

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HICKENLOOPER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

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

5 **“SEC. 115. JOHN LEWIS CIVIL RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PRO-**
6 **GRAM.**

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

11 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Fellowship
12 Program are—

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

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

22 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Bureau of Educational
23 and Cultural Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Bu-
24 reau’) shall administer the Fellowship Program in accord-
25 ance with policy guidelines established by the Board, in

1 consultation with the binational Fulbright Commissions
2 and United States Embassies.

3 “(d) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—

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

9 “(2) OUTREACH.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To the extent prac-
11 ticable, the Bureau shall conduct outreach at
12 institutions, including—

13 “(i) minority serving institutions, in-
14 cluding historically Black colleges and uni-
15 versities; and

16 “(ii) other appropriate institutions, as
17 determined by the Bureau.

18 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

19 “(i) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE
20 AND UNIVERSITY.—The term ‘historically
21 Black college and university’ has the mean-
22 ing given the term ‘part B institution’ in
23 section 322 of the Higher Education Act
24 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

1 “(ii) MINORITY SERVING INSTITU-
2 TION.—The term ‘minority-serving institu-
3 tion’ means an eligible institution under
4 section 371(a) of the Higher Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

6 “(e) FELLOWSHIP ORIENTATION.—Annually, the Bu-
7 reau shall organize and administer a fellowship orienta-
8 tion, which shall—

9 “(1) be held in Washington, D.C., or at another
10 location selected by the Bureau; and

11 “(2) include programming to honor the legacy
12 of Representative John Lewis.

13 “(f) STRUCTURE.—

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

16 “(A) each fellow selected pursuant to sub-
17 section (d) shall arrange an internship or re-
18 search placement—

19 “(i) with a nongovernmental organiza-
20 tion, academic institution, or other organi-
21 zation approved by the Bureau; and

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

24 “(B) the Bureau shall, for each fellow, ap-
25 prove a work plan that identifies the target ob-

1 jectives for the fellow, including specific duties
2 and responsibilities relating to those objectives.

3 “(2) CONFERENCES; PRESENTATIONS.—Each
4 fellow shall—

5 “(A) attend a fellowship orientation orga-
6 nized and administered by the Bureau under
7 subsection (e);

8 “(B) not later than the date that is 1 year
9 after the end of the fellowship period, attend a
10 fellowship summit organized and administered
11 by the Bureau, which—

12 “(i) whenever feasible, shall be held in
13 Atlanta, Georgia, or another location of
14 importance to the civil rights movement in
15 the United States; and

16 “(ii) may coincide with other events
17 facilitated by the Bureau; and

18 “(C) at such summit, give a presentation
19 on lessons learned during the period of fellow-
20 ship.

21 “(3) FELLOWSHIP PERIOD.—Each fellowship
22 under this section shall continue for a period deter-
23 mined by the Bureau, which, whenever feasible, shall
24 be not fewer than 10 months.

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

4 “(1) the reasonable costs of the fellow during
5 the fellowship period; and

6 “(2) travel and lodging expenses related to at-
7 tending the orientation and summit required under
8 subsection (e)(2).

9 “(h) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after
10 the date of the completion of the Fellowship Program by
11 the initial cohort of fellows selected under subsection (d),
12 and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall sub-
13 mit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
14 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
15 tions of the Senate a report on the implementation of the
16 Fellowship Program, including—

17 “(1) a description of the demographics of the
18 cohort of fellows who completed a fellowship during
19 the preceding 1-year period;

20 “(2) a description of internship and research
21 placements, and research projects selected by such
22 cohort, under the Fellowship Program, including
23 feedback from—

24 “(A) such cohort on implementation of the
25 Fellowship Program; and

1 “(B) the Secretary on lessons learned; and
2 “(3) an analysis of trends relating to the diver-
3 sity of each cohort of fellows and the topics of
4 projects completed since the establishment of the
5 Fellowship Program.”

6 “(i) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section
7 terminates on the date that is 7 years after the date of
8 the enactment of the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship
9 Act of 2023.”.

10 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO**
11 **THE MUTUAL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL**
12 **EXCHANGE ACT OF 1961.**

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

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

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

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

21 “(10) the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship
22 Program established under section 115, which pro-
23 vides funding for international internships and re-
24 search placements for early- to mid-career individ-
25 uals from the United States to study nonviolent civil

1 rights movements in self-arranged placements with
2 universities or nongovernmental organizations in for-
3 eign countries.”.