Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 8681, With an Amendment

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

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. R. 8681

To establish the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship to fund international internships and research placements for early- to mid-career professionals to study nonviolent movements to establish and protect civil rights around the world.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2022

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Ms. MACE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. DEAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship to fund international internships and research placements for early- to mid-career professionals to study nonviolent movements to establish and protect civil rights around the world.

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 “John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. JOHN LEWIS CIVIL RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.
The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 115. JOHN LEWIS CIVIL RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Program (referred to in this section as the ‘Fellowship Program’) within the J. William Fulbright Educational Exchange Program.

“(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Fellowship Program are—

“(1) to honor the legacy of Representative John Lewis by promoting a greater understanding of the history and tenets of nonviolent civil rights movements; and

“(2) to advance foreign policy priorities of the United States by promoting studies, research, and international exchange in the subject of nonviolent movements that established and protected civil rights around the world.

“(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Bu-
reau’) shall administer the Fellowship Program in accordance with policy guidelines established by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, in consultation with the binational Fulbright Commissions and United States Embassies.

“(d) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall annually select qualified individuals to participate in the Fellowship Program. The Bureau may determine the number of fellows selected each year, which, whenever feasible, shall be not fewer than 25.

“(2) OUTREACH.—To the extent practicable, the Bureau shall conduct outreach at institutions the Bureau determines are likely to produce a range of qualified applicants.

“(e) FELLOWSHIP ORIENTATION.—The Bureau shall organize and administer a fellowship orientation that shall—

“(1) be held in Washington, DC, or at another location selected by the Bureau;

“(2) include programming to honor the legacy of Representative John Lewis; and

“(3) be held on an annual basis.

“(f) STRUCTURE.—
“(1) WORK PLAN.—To carry out the purposes described in subsection (b)(2)—

“(A) each fellow selected pursuant to subsection (d) shall arrange an internship or re-
search placement—

“(i) with a nongovernmental organiza-
tion, academic institution, or other organi-
zation approved by the Bureau; and

“(ii) in a country with an operational
Fulbright U.S. Student Program; and

“(B) the Bureau shall, for each fellow, ap-
prove a work plan that identifies the target ob-
jectives for the fellow, including specific duties
and responsibilities relating to those objectives.

“(2) CONFERENCES; PRESENTATIONS.—Each
fellow shall—

“(A) attend the fellowship orientation de-
scribed in subsection (e);

“(B) not later than the date that is 1 year
after the end of the fellowship period, attend a
fellowship summit organized and administered
by the Bureau, which, whenever feasible, shall
be held in a location of importance to the civil
rights movement in the United States and may
coincide with other events facilitated by the Bureau; and

“(C) at such summit, give a presentation on lessons learned during the period of fellowship.

“(3) FELLOWSHIP PERIOD.—Each fellowship under this section shall continue for a period determined by the Bureau, which, whenever feasible, shall be not shorter than 10 months.

“(g) FELLOWSHIP AWARD.—The Bureau shall provide each fellow under this section with an allowance that is equal to the amount needed for—

“(1) the fellow’s reasonable costs during the fellowship period; and

“(2) travel and lodging expenses related to attending the orientation and summit required under subsection (e)(2).

“(h) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of completion of the Fellowship Program by the initial cohort of fellows selected under subsection (d), and on an annual basis thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report providing information on the
implementation of the Fellowship Program, including

“(1) the demographics of the cohort of fellows
who completed a fellowship during the preceding 1-
year period;

“(2) a description of internship and research
placements, and research projects selected, under
the Fellowship Program, including participant feed-
back on program implementation and feedback of
the Department on lessons learned;

“(3) a plan for factoring such lessons learned
into future programming; and

“(4) an analysis of trends relating to the diver-
sity of the cohorts of fellows and the topics of
projects completed over the course of the Fellowship
Program.”.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO
THE MUTUAL EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1961A.

Section 112(a) of the Mutual Educational and Cul-
tural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460(a)) is
amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “; and” and
inserting a semicolon;
(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and inserting ‘‘; and’’; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(10) the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Program established under section 115, which provides funding for international internships and research placements for early- to mid-career individuals from the United States to study nonviolent civil rights movements in self-arranged placements with universities or nongovernmental organizations in foreign countries.’’.

SEC. 4. SUNSET.

The authority to carry out the John Lewis Civil Rights Fellowship Program established under section 115 of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.), as added by section 2, shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.