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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish a program to make grants to institutions of higher education to provide courses relating to critical legacy computer languages, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CARTWRIGHT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a program to make grants to institutions of higher education to provide courses relating to critical legacy computer languages, 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 “Grace Hopper Code
5 for Us Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Education and
5 Labor of the House of Representatives; and

6 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,
7 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

8 (2) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term “infor-
9 mation system” has the meaning given the term in
10 section 3502(8) of title 44, United States Code.

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

15 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
16 the Secretary of Education.

17 (5) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
18 ing given the term in section 311 of title 5, United
19 States Code.

20 **SEC. 3. REPORT CONCERNING CRITICAL LEGACY COM-**
21 **PUTER LANGUAGES USED BY FEDERAL GOV-**
22 **ERNMENT.**

23 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of
25 the United States shall submit to the appropriate congres-

1 sional committees a report identifying not fewer than 3
2 computer languages, in addition to COBOL, Assembly,
3 and PL/I, and to be known as “critical legacy computer
4 languages”, that are—

5 (1) used by, and necessary to support the needs
6 and national security of, the Federal Government;
7 and

8 (2) computer languages not commonly taught
9 in a course at an institution of higher education.

10 (b) PUBLICATION.—The Comptroller General shall
11 make the report publicly available, including by publishing
12 the report on the internet website of the Government Ac-
13 countability Office.

14 **SEC. 4. GRACE HOPPER SUSTAINMENT AND MODERNIZA-**
15 **TION GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a pro-
17 gram to award grants to institutions of higher education,
18 to be known as the “Grace Hopper Sustainment and Mod-
19 ernization Grant Program (in this section referred to as
20 the ‘Program’)”, to support the development and imple-
21 mentation of courses of instruction regarding maintaining,
22 developing, and modernizing information systems utilizing
23 critical legacy computer languages identified in the report
24 required under section 3.

25 (b) GRANTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal year 2022 and
2 each of the 3 succeeding fiscal years, the Secretary
3 annually shall award grants to 5 institutions of high-
4 er education to carry out the activities described in
5 subsection (a).

6 (2) 2-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-
7 CATION.—For each fiscal year, at least 2 of the
8 grants awarded under paragraph (1) shall be award-
9 ed to 2-year institutions of higher education that—

10 (A) award an associate’s degree; or

11 (B) offer university-based continuing edu-
12 cation programs for information technology pro-
13 fessionals.

14 (c) PRIORITIES.—When awarding grants under the
15 Program, the Secretary will give priority to applications
16 that—

17 (1) demonstrate a plan to continue their efforts
18 to carry out the activities described in subsection (a)
19 after the end of the grant period;

20 (2) demonstrate plans to recruit and include the
21 participation of women and other under-represented
22 minority groups;

23 (3) demonstrate plans to engage with local stu-
24 dents in grades 6 through 12 regarding career op-
25 portunities relating to critical legacy languages;

1 (4) offer scholarship or other support to stu-
2 dents enrolled in projects supported by the Program;

3 (5) incorporate perspectives into the challenges
4 of modernizing legacy information technology sys-
5 tems from disciplines such as history, public policy,
6 public administration, political science, business ad-
7 ministration, management, economics, sociology, or
8 other humanistic or social science disciplines;

9 (6) address the extent to which the grant recipi-
10 ent intends to utilize and support open source tech-
11 nology and best practices in connection with the
12 Program; and

13 (7) demonstrate the ability to make agreements
14 to place students in the projects funded by the grant
15 in internships or similar arrangements with Federal,
16 State, local, or private sector organizations where
17 they can ensure that each such student works with
18 computer programmers in maintaining, developing,
19 or modernizing information systems utilizing critical
20 legacy computer languages, with a preference for
21 such placements lasting longer than 60 days.

22 (d) SPECIAL RULE RELATED TO GEOGRAPHY.—Re-
23 cipients of a grant under the Program may not be located
24 in the same State.

1 (e) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
2 under the Program, an institution of higher education
3 shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form,
4 and containing such information, as the Secretary may re-
5 quire.

6 (f) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under
7 this section may not exceed \$5,000,000.

8 (g) PERIOD OF A GRANT.—The period of a grant
9 under this section may not exceed 3 years.

10 (h) REPORTS.—

11 (1) ANNUAL REPORTS BY INSTITUTIONS OF
12 HIGHER EDUCATION.—Each institution of higher
13 education that receives a grant under the Program
14 shall annually submit to the Secretary a report on
15 the activities pursued under the Program, including
16 to the extent practical, the employment status of
17 scholarship recipients up to 5 years after such re-
18 cipient graduates.

19 (2) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The
20 Secretary shall annually submit to the appropriate
21 congressional committees a report relating to the use
22 of grants awarded under the Program. The Sec-
23 retary shall make each such report publicly avail-
24 able, including by publishing each such report on the
25 internet website of the Department of Education.

1 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 to carry
3 out this section.