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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to improve the preparation and representation of certain students in aviation-related fields, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to improve the preparation and representation of certain students in aviation-related fields, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Minorities in Aviation  
5       Education Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. BESSIE COLEMAN AVIATION EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation  
3 shall establish the Bessie Coleman Aviation Education  
4 Program to provide grants to eligible entities to improve  
5 the preparation and representation of students, particu-  
6 larly women and minorities, in aviation-related fields.

7 (b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—A grant awarded  
8 under this section may only be used for activities that in-  
9 crease exposure and access to aviation-related education  
10 and jobs through such means as—

11 (1) internships, apprenticeships, or scholarships  
12 that offer students experience in the aviation indus-  
13 try;

14 (2) programs that introduce students to un-  
15 manned aircraft systems (as the term is defined in  
16 section 44801 of title 49, United States Code);

17 (3) career exploration and educational programs  
18 that teach technical skills used in aviation mainte-  
19 nance, or to improve existing such programs; and

20 (4) programs to increase the recruitment and  
21 retention of underrepresented minorities in postsec-  
22 ondary aviation degree programs.

23 (c) APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking a  
25 grant under this section shall submit an application  
26 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and

1 containing such information as the Secretary may  
2 require, including a description of how grant funds  
3 will be used to increase exposure and access to avia-  
4 tion-related education and jobs.

5 (2) PRIORITY.—In reviewing and selecting ap-  
6 plications for grants under this section, the Sec-  
7 retary shall give priority to applicants that propose  
8 to use grant funds to encourage the participation of  
9 women, minorities, and individuals in rural and  
10 urban areas in the aviation industry.

11 (3) PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—An  
12 eligible entity may enter into a partnership agree-  
13 ment with an institution of higher education, a non-  
14 profit organization, or another entity, to carry out  
15 activities with a grant awarded under this section.

16 (d) GRANT AMOUNT.—The maximum amount of a  
17 grant awarded under this section in a fiscal year shall be  
18 \$500,000.

19 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

20 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
21 ty” means—

22 (A) a local educational agency;

23 (B) a State educational agency; and

24 (C) a State or local government.

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

5           (3) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term  
6       “local educational agency” has the meaning given  
7       the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-  
8       ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

9           (4) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term  
10      “State educational agency” has the meaning given  
11      the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-  
12      ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

13      (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
14      are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
15      \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023, 2024, 2025,  
16      2026, and 2027.