

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to increase racial and gender minority access and representation in the aviation workforce, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to increase racial and gender minority access and representation in the aviation workforce, 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 “Aviation Minority  
5 Workforce Development Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM TO INCREASE RACIAL AND GEN-**  
2 **DER MINORITY ACCESS AND REPRESENTA-**  
3 **TION IN THE AVIATION WORKFORCE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the  
5 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Trans-  
6 portation shall establish a program to award grants to eli-  
7 gible entities to increase racial and gender minority access  
8 and representation in the aviation workforce.

9 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under  
10 this section to an eligible entity shall be used to—

11 (1) facilitate the creation of programs that edu-  
12 cate and train students from under-represented ra-  
13 cial and gender groups to participate in the aviation  
14 workforce;

15 (2) increase access to, and the availability of,  
16 resources at existing aviation workforce programs  
17 for the express purpose of increasing representation  
18 of racial and gender minorities, including at minor-  
19 ity serving institutions;

20 (3) assist students from under-represented ra-  
21 cial and gender minorities with education, appren-  
22 ticeship, internship, transportation, and certification  
23 costs; and

24 (4) increase outreach and recruitment to stu-  
25 dents from racial and gender minorities who are in-  
26 terested in working in the aviation industry.

1 (c) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that  
2 not less than 40 percent of the total amount of funds ap-  
3 propriated in each fiscal year to carry out this section are  
4 awarded to minority-serving institutions.

5 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year  
6 after the first grant is awarded under the grant program  
7 under this section, and annually thereafter for as long as  
8 the Secretary is conducting such program, the Secretary  
9 shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
10 Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on  
11 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-  
12 resentatives a report that evaluates such program, includ-  
13 ing—

14 (1) a description of the number of grants  
15 awarded;

16 (2) the amount of each grant;

17 (3) the activities funded under each grant; and

18 (4) the effectiveness of such funded activities in  
19 meeting the objective described in subsection (a).

20 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.— There  
21 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,  
22 \$80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

23 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term “commu-  
25 nity college” has the meaning given the term “junior

1 or community college” in section 312(f) of the High-  
2 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).

3 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
4 ty” means—

5 (A) a minority-serving institution; and

6 (B) a consortium of 1 or more institutions  
7 of higher education that has a partnership with  
8 1 or more of the following entities:

9 (i) A member of the aviation industry,  
10 such as a company or industry association.

11 (ii) A labor-management organization.

12 (iii) An aviation industry registered  
13 apprenticeship program.

14 (iv) A nonprofit organization dedi-  
15 cated to helping individuals gain employ-  
16 ment in the aviation industry.

17 (v) A community college or a postsec-  
18 ondary vocational institution with experi-  
19 ence in providing relevant education or  
20 training for individuals seeking employ-  
21 ment in the aviation industry or a similar  
22 industry.

23 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
24 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-  
2 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

3 (4) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The  
4 term “minority-serving institution” means an insti-  
5 tution described in section 371(a) of the Higher  
6 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

7 (5) POSTSECONDARY VOCATIONAL INSTITU-  
8 TION.—The term “postsecondary vocational institu-  
9 tion” has the meaning given that term in section  
10 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
11 U.S.C. 1002(c)).

12 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
13 the Secretary of Transportation.