

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. 5181**  
**OFFERED BY MR. COMER OF KENTUCKY**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “SOAR Act Improve-  
3 ments Act of 2025”.

**4 SEC. 2. GRANT DURATION AND APPLICATIONS.**

5       (a) EXTENSION OF GRANT DURATION.—Section  
6 3004(a)(2) of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Re-  
7 sults Act (sec. 38–1853.04(a)(2), D.C. Official Code) is  
8 amended by striking “5 years” and inserting “5 years, and  
9 may renew such grants for an additional period of not  
10 more than 5 years, without a competitive process, when  
11 the Secretary determines appropriate and desirable to  
12 maintain continuity in the program”.

**13 (b) CHANGES TO APPLICATION CONTENT.—**

14       (1) NONINTERFERENCE IN REGULAR ADMIS-  
15 SIONS STANDARDS OR PROCEDURES.—Section  
16 3005(b)(1)(C) of such Act (sec. 38–  
17 1853.05(b)(1)(C), D.C. Official Code) is amended by  
18 striking the semicolon at the end and inserting “, if

1       such a process will not interfere with the regular ad-  
2       mission standards or procedures of the school;”.

3           (2) CHANGE TO RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT OF  
4       ELIGIBLE ENTITY BOARD MEMBERS.—

5           (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 3005(b)(1)(M)  
6       of such Act (sec. 38–1853.05(b)(1)(M), D.C.  
7       Official Code) is amended by striking “District  
8       of Columbia” and inserting “Washington met-  
9       ropolitan region”.

10          (B) WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN REGION  
11       DEFINED.—Section 3013 of such Act (sec. 38–  
12       1853.13, D.C. Official Code) is amended by  
13       adding at the end the following:

14       “(12) WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN REGION.—  
15       The term ‘Washington metropolitan region’ includes  
16       the District of Columbia, the counties of Mont-  
17       gomery and Prince Georges in Maryland, and the  
18       counties of Arlington and Fairfax and the cities of  
19       Alexandria and Falls Church in Virginia.”.

20   **SEC. 3. ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS.**

21       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3007(a)(5)(A) of the  
22       Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (sec. 38–  
23       1853.07(a)(5)(A), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

24           (1) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

1 “(i) in the case of a school that is a  
2 participating school as of the date of en-  
3 actment of the SOAR Act Improvements  
4 Act, is recognized by—

5 “(I) a national or regional ac-  
6 crediting body; or

7 “(II) an accrediting body sited by  
8 the Student and Visitor Exchange  
9 English Language Program adminis-  
10 tered by U.S. Immigration and Cus-  
11 toms Enforcement; and”;

12 (2) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

13 “(ii) in the case of a school that is not  
14 a participating school as of the date of en-  
15 actment of the SOAR Act Improvements  
16 Act, is fully accredited by an accrediting  
17 body described under clause (i) not later  
18 than 5 years after the date on which that  
19 school began the process of pursuing par-  
20 ticipation under this division.”.

21 (b) REMOVAL OF COMPLETED REPORT.—Section  
22 3007(a)(5) of such Act (sec. 38–1853.07(a)(5), D.C. Offi-  
23 cial Code) is further amended by striking subparagraph  
24 (B) and redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph  
25 (B).

1   **SEC. 4. USE OF FUNDS.**

2           (a) EXTENSION OF FUNDS FOR USE IN PRE-KINDER-  
3   GARTEN.—Section 3007(a)(3)(B)(i)(I) of the Scholarships  
4   for Opportunity and Results Act (sec. 38–  
5   1853.07(a)(3)(B)(i)(I), D.C. Official Code) is amended by  
6   striking “kindergarten” and inserting “pre-kindergarten”.

7           (b) MAXIMUM SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.—Section  
8   3007(a)(3)(B)(ii) of such Act (sec. 38–  
9   1853.07(a)(3)(B)(ii), D.C. Official Code) is amended by  
10   adding at the end the following: “In any year, an eligible  
11   entity receiving a grant under section 3004(a) has sole  
12   authority to establish a maximum scholarship amount less  
13   than the amount permitted in (3)(B)(i).”

14          (c) EXTENSION OF FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL STU-  
15   DENT ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE.—

16               (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3007 of such Act  
17               (sec. 38–1853.07, D.C. Official Code) is further  
18               amended—

19                       (A) in subsection (b)—

20                               (i) in the heading, by striking “AND  
21                               PARENTAL ASSISTANCE” and inserting “,  
22                               PARENTAL ASSISTANCE, AND STUDENT  
23                               ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE”; and

24                               (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
25                               lowing:

1           “(3) The expenses of providing tutoring service  
2           to participating eligible students who need additional  
3           academic assistance. If there are insufficient funds  
4           to provide tutoring services to all such students in  
5           a year, the eligible entity shall give priority in such  
6           year to students who previously attended an elemen-  
7           tary school or secondary school identified as one of  
8           the lowest-performing schools under the District of  
9           Columbia’s accountability system.”;

10           (B) by striking subsection (c) and redesign-  
11           nating subsection (d) as subsection (c); and

12           (C) in subsection (c), as so redesignated—

13           (i) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking  
14           “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting  
15           “subsection (b)”; and

16           (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking  
17           “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting  
18           “subsection (b)”.

19           (2) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF FUNDS.—Section  
20           3007(b) of such Act (sec. 38–1853.07(b), D.C. Offi-  
21           cial Code) is further amended in the matter pre-  
22           ceding paragraph (1), by striking “\$2,000,000” and  
23           inserting “\$2,200,000”;

1           (3) REMOVAL OF COMPLETED STUDY.—Section  
2           3007(b)(1) of such Act (sec. 38–1853.07(b)(1), D.C.  
3           Official Code) is further amended—

4                   (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “;  
5                   and” and inserting a period; and

6                   (B) by striking subparagraph (F).

7   **SEC. 5. STANDARDIZED TESTING REQUIREMENTS.**

8           Section 3008(h) of the Scholarships for Opportunity  
9   and Results Act (sec. 38–1853.08(h), D.C. Official Code)  
10 is amended—

11           (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “section  
12           3009(a)(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “section 3009(a)”;

13           (2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
14           lows:

15                   “(2) ADMINISTRATION OF TESTS.—The Insti-  
16           tute of Education Sciences may administer assess-  
17           ments to students participating in the evaluation  
18           under section 3009(a) for the purpose of conducting  
19           the evaluation under such section.”; and

20           (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “the nation-  
21           ally norm-referenced standardized test described in  
22           paragraph (2)” and inserting “a nationally norm-  
23           referenced standardized test”.

1 **SEC. 6. EVALUATIONS.**

2 (a) MODIFICATION IN EVALUATION FREQUENCY.—

3 Section 3009(a)(1)(A) of the Scholarships for Opportunity  
4 and Results Act (sec. 38–1853.09(a)(1)(A), D.C. Official  
5 Code) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(A) jointly enter into an agreement with  
7 the Institute of Education Sciences of the De-  
8 partment of Education to—

9 “(i) conduct an evaluation of the op-  
10 portunity scholarship program under this  
11 division; and

12 “(ii) not later than January 1, 2027,  
13 and every 7 years thereafter, issue a public  
14 report on the opportunity scholarship pro-  
15 gram under this division.”.

16 (b) RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARY.—

17 (1) ENSURING EVALUATIONS ARE RIGOROUS.—

18 Section 3009(a)(2)(A)(i) of such Act (sec. 38–  
19 1853.09(a)(2)(A)(i), D.C. Official Code) is amended  
20 to read as follows:

21 “(i) is rigorous; and”.

22 (2) ENSURING PROPER INFORMATION IS MADE

23 PUBLIC.—Section 3009(a)(2)(B) of such Act (sec.  
24 38–1853.09(a)(2)(B), D.C. Official Code) is amend-  
25 ed to read as follows:

1 “(B) disseminate information on the im-  
2 pact of the program on academic progress and  
3 educational attainment.”.

4 (c) RESPONSIBILITY OF INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION  
5 SCIENCES.—

6 (1) EVALUATION OF PARTICIPATING ELIGIBLE  
7 STUDENTS.—Section 3009(a)(3) of such Act (sec.  
8 38–1853.09(a)(3), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

9 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read  
10 as follows:

11 “(A) assess the academic progress of par-  
12 ticipating eligible students who use an oppor-  
13 tunity scholarship in each of grades 3 through  
14 8;” and

15 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and re-  
16 designating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph  
17 (B).

18 (2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section  
19 3009(a)(3) of such Act (sec. 38–1853.09(a)(3), D.C.  
20 Official Code) is further amended in the heading, by  
21 striking “ON EDUCATION” and inserting “OF EDU-  
22 CATION”.

23 (d) ISSUES TO BE EVALUATED.—Section 3009(a)(4)  
24 of such Act (sec. 38–1853.09(a)(4), D.C. Official Code)  
25 is amended—

1           (1) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as  
2 follows:

3           “(A) The academic progress of partici-  
4 pating eligible students who use an opportunity  
5 scholarship compared to the academic progress  
6 of a comparison group of students with similar  
7 backgrounds, which may include students in the  
8 District of Columbia public schools and the Dis-  
9 trict of Columbia public charter schools.”;

10          (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “increas-  
11 ing the satisfaction of such parents and students  
12 with their choice” and inserting “the satisfaction of  
13 those parents and students with the program”;

14          (3) by amending subparagraph (D) to read as  
15 follows:

16          “(D) The high school graduation rates,  
17 college enrollment rates, college persistence  
18 rates, and college graduation rates of partici-  
19 pating eligible students who use an opportunity  
20 scholarship compared with the rates of public  
21 school students described in subparagraph (A),  
22 to the extent practicable.”;

23          (4) by amending subparagraph (E) to read as  
24 follows:

1           “(E) The safety of the schools attended by  
2           participating eligible students who use an op-  
3           portunity scholarship compared with the schools  
4           attended by public school students described in  
5           subparagraph (A), to the extent practicable.”;

6           (5) by striking subparagraphs (F) and (G); and

7           (6) by redesignating subparagraph (H) as sub-  
8           paragraph (F).

9           (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
10          this section shall apply with respect to evaluations carried  
11          out on or after the expiration of the 2-year period begin-  
12          ning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

13       **SEC. 7. REPORT BY ENTITY RECEIVING FUNDS.**

14          (a) CHANGE TO CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Section  
15          3010 of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act  
16          (sec. 38–1853.10, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

17               (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

18                       (A) by striking subparagraph (A); and

19                       (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)  
20                       and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respec-  
21                       tively; and

22               (2) in subsection (c)(1)—

23                       (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “ag-  
24                       gregate academic achievement of other partici-  
25                       pating students at the student’s school in the

1 same grade or level, as appropriate, and the”;  
2 and

3 (B) by amending subparagraph (B) to read  
4 as follows:

5 “(B) any incidents of school violence, stu-  
6 dent suspensions, and student expulsions; and”.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made this  
8 section shall apply with respect to reports submitted for  
9 school years beginning on or after the date of the enact-  
10 ment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 8. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**  
12 **TION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3014 of the Scholarships  
14 for Opportunity and Results Act (sec. 38–1853.14, D.C.  
15 Official Code) is amended in subsection (a)—

16 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
17 striking “through fiscal year 2023” and inserting  
18 “through fiscal year 2032”;

19 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “one-third”  
20 and inserting “one-half”; and

21 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking “one-third”  
22 and inserting “one-sixth”.

1       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply beginning with respect to fiscal  
3 year 2024.

