

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5895

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for additional uses of funds for grants to strengthen historically Black colleges and universities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2023

Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARSON, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BUSH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK) introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for additional uses of funds for grants to strengthen historically Black colleges and universities, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) According to a 2021 study by Americans for
2 the Arts, the arts are an invaluable aspect of Amer-
3 ican society, as they strengthen the economy, im-
4 prove healthcare, spark creativity and innovation,
5 and unify communities, with 73 percent of partici-
6 pants agreeing that the arts help them to better un-
7 derstand other cultures.

8 (2) Many United States museums are grappling
9 with diversity. Studies report that only 1.4 percent
10 of artists featured in America’s top museums are
11 black, only 4 percent of staff directors at top muse-
12 ums are Black, and that only 2.5 percent of Black
13 Americans are owners of Arts-Entertainment busi-
14 ness.

15 (3) Historically Black Colleges and Universities,
16 or HBCUs, are uniquely positioned to produce a di-
17 verse generation of art professionals and help bring
18 much needed attention to works by Black artists.
19 HBCUs have historically served as long-standing
20 conservators and crucial supporters of Black art and
21 for the teaching, supporting, and displaying of es-
22 sential Black artists who may otherwise have re-
23 mained unrecognized.

24 (4) Arts programs and arts departments are ex-
25 pensive and have often fallen victim to funding

1 shortfalls. In 2018, the College Art Association re-
2 ported that at least 18 institutions of higher edu-
3 cation planned to severely curtail or eliminate their
4 arts departments.

5 (5) HBCUs have also been underfunded by
6 \$12,600,000,000 compared to their predominantly
7 White counterparts over the last 30 years. Some
8 HBCUs have shrunk, consolidated, or cut their arts
9 programs due to limited resources.

10 (6) An increased investment in HBCU arts,
11 arts education, and culture programs can further
12 help students of color access an affordable arts edu-
13 cation and ensure the continued preparation, con-
14 servation, display, and study of works by Black art-
15 ists.

16 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES**
17 **AND UNIVERSITIES.**

18 Section 323 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
19 U.S.C. 1062) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a),

21 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (14) and
22 (15) as paragraphs (19) and (20), respectively;
23 and

24 (B) by inserting after paragraph (13) the
25 following:

1 “(14) Providing financial and other assistance
2 to students in arts, arts education, and cultural pro-
3 grams.

4 “(15) Establishing outreach programs and de-
5 velopment offices for arts, arts education, and cul-
6 tural departments.

7 “(16) Providing comprehensive wraparound
8 services for arts, arts education, and cultural stu-
9 dents, including faculty and peer mentorship, work-
10 based learning opportunities, guidance counseling,
11 and career advising.

12 “(17) Exhibiting, maintaining, monitoring, and
13 protecting Black art collections in exhibition and in
14 storage.

15 “(18) Providing well-paid apprenticeship, in-
16 ternship, and fellowship opportunities to students in
17 arts, arts education, and cultural programs through
18 partnerships with nonprofit arts, arts education, and
19 cultural institutes.”; and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(d) NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.—An
22 institution may enter into a partnership with the National
23 Endowment for the Arts to carry out the activities de-
24 scribed in paragraphs (14) through (18) of subsection (a).

1 “(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘arts’
2 means art forms used for self-expression and interpreta-
3 tion, including performance, literary, visual, graphic, plas-
4 tic, and decorative arts.”.

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