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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a STEM grant program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a STEM grant program.

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 “21st Century STEM
5 Competitive Jobs Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Harvard Graduate School of Edu-
2 cation’s report “Pathways to Prosperity” cites re-
3 search that shows employers across the country con-
4 tinue to see that young adults are not equipped with
5 the skills and work experience needed to succeed in
6 the 21st century workforce. In addition, research
7 shows that courses that include a vocational or
8 work-based component best prepare students to suc-
9 ceed in the workplace.

10 (2) Numerous reports by national advisory
11 groups, including the President’s Council of Advisors
12 on Science and Technology and National Academies’
13 committees, have highlighted the need to raise stu-
14 dent achievement in STEM fields to enable the
15 United States to maintain its competitive edge in the
16 global economy.

17 (3) Nearly all of the top 30 fastest growing oc-
18 cupations require science, technology, engineering, or
19 mathematics skills, according to the Bureau of
20 Labor Statistics.

21 (4) Recent standardized tests show United
22 States students’ mathematics and science perform-
23 ance is only average or below average compared with
24 their international peers. American students placed
25 25th in mathematics and 17th in science out of 34

1 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Devel-
2 opment countries in the 2009 Program for Inter-
3 national Student Assessment.

4 (5) Too few American students graduate from
5 high school with the interest and the preparation to
6 successfully pursue STEM degrees in college. Well
7 over half of college students in China and Japan
8 major in STEM fields, compared with only a third
9 of students in America.

10 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE ESEA.**

11 (a) TITLE IV.—Title IV of the Elementary and Sec-
12 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.)
13 is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 **“PART D—STEM GRANT PROGRAM**

15 **“SEC. 4401. GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated
17 under subsection (f), the Secretary shall award grants to
18 local educational agencies to improve the education of stu-
19 dents in science, technology, engineering, and mathe-
20 matics (in this section referred to as ‘STEM’) and prepare
21 such students to pursue undergraduate and graduate de-
22 grees and careers in such fields.

23 “(b) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this
24 section, a local educational agency shall submit an applica-
25 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and

1 containing such information as the Secretary may require,
2 which shall include a description of—

3 “(1) the local, regional, or national employer in
4 a STEM field with whom the local educational agen-
5 cy will partner or collaborate to carry out the re-
6 quired activities under subsection (c)(1)(A); and

7 “(2) the dual-credit courses the will be carried
8 out with the grant under subsection (c)(1)(B).

9 “(c) USES OF FUNDS.—A local educational agency
10 receiving a grant under this section—

11 “(1) shall use such funds to—

12 “(A) partner or collaborate with the local,
13 regional, or national employer described in the
14 agency’s application under subsection (b) to—

15 “(i) assist students in being placed in
16 internships or apprenticeships with such
17 employers; and

18 “(ii) develop the curriculum and
19 metrics of STEM coursework; and

20 “(B) collaborate with institutions of higher
21 education to—

22 “(i) carry out dual-credit courses that
23 offer both secondary school credit and col-
24 lege credit and incorporate STEM edu-
25 cation and STEM workplace training; and

1 “(ii) assist students in being placed in
2 internships or apprenticeships with the em-
3 ployers described in subparagraph (A); and

4 “(iii) develop the curriculum and
5 metrics described in subparagraph (A)(ii);
6 and

7 “(2) may use such funds to—

8 “(A) provide tutoring in STEM coursework
9 and mentoring programs for academic advice
10 and assistance in discussing future career op-
11 portunities in STEM fields;

12 “(B) enable students and their teachers to
13 attend STEM events outside the classroom;

14 “(C) provide after-school and summer
15 STEM programs for students; and

16 “(D) purchase education materials or
17 equipment to facilitate STEM instruction.

18 “(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational
20 agency that receives a grant under this section shall
21 provide, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal
22 to 50 percent of the grant. Such non-Federal con-
23 tribution may be provided in cash or in kind.

24 “(2) PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZED.—A local edu-
25 cational agency may partner with a public and pri-

1 vate entity that may assist the local educational
2 agency in meeting the matching requirement under
3 paragraph (1).

4 “(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or
5 part of the matching requirement under paragraph
6 (1) for a local educational agency if the local edu-
7 cational agency demonstrates that such requirement
8 would result in a serious financial hardship or a fi-
9 nancial inability to carry out the goals of the grant.

10 “(e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds
11 provided to a local educational agency under this section
12 shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, funds that
13 would otherwise be used for activities authorized under
14 this section.

15 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriate such sums as may be nec-
17 essary to carry out this section for fiscal year 2014 and
18 each succeeding fiscal year.

19 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
20 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is
21 amended by inserting after the item relating to part C
22 of title IV of such Act, the following new item:

“PART D—STEM GRANT PROGRAM

“Sec. 4401. Grant program.”.