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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program for early childhood STEAM activities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. KUSTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a grant program for early childhood STEAM activities.

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 “Early STEAM
5 Achievement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts ap-
8 propriated to carry out this Act, the Secretary of Health

1 and Human Services shall award grants, on a competitive
2 basis, to eligible entities to assist such entities in carrying
3 out early childhood STEAM programs and activities.

4 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDING GRANTS.—In
5 awarding grants under this Act, the Secretary shall—

6 (1) give priority to eligible entities that seek to
7 use such grant to carry out the activities described
8 in subsection (d)(3);

9 (2) award not less than one-third of the funds
10 appropriated for a fiscal year under subsection (e) to
11 eligible entities in rural communities; and

12 (3) award not less than one-quarter of the
13 funds appropriated for a fiscal year under subsection
14 (e) to eligible entities that are nonprofit organiza-
15 tions.

16 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring to re-
17 ceive a grant under this section shall submit an application
18 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
19 taining such information as the Secretary may request.

20 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
21 a grant under this section shall use the grant to carry
22 out at least one of the following:

23 (1) Professional development relating to early
24 childhood STEAM activities for teachers of early
25 childhood education programs.

1 (2) Materials and equipment necessary to carry
2 out such early childhood STEAM activities.

3 (3) Establishing partnerships between the eligi-
4 ble entity and an institution of higher education to
5 provide training in early childhood STEAM activities
6 for teachers of early childhood education programs.

7 (4) Establishing partnerships between the eligi-
8 ble entity and an arts agency, a community arts
9 partner, or a museum to provide training in early
10 childhood STEAM activities for teachers of early
11 childhood education programs.

12 (5) The provision of professional development
13 programs for teachers of early childhood education
14 program by institutions of higher education.

15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may nec-
17 essary to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2024
18 through 2028.

19 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

20 (1) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
21 “nonprofit organization” means an organization de-
22 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
23 Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under sec-
24 tion 501(a) of such Code.

1 (2) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRO-
2 GRAM.—The term “early childhood education pro-
3 gram” has the meaning given the term in section
4 103(8) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
5 U.S.C. 1003), except that such term includes pro-
6 grams described in paragraph (8)(C) of such section
7 103 that serve children from birth through age
8 eight.

9 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
10 ty” means an early childhood education program.

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

15 (5) STEAM.—The term “STEAM” means
16 science (including computer science), technology, en-
17 gineering, art, and mathematics.