

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8681

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 11, 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “John Lewis Civil
3 Rights Fellowship Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. JOHN LEWIS CIVIL RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

5 The Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act
6 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.) is amended by adding
7 at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 115. JOHN LEWIS CIVIL RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP PRO-**
9 **GRAM.**

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

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

16 “(1) to honor the legacy of Representative John
17 Lewis by promoting a greater understanding of the
18 history and tenets of nonviolent civil rights move-
19 ments; and

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

25 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Bureau of Educational
26 and Cultural Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Bu-

1 reau') shall administer the Fellowship Program in accord-
2 ance with policy guidelines established by the Fulbright
3 Foreign Scholarship Board, in consultation with the bina-
4 tional Fulbright Commissions and United States Embas-
5 sies.

6 “(d) SELECTION OF FELLOWS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall annually
8 select qualified individuals to participate in the Fel-
9 lowship Program. The Bureau may determine the
10 number of fellows selected each year, which, when-
11 ever feasible, shall be not fewer than 25.

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

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

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

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

23 “(3) be held on an annual basis.

24 “(f) STRUCTURE.—

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

3 “(A) each fellow selected pursuant to sub-
4 section (d) shall arrange an internship or re-
5 search placement—

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

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

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

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

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

19 “(B) not later than the date that is 1 year
20 after the end of the fellowship period, attend a
21 fellowship summit organized and administered
22 by the Bureau, which, whenever feasible, shall
23 be held in a location of importance to the civil
24 rights movement in the United States and may

1 coincide with other events facilitated by the Bu-
2 reau; and

3 “(C) at such summit, give a presentation
4 on lessons learned during the period of fellow-
5 ship.

6 “(3) FELLOWSHIP PERIOD.—Each fellowship
7 under this section shall continue for a period deter-
8 mined by the Bureau, which, whenever feasible, shall
9 be not shorter than 10 months.

10 “(g) FELLOWSHIP AWARD.—The Bureau shall pro-
11 vide each fellow under this section with an allowance that
12 is equal to the amount needed for—

13 “(1) the fellow’s reasonable costs during the fel-
14 lowship period; and

15 “(2) travel and lodging expenses related to at-
16 tending the orientation and summit required under
17 subsection (e)(2).

18 “(h) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
19 of completion of the Fellowship Program by the initial co-
20 hort of fellows selected under subsection (d), and on an
21 annual basis thereafter, the Secretary of State shall sub-
22 mit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
23 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
24 tions of the Senate a report providing information on the

1 implementation of the Fellowship Program, including
2 on—

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “; and” and
24 inserting a semicolon;

“(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.”.

13 The authority to carry out the John Lewis Civil
14 Rights Fellowship Program established under section 115
15 of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of
16 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.), as added by section 2,
17 shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the date of
18 the enactment of this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives September 29,
2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.