

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 666

To establish a scholarship program in the Department of State for Haitian students whose studies were interrupted as a result of the January 12, 2010, earthquake, or the October 4, 2016, hurricane, Hurricane Matthew.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SOTO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

---

## A BILL

To establish a scholarship program in the Department of State for Haitian students whose studies were interrupted as a result of the January 12, 2010, earthquake, or the October 4, 2016, hurricane, Hurricane Matthew.

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 “Haitian Educational  
5 Empowerment Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) On October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew  
4 devastated Haiti, killing over 1,000 people, and di-  
5 rectly affected 2.1 million people, including the in-  
6 ternal displacement of 175,000 and 1.4 million peo-  
7 ple in need of urgent humanitarian aid.

8 (2) The storm damage has been estimated to be  
9 \$1,000,000,000, or about 11.4 percent of the gross  
10 domestic product of Haiti.

11 (3) Hurricane Matthew was the worst hurricane  
12 to hit Haiti in over 50 years.

13 (4) Haiti is the poorest country in the Western  
14 Hemisphere.

15 (5) Eighty percent of the population lives below  
16 the poverty line, and approximately 45 percent of  
17 the population is illiterate.

18 (6) On January 12, 2010, a 7.0-magnitude  
19 earthquake struck the country of Haiti.

20 (7) The earthquake caused massive devastation  
21 across Haiti, destroying government buildings, hos-  
22 pitals, schools, and vital aid offices, including the  
23 headquarters of the United Nations mission to  
24 Haiti.

1           (8) An estimated three million people were di-  
2           rectly affected by the earthquake in Haiti, nearly  
3           one-third of the country's population.

4           (9) Many universities suffered significant struc-  
5           tural damage, including the State University of  
6           Haiti, the country's main public university, which  
7           had 80 percent of its buildings destroyed.

8           (10) The earthquake claimed the lives of many  
9           students and several prominent academics.

10           (11) A more highly educated population is vital  
11           to Haiti's long-term development.

12 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR**  
13 **CERTAIN HAITIAN STUDENTS.**

14           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, acting  
15 through the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational  
16 and Cultural Affairs, shall establish a scholarship program  
17 for Haitian students whose studies were interrupted as a  
18 result of the January 12, 2010, earthquake, or the Octo-  
19 ber 4, 2016, hurricane, Hurricane Matthew.

20           (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a scholar-  
21 ship under this section, a Haitian undergraduate or grad-  
22 uate student shall—

23           (1) have been enrolled as a full-time or part-  
24           time student in a Haitian university or institution of  
25           higher education in the United States at the time of

1 the January 12, 2010, earthquake, or when Hurri-  
2 cane Matthew hit Haiti on October 4, 2016; and

3 (2) submit to the Assistant Secretary of State  
4 for Educational and Cultural Affairs an application  
5 at such time, in such manner, and containing such  
6 information as the Assistant Secretary may require.

7 (c) DURATION.—A scholarship under this section  
8 shall be awarded to a Haitian student for one academic  
9 year and may be renewed in accordance with subsection  
10 (d).

11 (d) RENEWAL.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—A scholarship awarded  
13 under this section may be renewed for an additional  
14 academic year upon demonstration to the Secretary  
15 of State of satisfactory academic achievement in the  
16 prior academic year.

17 (2) MAXIMUM RENEWALS.—A scholarship  
18 awarded under this section may not be renewed for  
19 more than six academic years.

20 (e) PREFERENCE.—Preference in the awarding of  
21 scholarships shall be given to the following categories of  
22 Haitian students:

23 (1) Haitian students who are studying subjects  
24 of importance to Haiti's long-term social, economic,  
25 or political development.

1           (2) Haitian students who were enrolled in pro-  
2           grams that were forced to cease operations as a re-  
3           sult of the January 12, 2010, earthquake, or the Oc-  
4           tober 4, 2016, hurricane, Hurricane Matthew.

5           (f) RETURN.—Upon completion of an undergraduate  
6           or graduate degree at an institution of higher education,  
7           a Haitian student who has received a scholarship under  
8           this section shall return to Haiti for not less than two  
9           years, and to the extent possible, find employment in an  
10          economic sector of importance to Haiti’s long-term social,  
11          economic, or political development.

12          (g) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.—A scholarship awarded  
13          to a Haitian student under this section may not exceed  
14          an amount equal to the total costs related to the tuition  
15          and fees for one academic year at an institution of higher  
16          education in which the student is enrolled as a full-time  
17          student.

18          **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO UNITED STATES COLLEGES AND UNI-**  
19                                      **VERSITIES.**

20          The Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant  
21          Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs,  
22          may make grants to institutions of higher education that  
23          have enrolled a significant number of Haitian students  
24          who have been enrolled as full-time or part-time students  
25          in a Haitian university at the time of the January 12,

1 2010, earthquake, or the October 4, 2016, hurricane,  
2 Hurricane Matthew. Such grants shall be used to provide  
3 social and educational support services to such students.

4 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

5 For purposes of this Act:

6 (1) FEES.—The term “fees” means—

7 (A) fees normally assessed a full-time stu-  
8 dent, as determined by an institution of higher  
9 education, including—

10 (i) costs for the rental or purchase of  
11 any equipment, materials, or supplies re-  
12 quired of all students in the same course  
13 of study; and

14 (ii) an allowance for room and board  
15 at such institution; and

16 (B) travel expenses to such institution  
17 from Haiti and, upon the completion of a de-  
18 gree at such institution, from such institution  
19 to Haiti.

20 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
21 term “institution of higher education” has the  
22 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-  
23 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

24 (3) SCHOLARSHIP.—The term “scholarship”  
25 means an amount awarded to a Haitian student

1       under this section that shall only be used to pay  
2       costs related to the tuition and fees at the institu-  
3       tion of higher education in which the student is en-  
4       rolled as a full-time student.

○