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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to establish a capacity-building program for developing universities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to establish a capacity-building program for developing 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening MSI
5 Competitiveness in Research and Innovation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPING**
2 **UNIVERSITIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
4 Science Foundation shall establish a program to make
5 awards, on a competitive basis, to eligible institutions de-
6 scribed in subsection (b) to support the mission of the
7 Foundation and to build institutional research capacity at
8 eligible institutions.

9 (b) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive an
11 award under this section, an institution—

12 (A) shall be—

13 (i) a historically Black college or uni-
14 versity;

15 (ii) a Tribal College or University;

16 (iii) a minority-serving institution; or

17 (iv) an institution of higher education

18 with an established STEM capacity build-

19 ing program focused on traditionally

20 underrepresented populations in STEM,

21 including Native Hawaiians, Alaska Na-

22 tives, and Indians; and

23 (B) shall have not more than \$50,000,000

24 in annual federally-financed research and devel-

25 opment expenditures for science and engineer-

26 ing as reported through the National Science

1 Foundation Higher Education Research and
2 Development Survey.

3 (2) PARTNERSHIPS.—An eligible institution re-
4 ceiving a grant under this section may carry out the
5 activities of the grant through a partnership with
6 other entities, including community colleges and
7 other eligible institutions.

8 (c) PROPOSALS.—To receive an award under this sec-
9 tion, an eligible institution shall submit an application to
10 the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing
11 such information as the Director may require, including
12 a plan that describes how the eligible institution will estab-
13 lish or expand research office capacity and how such
14 award would be used to—

15 (1) conduct an assessment of capacity-building
16 and research infrastructure needs of an eligible insti-
17 tution;

18 (2) enhance institutional resources to provide
19 administrative research development support to fac-
20 ulty at an eligible institution;

21 (3) bolster the institutional research competi-
22 tiveness of an eligible institution to support grants
23 awarded by the Foundation;

24 (4) support the acquisition of instrumentation
25 necessary to build research capacity at an eligible in-

1 stitution in research areas directly associated with
2 the Foundation;

3 (5) increase capability of an eligible institution
4 to move technology into the marketplace;

5 (6) increase engagement with industry to exe-
6 cute research through the SBIR and STTR pro-
7 grams (as defined in section 9(e) of the Small Busi-
8 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 638(e)) and direct contracts at
9 an eligible institution;

10 (7) provide student engagement and research
11 training opportunities at the undergraduate, grad-
12 uate, and postdoctoral levels at an eligible institu-
13 tion;

14 (8) further faculty development initiatives and
15 strengthen institutional research training infrastruc-
16 ture, capacity, and competitiveness of an eligible in-
17 stitution; or

18 (9) address plans and prospects for long-term
19 sustainability of institutional enhancements at an el-
20 igible institution resulting from the award including,
21 if applicable, how the award may be leveraged by an
22 eligible institution to build a broader base of sup-
23 port.

1 (d) AWARDS.—Awards made under this section shall
2 be for periods of 3 years, and may be extended for periods
3 of not more than 5 years.

4 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
5 are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the
6 National Science Foundation \$100,000,000 for each of
7 fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out the activities
8 in this Act.