

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7894

To make improvements to the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholarship Act,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2026

Ms. STEFANIK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To make improvements to the Harry S Truman Memorial
Scholarship Act, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Truman Scholarship
5 Clean House Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 3 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholar-
8 ship Act (20 U.S.C. 2002) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
10 (6) as paragraphs (2) through (7), respectively; and

1 (2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so re-
2 designated, the following:

3 “(1) ‘affiliated with’, when used with respect to
4 an individual’s relationship to a certain political
5 party, means that the individual—

6 “(A) is a registered member of that polit-
7 ical party;

8 “(B) is a current or former holder of elect-
9 ed public office from that political party;

10 “(C) is a current or former candidate for
11 public office from that political party;

12 “(D) is a current or former political ap-
13 pointee associated with that political party;

14 “(E) is a current staffer of—

15 “(i) a holder of elected public office
16 from that political party;

17 “(ii) a candidate of that political
18 party; or

19 “(iii) a fundraising organization for
20 such members or candidates; or

21 “(F) is a current or former judicial ap-
22 pointee nominated or otherwise selected by a
23 holder of elected public office from that political
24 party.”.

1 **SEC. 3. HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION.**

2 (a) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—Section 5 of the Harry
3 S Truman Memorial Scholarship Act (20 U.S.C. 2004)
4 is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “The
7 Board shall be composed of” and all that fol-
8 lows through the end of subparagraph (D); and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(2) The Board shall be composed of 13 members,
11 as follows:

12 “(A) One member appointed by the Speaker of
13 the House of Representatives.

14 “(B) One member appointed by the minority
15 leader of the House of Representatives.

16 “(C) One member appointed by the majority
17 leader of the Senate.

18 “(D) One member appointed by the minority
19 leader of the Senate.

20 “(E) Eight members, not more than four of
21 whom may be affiliated with the same political party
22 at the time of appointment, to be appointed by the
23 President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

24 “(F) The Secretary of Education or the Sec-
25 retary’s designee, who shall serve ex officio as a

1 member of the Board, but shall not be eligible to
2 serve as Chairperson.”;

3 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
4 lows:

5 “(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the term
6 of office of each member of the Board (other than Sec-
7 retary of Education or the Secretary’s designee serving ex
8 officio) shall be six years.

9 “(2) As designated by the President at the time of
10 appointment, of the members first appointed under sub-
11 section (b)(2)(E) after the date of enactment of this para-
12 graph—

13 “(A) three shall be appointed for terms of two
14 years;

15 “(B) three shall be appointed for terms of four
16 years; and

17 “(C) two shall be appointed for terms of six
18 years.

19 “(3) Any member of the Board appointed to fill a
20 vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term for
21 which the member’s predecessor was appointed, and shall
22 be appointed in the same manner as the original appoint-
23 ment for that vacancy was made.

24 “(4) No member of the Board (other than the Sec-
25 retary of Education or the Secretary’s designee serving ex

1 officio) may serve more than two six-year terms, regard-
2 less of whether the terms are consecutive. A member de-
3 scribed in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) who
4 serves an initial term of less than six years, may serve
5 up to two additional six-year terms following the expira-
6 tion of such member's initial term.”; and

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

8 “(e) Seven members of the Board shall constitute a
9 quorum.”.

10 (b) TRANSITION AND IMPLEMENTATION.—

11 (1) DISSOLUTION OF EXISTING BOARD OF
12 TRUSTEES.—Effective on the date that is 90 days
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board
14 of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship
15 Foundation (as established under section 5 of the
16 Harry S Truman Memorial Scholarship Act (20
17 U.S.C. 2004)) is dissolved and all members of the
18 Board are terminated.

19 (2) APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.—As
20 soon as practicable after the effective date specified
21 in paragraph (1), new members shall be appointed
22 to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman
23 Scholarship Foundation in accordance with section 5
24 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholarship Act
25 (20 U.S.C. 2004), as amended by subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 4. SELECTION OF TRUMAN SCHOLARS.**

2 Section 7 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholar-
3 ship Act (20 U.S.C. 2006) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) by inserting “the eligibility require-
6 ments described in subsection (c) and” before
7 “minimum criteria”; and

8 (B) by inserting “in accordance with sub-
9 section (d)(4)” before the period at the end;

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(c) A student is eligible to be nominated for a schol-
12 arship under this Act if such student—

13 “(1) is—

14 “(A) a full-time undergraduate student en-
15 rolled at an institution of higher education who
16 will receive a bachelor’s degree in the academic
17 year following the academic year in which the
18 student is applying for a scholarship; or

19 “(B) a full-time senior level student from
20 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or from The
21 Islands (as defined in section 1801.2(b) of title
22 45, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on
23 the date of the enactment of this subsection));

24 “(2) is enrolled in a course of study that quali-
25 fies the student for admission to a graduate pro-
26 gram leading to a career in public service;

1 “(3) has a demonstrated record of academic ex-
2 cellence; and

3 “(4) is a citizen or national of the United
4 States or a permanent resident of the Common-
5 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

6 “(d)(1) The Foundation shall establish and maintain
7 Regional Review Panels for purposes of carrying out sub-
8 section (a).

9 “(2) Each Regional Review Panel shall be responsible
10 for selecting scholarship recipients from one or more
11 States assigned to the Panel by the Board.

12 “(3)(A) Each Regional Review Panel shall consist of
13 not fewer than five members, each of whom shall be ap-
14 pointed on an annual basis by an affirmative vote of not
15 less than two-thirds of the members of the Board.

16 “(B) Not more than half of the members of a Re-
17 gional Review Panel may be affiliated with the same polit-
18 ical party at the time of appointment.

19 “(4) In selecting students to be scholarship recipients
20 under this Act, each Regional Review Panel—

21 “(A) shall select students based on—

22 “(i) the extent and quality of community service
23 and government involvement of the student;

24 “(ii) the leadership record of the student;

1 “(iii) the academic performance of the student,
2 including with respect to and writing and analytical
3 skills; and

4 “(iv) the suitability and appropriateness of the
5 student’s proposed graduate program of study for a
6 career in public service;

7 “(B) shall not select any student who—

8 “(i) served as a leader, officer, director, or or-
9 ganizer of a student organization recognized by the
10 institution of higher education at which the student
11 is enrolled at time of an incident or conduct that led
12 to the suspension or expulsion of such organization
13 from such institution;

14 “(ii) has been suspended or expelled by an insti-
15 tution of higher education due to a violation of such
16 institution’s code of conduct or other disciplinary ac-
17 tion by such institution; or

18 “(iii) has been convicted by any Federal, State,
19 or local court of competent jurisdiction of a felony;
20 and

21 “(C) may not disfavor or otherwise apply adverse con-
22 siderations to a student because the student intends to
23 pursue a particular type of graduate degree, including
24 with respect to a Master of Business Administration de-
25 gree or Doctor of Medicine degree.”.

1 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP.**

2 Section 9 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholar-
3 ship Act (20 U.S.C. 2008) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “in accord-
5 ance with subsection (c) and” after “provided in this
6 Act”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(c)(1) In accordance with paragraph (2), a student
9 awarded a scholarship under the provisions of this Act
10 may not continue to receive the payments provided in this
11 Act if, at any point after the date on which the scholarship
12 is received, the student—

13 “(A) with respect to a report or request re-
14 quired by the Foundation—

15 “(i) fails to submit such a report or re-
16 quest; or

17 “(ii) provides false, misleading, or materi-
18 ally incomplete information on any such report
19 or request;

20 “(B) fails to begin use of the scholarship within
21 four years of the date of receipt of a bachelor’s de-
22 gree, unless granted an extension in writing by the
23 Foundation;

24 “(C) serves as a leader, officer, director, or or-
25 ganizer of a student organization recognized by the
26 institution of higher education at which the student

1 is enrolled at time of an incident or conduct that
2 leads to the suspension or expulsion of such organi-
3 zation from such institution;

4 “(D) is suspended or expelled by the institution
5 of higher education at which the student is enrolled
6 due to a violation of the institution’s code of conduct
7 or other disciplinary action by the institution; or

8 “(E) is convicted by any Federal, State, or local
9 court of competent jurisdiction of a felony.

10 “(2)(A) The Foundation may not stop the payments
11 provided in this Act without first affording the student—

12 “(i) reasonable notice, which shall include the
13 reason for stopping such payments identified under
14 subsection (a) or subsection (c)(1) and any addi-
15 tional relevant information, as determined by the
16 Foundation; and

17 “(ii) opportunity for a hearing.

18 “(B) If the Foundation, after reasonable notice and
19 opportunity for hearing, finds that a student does not
20 meet the conditions of receiving payment in accordance
21 with subsection (a) or subsection (c)(1), the Foundation
22 shall—

23 “(i) stop the payments provided in this Act for
24 such student; and

1 “(ii) provide written notice to such student,
2 which shall include the reason for stopping such pay-
3 ments identified under subsection (a) or subsection
4 (c)(1) and any additional relevant information, as
5 determined by the Foundation.

6 “(d) A student whose payments are stopped pursuant
7 to subsection (a) or subsection (c)(1) or an individual who
8 fails to be employed in public service for three out of the
9 first seven years of employment following completion of
10 the graduate degree for which the individual used such
11 payments shall repay to the Foundation an amount equal
12 to the sum of—

13 “(1) the total amount of payments provided in
14 this Act to such student; and

15 “(2) interest at the rate of 6 percent per
16 annum on the total amount described in paragraph
17 (1).

18 “(e) The Foundation shall ensure all scholarship re-
19 cipients are notified of the conditions that apply to receiv-
20 ing payments provided in this Act as described in this sec-
21 tion, prior to the date of the first such payment.”.

22 **SEC. 6. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF FOUNDATION.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12 of the Harry S Tru-
24 man Memorial Scholarship Act (20 U.S.C. 2011) is
25 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “who shall be
2 appointed by the Board” and inserting “who shall be
3 appointed by an affirmative vote of not less than
4 two-thirds of the members of the Board”; and

5 (2) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(c) The Executive Secretary shall serve a term of
7 4 years and may be reappointed to up to two additional
8 terms of four years in accordance with subsection (a).”.

9 (b) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after a
10 quorum of the members of the Board of Trustees of the
11 Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation have been ap-
12 pointed in accordance with section 3(b)(2) of this Act, the
13 Board shall appoint an Executive Secretary of the Foun-
14 dation in accordance with section 12 of the Harry S Tru-
15 man Memorial Scholarship Act (20 U.S.C. 2011), as
16 amended by subsection (a).

17 (c) SERVICE OF INCUMBENT.—The individual serving
18 as Executive Secretary of the Harry S Truman Scholar-
19 ship Foundation as of the date of enactment of this Act
20 may only continue serving in such position until the earlier
21 of—

22 (1) the date on which the Board of Trustees of
23 the Foundation appoints a new Executive Secretary
24 in accordance with subsection (b); or

1 (2) the expiration of the 90 day period begin-
2 ning on the date that a quorum of the members of
3 the Board have been appointed in accordance with
4 section 3(b)(2).

5 **SEC. 7. TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS.**

6 Section 13 of the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholar-
7 ship Act (20 U.S.C. 2012) is amended by adding at the
8 end the following:

9 “(c)(1) The Foundation shall preserve in unaltered
10 format, and make available on a publicly accessible website
11 of the Foundation, the following materials of the Founda-
12 tion:

13 “(A) Press releases.

14 “(B) Program announcements.

15 “(C) Biographies of scholarship recipients.

16 “(2) The materials described in paragraph (1) may
17 not be deleted, hidden, or password-protected.

18 “(3) Any edits made to the materials described in
19 paragraph (1) after such materials were initially published
20 shall be clearly identified and, in a case in which an edit
21 has been made to such materials, a copy of the original,
22 unaltered materials shall remain available to the public on
23 a website of the Foundation.

1 “(4) The requirements of this subsection shall apply
2 to any materials published by the Foundation before, on,
3 or after the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

4 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.**

5 (a) **APPLICABILITY.**—This Act and the amendments
6 made by this Act shall apply only with respect to scholar-
7 ships awarded under the Harry S Truman Memorial
8 Scholarship Act (20 U.S.C. 2002) on or after the date
9 of enactment of this Act.

10 (b) **TREATMENT OF PREVIOUSLY AWARDED SCHOL-**
11 **ARSHIPS.**—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made
12 by this Act shall be construed to invalidate or revoke, or
13 alter the terms and conditions of, a scholarship that was
14 awarded under the Harry S Truman Memorial Scholar-
15 ship Act (20 U.S.C. 2002) before the date of enactment
16 of this Act. The Harry S Truman foundation shall take
17 such steps as may be necessary to continue to fund and
18 administer such previously awarded scholarships.

○