

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 965 with an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 965

To establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Ms. BASS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, 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 “Young African Leaders
5 Initiative Act of 2021” or “YALI Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

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

4 (2) Africa is a continent of strategic importance
5 and it is vital for the United States to support
6 strong and enduring partnerships with the next gen-
7 eration of African leaders; and

8 (3) the United States Government should
9 prioritize investments to build the capacity of emerg-
10 ing young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, in-
11 cluding through efforts to enhance leadership skills,
12 encourage entrepreneurship, strengthen public ad-
13 ministration and the role of civil society, and connect
14 young African leaders continentally and globally
15 across the private, civic, and public sectors.

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

17 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the De-
18 partment of State the Young African Leaders Initiative
19 (“YALI”) program.

20 (b) **PURPOSE.**—The YALI program shall seek to
21 build the capacity of young African leaders in sub-Saharan
22 Africa in the areas of business, civic engagement, or public
23 administration, including through efforts to—

24 (1) support young African leaders by offering
25 professional development, training, and networking

1 opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership,
2 innovation, civic engagement, elections, human
3 rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, and pub-
4 lic administration; and

5 (2) provide increased economic and technical
6 assistance to young African leaders to promote eco-
7 nomic growth and strengthen ties between United
8 States and African businesses.

9 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—The YALI program shall award
10 fellowships under the Mandela Washington Fellowship for
11 Young African Leaders program to young African leaders
12 ages 18 to 35 who have demonstrated strong capabilities
13 in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leader-
14 ship, and who have had a positive impact in their commu-
15 nities, organizations, or institutions.

16 (d) REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS.—The YALI
17 program shall seek to establish regional leadership centers
18 in sub-Saharan Africa to offer training to young African
19 leaders ages 18 to 35 who have demonstrated strong capa-
20 bilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service and
21 leadership, and who have had a positive impact in their
22 communities, organizations, or institutions.

23 (e) ACTIVITIES.—

24 (1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The
25 Secretary of State, in coordination with the Admin-

1 istrator for the United States Agency for Inter-
2 national Development and the heads of other rel-
3 evant Federal departments and agencies, shall over-
4 see all United States-based activities carried out
5 under the YALI program, including the following:

6 (A) The participation of Mandela Wash-
7 ington fellows in a six-week Leadership Insti-
8 tute at a United States university or college in
9 business, civic engagement, or public manage-
10 ment, including academic sessions, site visits,
11 professional networking opportunities, leader-
12 ship training, community service, and organized
13 cultural activities.

14 (B) The participation by Mandela Wash-
15 ington fellows in an annual Mandela Wash-
16 ington Fellowship Summit, to provide such Fel-
17 lows the opportunity to meet with United States
18 leaders from the private, public, and non-profit
19 sectors.

20 (2) AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
21 of State, in coordination with the Administrator for
22 the United States Agency for International Develop-
23 ment and the heads of other relevant Federal de-
24 partments and agencies, should continue to support

1 YALI programs in sub-Saharan Africa, including the
2 following:

3 (A) Access to continued leadership training
4 and other professional development opportuni-
5 ties for Mandela Washington Fellowship for
6 Young African Leaders alumni upon their re-
7 turn to their home countries, including online
8 courses, technical assistance, and access to
9 funding.

10 (B) Training for young African leaders at
11 regional leadership centers established in ac-
12 cordance with subsection (d), and through on-
13 line and in-person courses offered by such cen-
14 ters.

15 (C) Opportunities for networking and en-
16 gagement with—

17 (i) other alumni of the Mandela
18 Washington Fellowship for Young African
19 Leaders;

20 (ii) alumni of programs at regional
21 leadership centers established in accord-
22 ance with subsection (d); and

23 (iii) United States and like-minded
24 diplomatic missions, business leaders, and
25 others as appropriate.

1 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out this sub-
2 section, the Secretary of State, in coordination with
3 the Administrator of the United States Agency for
4 International Development and the heads of other
5 relevant Federal departments and agencies shall
6 seek to partner with the private sector to pursue
7 public-private partnerships, leverage private sector
8 expertise, expand networking opportunities, and
9 identify funding opportunities as well as fellowship
10 and employment opportunities for participants in the
11 YALI program.

12 (f) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of
15 the United States Agency for International Development
16 and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and
17 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
18 committees a plan for implementing the YALI program,
19 including the following:

20 (1) A description of clearly defined program
21 goals, targets, and planned outcomes for each year
22 and for the duration of implementation of the pro-
23 gram.

1 (2) A strategy to monitor and evaluate the pro-
2 gram and progress made toward achieving such
3 goals, targets, and planned outcomes.

4 (3) A strategy to ensure the program is pro-
5 moting United States foreign policy goals in Africa,
6 including ensuring that the program is clearly
7 branded and paired with robust public diplomacy ef-
8 forts.

9 (g) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
11 5 years, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the
12 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
13 national Development, shall submit to the appropriate
14 congressional committees and publish in a publicly acces-
15 sible, internet-based form, a report on the following:

16 (1) The progress made toward achieving the
17 goals, targets, and planned outcomes described in
18 subsection (f)(1), including an overview of the pro-
19 gram implemented in the previous year and an esti-
20 mated number of beneficiaries.

21 (2) An assessment of how the YALI program is
22 contributing to and promoting United States-Africa
23 relations, particularly in areas of increased private
24 sector investment, trade promotion, support to civil

1 society, improved public administration, and fos-
2 tering entrepreneurship and youth empowerment.

3 (3) Recommendations for improvements or
4 changes to the program and implementation plan, if
5 any, that would improve their effectiveness during
6 subsequent years of implementation of the program.

7 (h) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
8 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
9 gressional committees” means—

10 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
11 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives; and

13 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
14 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

15 (i) SUNSET.—The requirements of this section shall
16 terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of
17 the enactment of this Act.