artifi-
4 cial intelligence research institutes established
5 as part of section 5201 of this Act (15 U.S.C.
6 9431) or recipients of other relevant awards
7 made by the Foundation.

8 “(4) USE OF FUNDS.—In carrying out the ac-
9 tivities under this subsection, an eligible institution
10 of higher education or eligible nonprofit organization
11 (or consortia thereof) shall carry out one or more of
12 the following:

13 “(A) Development or expansion of research
14 programs in artificial intelligence and related
15 disciplines.

16 “(B) Faculty recruitment and professional
17 development in artificial intelligence and related
18 disciplines.

19 “(C) Bridge programs focused on pre-
20 paring post-baccalaureate students for graduate
21 programs in artificial intelligence and related
22 disciplines.

23 “(D) Provide or broker access to research
24 resources, including computing resources, net-
25 working, data facilities, and software engineer-

1 ing support for artificial intelligence research
2 and development.

3 “(E) Community building activities to fos-
4 ter mutually beneficial public-private collabora-
5 tion with Federal research agencies, industry,
6 Federal laboratories, academia, and nonprofit
7 organizations.

8 “(F) Development and hosting of intra- or
9 inter-institutional workshops to broaden work-
10 force participation in artificial intelligence re-
11 search and development.

12 “(G) Activities to integrate ethical and re-
13 sponsible practices and principles into education
14 programs in artificial intelligence and related
15 disciplines.

16 “(H) Other activities necessary to build re-
17 search capacity, education pathways, and work-
18 force development pathways in artificial intel-
19 ligence and related disciplines.

20 “(5) OUTREACH.—The Director of the National
21 Science Foundation shall—

22 “(A) conduct outreach to eligible institu-
23 tions of higher education and eligible nonprofit
24 organizations to apply for awards under this
25 subsection; and

1 “(B) engage participants from all regions
2 of the United States, especially individuals from
3 underserved communities and groups histori-
4 cally underrepresented in science, technology,
5 engineering, and mathematics.

6 “(6) DUPLICATION.—The Director of the Na-
7 tional Science Foundation shall ensure awards made
8 under this section are complimentary to, and not du-
9 plicative of, awards made under existing programs.

10 “(7) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In mak-
11 ing awards under this subsection, the Director of the
12 National Science Foundation may also consider the
13 following:

14 “(A) The extent to which eligible institu-
15 tions of higher education and eligible nonprofit
16 organizations applying for awards under this
17 subsection support students from diverse back-
18 grounds, including first-generation under-
19 graduate students.

20 “(B) The geographic diversity of such in-
21 stitutions and organizations.

22 “(C) Relative resource constraints of such
23 institutions and organizations.

24 “(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR
2 UNIVERSITY.—The term ‘historically Black col-
3 lege or university’ has the meaning given the
4 term ‘part B institution’ in section 322 of the
5 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
6 1061).

7 “(B) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—
8 The term ‘minority-serving institution’ means a
9 Hispanic-serving institution as defined in sec-
10 tion 502(a) of the Higher Education Act of
11 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)); an Alaska Native-
12 serving institution or Native Hawaiian-serving
13 institution as defined in section 317(b) of such
14 Act (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)); or a predominantly
15 Black institution, Asian American and Native
16 American Pacific Islander-serving institution, or
17 Native American-serving nontribal institution
18 as defined in section 371(c) of such Act (20
19 U.S.C. 1067q(c)).

20 “(C) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The
21 term ‘nonprofit organization’ means an organi-
22 zation which is described in section 501(c)(3) of
23 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt
24 from tax under section 501(a) of such code.

1 “(D) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—
2 The term ‘Tribal College or University’ has the
3 meaning given such term in section 316 of the
4 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 1059c).”.

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