

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1299

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2019

Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to local educational agencies to encourage girls and underrepresented minorities to pursue studies and careers in STEM fields.

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 “21st Century STEM  
5 for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO PREPARE GIRLS AND UNDERREP-**  
 2 **RESENTED MINORITIES.**

3 Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
 4 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) is amended by add-  
 5 ing at the end the following:

6 **“PART G—PREPARING GIRLS AND UNDERREP-**  
 7 **RESENTED MINORITIES FOR THE 21ST CEN-**  
 8 **TURY**

9 **“SEC. 4701. PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 90  
 11 days after the date of enactment of the 21st Century  
 12 STEM for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act, the  
 13 Secretary shall carry out a program under which the Sec-  
 14 retary makes grants to qualified local educational agen-  
 15 cies, on a competitive basis, to pay the costs of carrying  
 16 out STEM education activities for girls and underrep-  
 17 resented minorities as described in subsection (c).

18 “(b) APPLICATION.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
 20 grant under this part, a qualified local educational  
 21 agency shall submit to the Secretary an application  
 22 at such time, in such form, and containing such in-  
 23 formation as the Secretary may reasonably require.  
 24 At minimum, the application shall include a descrip-  
 25 tion of the following:

1           “(A) The educational program that will be  
2           carried out by the local educational agency  
3           using the grant, including the content of the  
4           program and the research and models used to  
5           design the program.

6           “(B) How elementary schools and sec-  
7           ondary schools served by the agency will col-  
8           laborate to fulfill goals of the program.

9           “(C) How the agency will ensure that there  
10          is a comprehensive plan to improve STEM edu-  
11          cation for girls and underrepresented minorities  
12          in grades kindergarten through grade 12.

13          “(D) The process that will be used for the  
14          recruitment and selection of students for par-  
15          ticipation in the program.

16          “(E) The instructional and motivational  
17          activities that will be included as part of the  
18          program.

19          “(F) Any expected collaboration among  
20          local, regional, or national institutions and or-  
21          ganizations for the purpose of fulfilling the  
22          goals of the program.

23          “(2) PRIORITY.—In selecting among applica-  
24          tions, the Secretary shall give priority to qualified  
25          local educational agencies that partner or coordinate,

1 to the extent practicable, with local, regional, or na-  
 2 tional institutions and organizations that have exten-  
 3 sive experience and expertise in—

4 “(A) increasing the participation of girls or  
 5 underrepresented minorities in STEM fields; or

6 “(B) conducting research on methods to  
 7 increase such participation.

8 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—A qualified local educational  
 9 agency that receives a grant under this part shall use the  
 10 grant to carry out a STEM education program for girls  
 11 and underrepresented minorities from elementary schools  
 12 and secondary schools served by the agency. The program  
 13 may include the following activities:

14 “(1) Preparing girls and underrepresented mi-  
 15 norities for careers in STEM fields and the advan-  
 16 tages of pursuing careers in such fields.

17 “(2) Educating the families of girls and under-  
 18 represented minorities about the opportunities and  
 19 advantages of STEM careers.

20 “(3) Enlisting the help of the families of girls  
 21 and underrepresented minorities—

22 “(A) to overcome the obstacles faced by  
 23 such groups; and

24 “(B) to encourage their child’s continued  
 25 interest and involvement in STEM subjects.

1           “(4) Providing tutoring and mentoring pro-  
2           grams in STEM subjects.

3           “(5) Establishing partnerships and other oppor-  
4           tunities that expose girls and underrepresented mi-  
5           norities to role models in the STEM fields.

6           “(6) Enabling girls and underrepresented mi-  
7           nority students and their teachers to attend events  
8           and academic programs in STEM subjects.

9           “(7) Providing after school and summer activi-  
10          ties designed to encourage interest and develop the  
11          skills of girls and underrepresented minorities in  
12          STEM subjects.

13          “(8) Summer programs designed to help girls  
14          and underrepresented minorities—

15                 “(A) develop an interest in STEM sub-  
16                 jects;

17                 “(B) develop skills in such subjects; and

18                 “(C) understand the relevance and signifi-  
19                 cance of such subjects.

20          “(9) In accordance with subsection (d), pur-  
21          chasing—

22                 “(A) educational instructional materials or  
23                 software designed to help girls and underrep-  
24                 resented minorities develop an interest in  
25                 STEM subjects; or

1           “(B) equipment, instrumentation, or hard-  
 2           ware for teaching STEM subjects to girls and  
 3           underrepresented minorities and encouraging  
 4           their interest in such subjects.

5           “(10) Field trips to locations, including institu-  
 6           tions of higher education, to expose girls and under-  
 7           represented minorities to STEM activities, encour-  
 8           age their interest in such activities, and acquaint  
 9           them with careers in STEM fields.

10          “(11) Providing academic advice and assistance  
 11          in high school course selection to encourage girls and  
 12          underrepresented minorities to take advanced  
 13          courses in STEM subjects.

14          “(12) Paying up to 50 percent of the cost of an  
 15          internship in a STEM discipline for girls and under-  
 16          represented minority students.

17          “(13) Providing professional development for  
 18          teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional  
 19          support personnel, including with respect to—

20               “(A) eliminating gender, racial, and other  
 21               biases in the classroom;

22               “(B) developing cultural competence;

23               “(C) sensitivity to gender and racial dif-  
 24               ferences;

1 “(D) engaging students in the face of gen-  
2 der-based and racial peer pressure and parental  
3 expectations;

4 “(E) creating and maintaining a positive  
5 environment; and

6 “(F) encouraging girls and underrep-  
7 resented minorities through academic advice  
8 and assistance to pursue advanced classes and  
9 careers in STEM fields.

10 “(14) Such other STEM-related activities as  
11 the local educational agency determines to be appro-  
12 priate.

13 “(d) SPECIAL RULE.—A qualified local educational  
14 agency shall not use more than 15 percent of grant funds  
15 under this part for purchases described in subsection  
16 (c)(9).

17 “(e) GRANT DURATION AND AMOUNT.—

18 “(1) DURATION.—Each grant under this sec-  
19 tion shall be made for a period of 4 years.

20 “(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of each grant  
21 under this section shall be \$250,000 for each year  
22 of the grant period.

23 “(f) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A qualified  
24 local educational agency that receives a grant under this  
25 section shall use the grant only to supplement, and not

1 to supplant, other assistance and funds made available  
 2 from non-Federal sources for the activities supported by  
 3 the grant.

4 “(g) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

5 “(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 30  
 6 days after last day of each school year for which a  
 7 qualified local educational agency receives a grant  
 8 under this section, the agency shall submit to the  
 9 Secretary a written report regarding the program  
 10 carried out using the grant.

11 “(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under  
 12 paragraph (1) shall include—

13 “(A) a description of the program and ac-  
 14 tivities carried out using the grant;

15 “(B) a description of the curriculum and  
 16 any partnerships developed using the grant;

17 “(C) the percentage of time that students  
 18 who participated in the program spent directly  
 19 engaged in STEM activities;

20 “(D) an assessment of the academic  
 21 progress made by such students during the pro-  
 22 gram, which shall be based on an evaluation of  
 23 each student at the beginning of the program  
 24 and after the student completes the program;



1           “(E) participant data disaggregated and  
2           cross tabulated by race and gender; and

3           “(F) such other information as the Sec-  
4           retary may require.

5           “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6           “(1) The term ‘STEM’ means science, tech-  
7           nology, engineering, and mathematics, and is inclu-  
8           sive of computer science.

9           “(2) The term ‘qualified local educational agen-  
10          cy’ means a local educational agency or educational  
11          service agency that—

12           “(A) receives funds under part A of title I;  
13          and

14           “(B) serves a total student population of  
15          which not less than 40 percent are children who  
16          are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch  
17          under the Richard B. Russell National School  
18          Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

19           “(3) The term ‘underrepresented minority’ in-  
20          cludes an individual who is Black, Latino, Native  
21          American, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,  
22          or a child with a disability.

1   **“SEC. 4702. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2           “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3 this part \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020  
4 through 2023.”.

