

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6239

To establish the Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement to develop a diverse community of transatlantic leaders at all levels of government, including emerging leaders, committed to democratic institutions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2020

Mr. HASTINGS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish the Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engagement to develop a diverse community of transatlantic leaders at all levels of government, including emerging leaders, committed to democratic institutions.

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 “Leadership Institute
5 for Transatlantic Engagement Act” or “LITE Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The United States diversity of backgrounds,
2 cultures, perspectives, skills, and experiences is a na-
3 tional asset that has assisted in realizing United
4 States foreign policy, security, and economic goals,
5 yet according to recent government statistics, diverse
6 communities continue to be underrepresented in
7 international public service careers and leadership
8 roles.

9 (2) According to census data, the United
10 States, European, and other societies are becoming
11 more diverse, indicating an increasing need for glob-
12 al leaders with expertise in policymaking and govern-
13 ance that can competently represent the needs of di-
14 verse constituencies and ensure that democratic val-
15 ues and practices are equally applied to and offer
16 the same protections and opportunities for all.

17 (3) There is therefore a compelling need to en-
18 courage outstanding young people from diverse and
19 underserved populations to pursue international pub-
20 lic service careers.

21 (4) There is also a need for international lead-
22 ership training opportunities for individuals serving
23 in national, regional, and local governments and par-
24 liaments around the world, and for individuals serv-
25 ing as employees of Members of Congress and as

1 employees of members of other legislatures, that in-
2 cludes a focus on civil and human rights and the in-
3 clusion of diverse and underserved populations in
4 policymaking and governance.

5 (5) The establishment and operation of an in-
6 stitute for the training and development of a diverse
7 and inclusive group of global leaders to serve in
8 international public service careers would address
9 these critical needs.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act:

12 (1) The term “Institute” means the “Leader-
13 ship Institute for Transatlantic Engagement” estab-
14 lished under section 4.

15 (2) The term “Board” means the Board of
16 Trustees of the Institute.

17 (3) The term “Fund” means the Leadership In-
18 stitute for Transatlantic Engagement Trust Fund
19 under section 6.

20 (4) The term “underrepresented population”
21 means a population of individuals who have histori-
22 cally been outside the purview of leadership in inter-
23 national or domestic public or private sector careers,
24 based upon race, ethnicity, color, religion, gender,
25 sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sex-

1 ual orientation), national origin, youth (under 25),
2 disability, or other demographic factors.

3 (5) The term “minority serving institutions” as
4 defined in section 365(3) of the Higher Education
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067k(3)).

6 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR**
7 **TRANSATLANTIC ENGAGEMENT.**

8 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the
9 legislative branch the Leadership Institute for Trans-
10 atlantic Engagement.

11 (b) **BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**—The Institute shall be
12 subject to the supervision and direction of a Board of
13 Trustees which shall be composed of five members as fol-
14 lows:

15 (1) Two members appointed by the Speaker of
16 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be
17 designated by the majority leader of the House of
18 Representatives and one of whom shall be designated
19 by the minority leader of the House of Representa-
20 tives.

21 (2) Two members appointed by the President
22 pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be
23 designated by the majority leader of the Senate and
24 one of whom shall be designated by the minority
25 leader of the Senate.

1 (3) The Executive Director of the Institute,
2 who shall serve as an ex officio member of the
3 Board.

4 (c) TERM.—Each member of the Board appointed
5 under this section shall serve for a term of three years.
6 Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the
7 original appointment and the individual so appointed shall
8 serve for the remainder of the term. A Member of Con-
9 gress appointed to the Board may not serve as a member
10 of the Board for more than a total of six years.

11 (d) CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.—At the first meeting
12 and at its first regular meeting in each calendar year
13 thereafter the Board shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair
14 from among the members of the Board. The Chair and
15 Vice-Chair may not be members of the same political
16 party.

17 (e) PAY NOT AUTHORIZED; EXPENSES.—Members of
18 the Board (other than the Executive Director) shall serve
19 without pay, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for
20 travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred
21 in the performance of their duties.

22 (f) LOCATION OF INSTITUTE AND REGIONAL OF-
23 FICES.—The Institute shall be located in Washington, DC,
24 and the Board may also establish other offices for the In-
25 stitute in regions of the United States and Europe.

1 **SEC. 5. PURPOSES AND AUTHORITY OF LEADERSHIP INSTI-**
2 **TUTE FOR TRANSATLANTIC ENGAGEMENT.**

3 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Institute shall
4 be to develop a diverse community of transatlantic leaders,
5 including emerging leaders, at all levels of government
6 committed to democratic institutions by—

7 (1) increasing awareness of the importance of
8 public service careers that focus on international af-
9 fairs, civil and human rights, social inclusion, and
10 global security among underrepresented populations;

11 (2) providing training and development oppor-
12 tunities for Members of Congress, parliaments, and
13 national, State, and locally elected or appointed gov-
14 ernment officials and their employees in the United
15 States and abroad to become more effective and
16 more efficient in performing their public duties and
17 to develop their potential for accepting increased
18 international public service opportunities; and

19 (3) enabling transatlantic political leaders, at
20 all levels of government to gain significant, firsthand
21 exposure to United States democratic institutions
22 through visits to the United States, and for United
23 States political leaders at all levels of government to
24 support democratic institutions globally through
25 travel abroad and knowledge sharing.

1 (b) AUTHORITY.—The Institute is authorized, con-
2 sistent with this Act, to develop such programs, activities,
3 and services as it considers appropriate to carry out the
4 purposes described in subsection (a). Such authority shall
5 include the following:

6 (1) The development and implementation of
7 training and educational programs and tools for
8 transatlantic leaders and their staff, including Mem-
9 bers of Congress, parliaments, and national, State,
10 and locally elected or appointed government officials
11 and their employees in the United States and abroad
12 to enhance and foster excellence in their skills and
13 abilities as public servants and to increase support
14 for democratic institutions.

15 (2) The development and implementation of
16 training, educational programs, and tools for sec-
17 ondary and post-secondary schools and colleges in
18 the United States and abroad, including a focus on
19 minority serving institutions, to encourage United
20 States and international students to increase their
21 civic engagement and consider international public
22 service careers in civil and human rights, inter-
23 national affairs, global security, and in other areas.

24 (3) The development and implementation of
25 media and telecommunications productions, as well

1 as online and social media methods, to assist the In-
2 stitute in expanding the reach of its programs
3 throughout the United States and abroad.

4 (4) The establishment of library and research
5 facilities for the collection, publication, compilation,
6 and distribution of research materials for use in car-
7 rying out the programs of the Institute.

8 (c) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—The Board shall deter-
9 mine the priority of the programs to be carried out under
10 this Act and the amount of funds to be allocated for such
11 programs.

12 (d) GRANT PROGRAM.—

13 (1) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Institute shall es-
14 tablish a program to awards grants in the United
15 States and abroad on an annual basis to colleges
16 and universities, other research institutions and or-
17 ganizations, public departments and Federal agen-
18 cies (including State, territorial, and overseas de-
19 partments), private organizations or corporations,
20 and individuals for the purposes of assisting the In-
21 stitute’s work in conducting research, international
22 exchanges, education or training activities, and out-
23 reach to facilitate strengthening—

24 (A) democratic institutions, including civil
25 and human rights;

1 (B) emerging and current political leaders
2 and their employees at any level of government;
3 and

4 (C) interest and excellence in international
5 public service careers.

6 (2) APPLICATION.—Each organization that
7 seeks a grant under this subsection shall submit an
8 application to the Institute at such time, in such
9 manner, and accompanied by such information as
10 the Institute may reasonably require.

11 (3) SET-ASIDE FOR CENTERS OF EXCEL-
12 LENCE.—The Institute shall ensure that not less
13 than 50 percent of amounts made available to carry
14 out this subsection are used to provide grants to mi-
15 nority-serving institutions and entities that have
16 made significant efforts to work with under-rep-
17 resented populations in the United States or abroad.

18 (4) CONSORTIUM.—One or more research insti-
19 tutions may constitute themselves as a consortium
20 for purposes of seeking a grant under this sub-
21 section.

22 **SEC. 6. LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR TRANSATLANTIC EN-**
23 **GAGEMENT TRUST FUND.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
25 Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known

1 as the “Leadership Institute for Transatlantic Engage-
2 ment Trust Fund”. The Fund shall consist of amounts
3 which may be appropriated, credited, or transferred to it
4 under this section.

5 (b) DONATIONS.—Any money or other property do-
6 nated, bequeathed, or devised to the Institute under the
7 authority of this section shall be credited to the Fund.

8 (c) FUND MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT.—

9 (1) INVESTMENT.—At the request of the Insti-
10 tute, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the
11 Treasury to invest in full the amounts appropriated
12 to the Fund. Such investments may be made only in
13 interest-bearing obligations of the United States
14 issued directly to the Fund.

15 (2) ISSUANCE OF OBLIGATIONS.—The purposes
16 for which obligations of the United States may be
17 issued under chapter 31 of title 31, United States
18 Code, are hereby extended to authorize the issuance
19 at par of special obligations directly to the Fund.
20 Such special obligations shall bear interest at a rate
21 equal to the average rate of interest, computed as to
22 the end of the calendar month next preceding the
23 date of such issue, borne by all marketable interest-
24 bearing obligations of the United States then form-
25 ing a part of the public debt, except that if such av-

1 erage rate is not a multiple of one-eighth of 1 per
2 centum, the rate of interest of such special obliga-
3 tions shall be the multiple of one-eighth of 1 per
4 centum next lower than such average rate. All re-
5 quests of the Institute to the Secretary of the Treas-
6 ury provided for in this section shall be binding upon
7 the Secretary.

8 (d) AUTHORITY TO SELL OBLIGATIONS.—At the re-
9 quest of the Institute, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
10 redeem any obligation issued directly to the Fund. Obliga-
11 tions issued to the Fund under subsection (c)(2) shall be
12 redeemed at par plus accrued interest. Any other obliga-
13 tions issued directly to the Fund shall be redeemed at the
14 market price.

15 (e) PROCEEDS FROM CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS
16 CREDITED TO FUND.—In addition to the appropriations
17 received pursuant to this Act, the interest on, and the pro-
18 ceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held
19 in the Fund pursuant to this Act, shall be credited to and
20 form a part of the Fund.

21 (f) FUND RESERVES.—Five to ten percent of the
22 original amount appropriated to the Fund must remain
23 in the Fund at all times.

24 (g) EXPENDITURES.—The Secretary of the Treasury
25 is authorized to pay to the Institute from the interests

1 and earnings of the Fund, and moneys credited to the
2 Fund pursuant to this section, such sums as the Board
3 determines are necessary and appropriate to enable the
4 Institute to carry out the provisions of this Act.

5 **SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

6 (a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Board shall ap-
7 point an Executive Director who shall be the chief execu-
8 tive officer and principal executive of the Institute and
9 who shall supervise the affairs of, assist the directions of,
10 and carry out the functions of the Board to administer
11 the Institute. The Executive Director of the Institute shall
12 be compensated at an annual rate specified by the Board.

13 (b) OTHER DUTIES.—The Executive Director, in
14 consultation with the Board shall appoint and fix the com-
15 pensation of such personnel as may be necessary to carry
16 out this Act, including personnel to carry out duties at
17 any locations of the Institute which are established outside
18 of Washington, DC.

19 (c) INSTITUTE PERSONNEL.—

20 (1) STAFF APPOINTMENTS.—All staff appoint-
21 ments shall be made without regard to the provi-
22 sions of title 5, United States Code, governing ap-
23 pointments in the competitive service, and without
24 regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and sub-

1 chapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to
2 classification and general schedule pay rates.

3 (2) TREATMENT AS CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOY-
4 EES.—For purposes of pay and other employment
5 benefits, rights, and privileges and for all other pur-
6 poses, any employee of the Institute shall be consid-
7 ered to be a Congressional employee under section
8 2107 of title 5, United States Code.

9 (3) COVERAGE UNDER CONGRESSIONAL AC-
10 COUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—

11 (A) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES AS COV-
12 ERED EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(3) of the Con-
13 gressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C.
14 1301(3)) is amended—

15 (i) by striking “or” at the end of sub-
16 paragraph (J);

17 (ii) by striking the period at the end
18 of subparagraph (K) and inserting “; or”;
19 and

20 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing new subparagraph:

22 “(L) the Leadership Institute for Trans-
23 atlantic Engagement.”.

1 (B) TREATMENT OF INSTITUTE AS EM-
2 PLOYING OFFICE.—Section 101(9)(D) of such
3 Act (2 U.S.C. 1301(9)(D)) is amended—

4 (i) by striking “and the John C. Sten-
5 nis Center” and inserting “the John C.
6 Stennis Center”; and

7 (ii) by striking the semicolon at the
8 end and inserting the following: “, and the
9 Leadership Institute for Transatlantic En-
10 gagement;”.

11 **SEC. 8. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

12 In order to carry out this Act, the Institute may carry
13 out any of the following:

14 (1) Prescribe such regulations as it considers
15 necessary governing the manner in which its func-
16 tions shall be carried out.

17 (2) Procure temporary and intermittent services
18 of experts and consultants as are necessary to the
19 extent authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United
20 States Code.

21 (3) Accept and utilize the services of voluntary
22 and uncompensated personnel and reimburse them
23 for travel expenses, including per diem, as author-
24 ized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

1 (4) Request and utilize the assignment of any
2 Federal officer or employee from a department,
3 agency, or Congressional office to the Institute, in-
4 cluding on a rotating basis, by entering into an
5 agreement for such assignment.

6 (5) Solicit and receive money and other prop-
7 erty donated, bequeathed, or devised, without condi-
8 tion or restriction other than it be used for the pur-
9 poses of the Institute, and to use, sell, or otherwise
10 dispose of such property for the purpose of carrying
11 out its functions.

12 (6) Enter into contracts, grants, or other ar-
13 rangements, or modifications thereof, to carry out
14 the provisions of this Act, including with any office
15 of the Federal Government or of any State or any
16 subdivision thereof, and international public and pri-
17 vate sector entities.

18 (7) Make expenditures for any expenses in con-
19 nection with official training sessions or other au-
20 thorized programs or activities of the Institute.

21 (8) Apply for, receive, and use for the purposes
22 of the Institute grants or other assistance from Fed-
23 eral sources.

24 (9) Establish, receive, and use for the purposes
25 of the Institute fees or other charges for goods or

1 services provided in fulfilling the Institute's pur-
2 poses.

3 (10) Invest, as specified in section 6(c), moneys
4 authorized to be received under this Act.

5 (11) Establish advisory committees or other
6 bodies composed of persons eminent in international
7 affairs, global security, and civil and human rights,
8 to advise the Board without compensation (other
9 than travel related expenses) on matters determined
10 to be necessary by the Board.

11 (12) Respond to the request of offices of Con-
12 gress and other departments or agencies of the Fed-
13 eral Government to examine, study, or report on any
14 issue within the Institute's competence, including the
15 use of classified materials if necessary.

16 (13) Work with the appropriate security offices
17 of the House of Representatives and Senate to ob-
18 tain or retain need-based security clearances for In-
19 stitute personnel.

20 (14) Assign Institute personnel to temporary
21 duty with offices of the Federal Government, inter-
22 national organizations, agencies and other entities to
23 fulfill this Act.

24 (15) Make other necessary expenditures.

1 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; DISBURSE-**
2 **MENTS.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
5 appropriated such sums as may be necessary to
6 carry out this Act.

7 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be
8 appropriated under paragraph (1) are authorized to
9 remain available until expended.

10 (b) DISBURSEMENTS.—Amounts made available to
11 the Institution shall be disbursed on vouchers approved
12 by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board or by a majority
13 vote of the Board.

14 (c) USE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES.—For purposes of
15 section 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954 (22
16 U.S.C. 1754(b)), the Institute shall be deemed to be a
17 standing committee of the Congress and shall be entitled
18 to use funds in accordance with such section.

19 (d) FOREIGN TRAVEL.—Foreign travel for official
20 purposes by Members of the Institute who are Members
21 of Congress and Institute staff may be authorized by the
22 Chair, Vice-Chair, or Executive Director of the Institute.

23 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
24 on the date of enactment of this Act.

○