

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 4332  
OFFERED BY MS. KAMLAGER-DOVE OF  
CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Young African Leaders  
3 Initiative Act of 2026” or the “YALI Act of 2026”.

**4 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) the Young African Leaders Initiative,  
7 launched in 2010, is a signature effort to invest in  
8 the next generation of African leaders;

9 (2) Africa is a continent of strategic importance  
10 and it is vital for the United States to support  
11 strong and enduring partnerships with the next gen-  
12 eration of African leaders;

13 (3) the United States Government should  
14 prioritize investments to build the capacity of emerg-  
15 ing young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, in-  
16 cluding through efforts to—

17 (A) enhance leadership skills;

1 (B) encourage entrepreneurship;

2 (C) strengthen public administration and  
3 the role of civil society;

4 (D) enhance peace and security in their re-  
5 spective countries of origin and across Africa;  
6 and

7 (E) connect young African leaders con-  
8 tinentally and globally across the private, civic,  
9 and public sectors;

10 (4) youth in Africa have a positive impact on  
11 efforts to foster economic growth, improve public  
12 sector transparency and governance, and counter ex-  
13 tremism, and should be an area of focus for United  
14 States outreach on the African continent; and

15 (5) the Secretary of State should—

16 (A) increase the number of fellows from  
17 Africa participating in the Mandela Washington  
18 Fellowship; and

19 (B) identify additional ways to connect  
20 YALI alumni to United States public and pri-  
21 vate resources and institutions.

22 **SEC. 3. YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE PROGRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Young  
24 African Leaders Initiative (referred to in this section as

1 “YALI”), which shall be carried out by the Secretary of  
2 State.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—YALI shall seek to build the capacity  
4 of young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa—

5 (1) to support young African leaders by offering  
6 professional development, training, and networking  
7 opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership,  
8 business, innovation, elections, human rights, entre-  
9 preneurship, good governance, peace and security,  
10 and public administration; and

11 (2) to provide increased economic and technical  
12 assistance to young African leaders to promote eco-  
13 nomic growth, strengthen ties between United States  
14 and African businesses, build resilience to predatory  
15 lending practices, and improve capacity in key eco-  
16 nomic areas such as tendering, bidding, and contract  
17 negotiations, budget management and oversight,  
18 anti-corruption, and establishment of clear policy  
19 and regulatory practices.

20 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—YALI shall support the par-  
22 ticipation in the United States in the Mandela  
23 Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders  
24 of fellows from Africa who—

25 (A) are between 25 and 35 years of age;

1           (B) have demonstrated strong capabilities  
2           in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service,  
3           and leadership; and

4           (C) have had a positive impact in their  
5           communities, organizations, or institutions.

6           (2) OVERSIGHT.—The fellowships described in  
7           paragraph (1) shall be overseen by the Secretary of  
8           State through the Bureau of Educational and Cul-  
9           tural Affairs.

10          (3) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of State shall  
11          establish and publish—

12                (A) eligibility criteria for participation as a  
13                fellow under paragraph (1); and

14                (B) criteria for determining which eligible  
15                applicants will be selected.

16          (d) RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES.—Subject to the ap-  
17          proval of the Secretary of State, United States citizens  
18          may—

19                (1) engage in reciprocal exchanges in connec-  
20                tion with alumni of the fellowship described in sub-  
21                section (c); and

22                (2) collaborate on projects with such fellowship  
23                alumni.

24          (e) REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS AND NET-  
25          WORKS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the

1 heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies,  
2 shall establish—

3           (1) not fewer than 4 regional leadership centers  
4           in sub-Saharan Africa to offer in-person and online  
5           training throughout the year on business and entre-  
6           preneurship, civic leadership, and public manage-  
7           ment to young African leaders who are between 18  
8           and 35 years of age, have demonstrated strong capa-  
9           bilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public serv-  
10          ice and leadership, and peace-building and conflict  
11          resolution, and have had a positive impact in their  
12          communities, organizations, or institutions; and

13          (2) an online network that provides information  
14          and courses on, and connections with leaders in, the  
15          private and public sectors of Africa.

16 (f) ACTIVITIES.—

17          (1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The  
18          Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of  
19          relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall  
20          oversee all United States-based activities carried out  
21          under YALI, including—

22                (A) the participation of Mandela Wash-  
23                ington Fellows in a 6-week Leadership Institute  
24                at a United States educational institution in  
25                business, or public management, including aca-

1           demic sessions, site visits, professional net-  
2           working opportunities, leadership training, com-  
3           munity service, and organized cultural activi-  
4           ties; and

5                   (B) the participation by Mandela Wash-  
6           ington fellows in an annual Mandela Wash-  
7           ington Fellowship Summit, to provide such Fel-  
8           lows the opportunity to meet with United States  
9           leaders from the private, public, and nonprofit  
10          sectors.

11           (2) AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary  
12          of State, in coordination with the heads of other rel-  
13          evant Federal departments and agencies, should con-  
14          tinue to support YALI activities in sub-Saharan Af-  
15          rica, including—

16                   (A) continued leadership training and  
17          other professional development opportunities for  
18          Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young Af-  
19          rican Leaders alumni upon their return to their  
20          home countries, including online courses, tech-  
21          nical assistance, and access to funding;

22                   (B) training for young African leaders at  
23          regional leadership centers established pursuant  
24          to subsection (e), and through online and in-  
25          person courses offered by such centers; and

1 (C) opportunities for networking and en-  
2 gagement with—

3 (i) alumni of the Mandela Washington  
4 Fellowship for Young African Leaders;

5 (ii) alumni of programs at regional  
6 leadership centers established pursuant to  
7 subsection (e);

8 (iii) United States and like-minded  
9 diplomatic missions, business leaders, and  
10 others as appropriate; and

11 (iv) where practicable and appro-  
12 priate, other United States-funded regional  
13 leadership programs, including the Young  
14 Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative  
15 (YSEALI), the Young Leaders of the  
16 Americas Initiative (YLAI), the Young Pa-  
17 cific Leaders (YPL), and the Young  
18 Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative  
19 (YTILI), and through Department of  
20 State programs such as the Community  
21 Engagement Exchange Program and other  
22 initiatives.

23 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out this sub-  
24 section, the Secretary of State, in coordination with  
25 the heads of other relevant Federal departments and

1 agencies, shall seek to partner with the private sec-  
2 tor to pursue public-private partnerships, including  
3 cost-sharing agreements, leverage private sector ex-  
4 pertise, expand networking opportunities, and iden-  
5 tify funding opportunities and fellowship and em-  
6 ployment opportunities for YALI.

7 (g) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180  
8 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
9 retary of State, in coordination with the heads of other  
10 relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit  
11 a plan to the appropriate congressional committees for im-  
12 plementing YALI, including—

13 (1) a description of clearly defined program  
14 goals, targets, and planned outcomes for each year  
15 and for the duration of implementation of the pro-  
16 gram;

17 (2) a strategy to monitor and evaluate the pro-  
18 gram and progress made toward achieving such  
19 goals, targets, and planned outcomes; and

20 (3) a strategy to ensure the program is pro-  
21 moting United States foreign policy goals in Africa,  
22 including ensuring that the program is clearly  
23 branded, paired with robust public diplomacy efforts,  
24 and incorporates diversity among participants as  
25 practicable, including countries and communities in

1 Africa facing economic distress, civil conflict,  
2 marginalization, and other challenges.

3 (h) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
4 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for  
5 the following 4 years, the Secretary of State, in coordina-  
6 tion with the heads of other relevant Federal departments  
7 and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congress-  
8 sional committees and publish in a publicly accessible,  
9 internet-based form, a report that includes—

10 (1) a description of the progress made toward  
11 achieving the goals, targets, and planned outcomes  
12 described in subsection (g)(1), including an overview  
13 of the program implemented in the previous year  
14 and an estimated number of beneficiaries;

15 (2) an assessment of how YALI is contributing  
16 to and promoting United States-Africa relations,  
17 particularly in areas of increased private sector in-  
18 vestment, trade promotion, support to civil society,  
19 improved public administration, promoting peace  
20 and security, and fostering entrepreneurship and  
21 youth empowerment;

22 (3) recommendations for improvements or  
23 changes to YALI and the implementation plan, if  
24 any, that would improve their effectiveness during  
25 subsequent years of YALI's implementation; and

1           (4) for the first report submitted under this  
2 subsection, an assessment of the feasibility of ex-  
3 panding YALI to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya,  
4 and Egypt.

5           (i) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “ap-  
6 propriate congressional committees” means—

7           (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the  
8 Senate;

9           (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
10 Senate;

11           (3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
12 House of Representatives; and

13           (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
14 House of Representatives.

15           (j) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have effect  
16 on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment  
17 of this Act.

