118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. R. 9403

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

AUGUST 23, 2024

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

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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,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expanding AI Voices through Capacity Building Act" or the "Expanding AI Voices Act".

SEC. 2. EXPANDING CAPACITY IN ARTIFICIAL INTEL-LIGENCE SCIENCE.

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

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

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

"(g) EXPANDING CAPACITY IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, in consultation with the heads of Federal agencies the Director considers appropriate, shall make awards on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to eligible institutions of higher education specified in paragraph (2) or eligible non-profit organizations (or consortia thereof) to broaden participation in artificial intelligence research, education, 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   "(C) A Tribal College or University.

18   "(D) 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, territorial,

1　　　local, and Tribal governments, and private sec-

2　　　tor 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 institutions

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) To provide or broker access to re-

24　　　search resources, including computing re-

25　　　sources, networking, data facilities, and soft-

1 ware engineering support for artificial intel-

2 ligence research 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 the eligible insti-

15   tutions of higher education and eligible non-

16   profit organizations applying for awards under

17   this subsection support students from diverse

18   backgrounds, 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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