To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2022

Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mr. CAREY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

JUNE --, 2022

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.
A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Energy Cybersecurity
University Leadership Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. ENERGY CYBERSECURITY UNIVERSITY LEADER-
SHIP PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Addressing cybersecurity vulnerabilities in
energy-related critical infrastructure after an intru-
sion occurs is inefficient, ineffective, and costly.

(2) Integrating cybersecurity considerations
into the research, design, and development of energy
infrastructure represents a cost-effective approach to
enhancing the security, resilience, and reliability of
the electric grid, oil and natural gas pipelines, and
other energy distribution, transmission, and genera-
tion systems.

(3) Successfully employing the approach out-
lined in paragraph (2) as a guiding principle for the
Department’s energy infrastructure activities will re-
quire a diverse, inclusive, and highly skilled work-
force which possesses energy-specific cybersecurity
expertise and familiarity with associated research,
development, and demonstration needs.
(4) A dedicated science scholarship program at the Department for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers studying energy-specific cybersecurity disciplines could help address the challenges stated in paragraphs (1) through (3).

(b) PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy shall establish an Energy Cybersecurity University Leadership Program (referred to in this section as the “Program”) to carry out the activities described in paragraph (2).

(2) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall—

(A) provide financial assistance, on a competitive basis, for scholarships, fellowships, and research and development projects at institutions of higher education to support graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing a course of study that integrates cybersecurity competencies within disciplines associated with energy infrastructure needs;

(B) provide graduate students and postdoctoral researchers supported under the Program with research traineeship experiences at National Laboratories and utilities; and
(C) conduct outreach to historically Black colleges and universities, Tribal Colleges or Universities, and minority-serving institutions.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the development and implementation of the Program.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Energy.

(2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY.—The term “historically Black college and university” has the meaning given the term “part B institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term “minority-serving institution” means an eligible institution under section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).
(5) **National Laboratory.**—The term “National Laboratory” has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(6) **Tribal College or University.**—The term “Tribal College or University” has the meaning given such term in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059e(b)).