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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. RES.** \_\_\_\_\_

Recognizing the contributions of the Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship Program, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program, the William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security Fellowship, and the Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program to advance America's national security, development, and diplomacy efforts.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. MEEKS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**RESOLUTION**

Recognizing the contributions of the Charles B. Rangel Graduate Fellowship Program, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program, the William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security Fellowship, and the Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program to advance America's national security, development, and diplomacy efforts.

Whereas the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and other foreign affairs agencies require a workforce with diverse talents, skills, and experiences to effectively protect United

States citizens abroad, expand commercial opportunities for United States businesses, and administer United States foreign policy;

Whereas Congress has required in statute and the Department of State and USAID have committed to recruit, hire, and retain a workforce on the basis of merit principles that reflects the diverse backgrounds of the American people they represent abroad;

Whereas, in 1990, Congress amended the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (Public Law 84–885) to authorize the Secretary of State to make grants to post-secondary educational institutions or students to increase knowledge of and interest in employment with the Foreign Service, with a special focus on minority students, broadening recruitment and retention efforts in order to ensure equal opportunity and draw on the strength of all United States citizens;

Whereas, pursuant to these authorities, the Department of State launched the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program, and the William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security Fellowship in 1992, 2002, and 2023, respectively;

Whereas these programs increase the inclusion of Pell-eligible and first-generation college graduates in the Foreign Service, with a majority of current fellows having been Pell grant recipients;

Whereas the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program and the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program—the Department of State’s flagship initiatives to recruit top-tier talent—are

merit-based, need-based, and highly competitive, with an annual acceptance rate under 5 percent;

Whereas all fellows pass the same rigorous selection, hiring, and security clearance process as all other members of the Foreign Service;

Whereas research shows that developing a workforce representing all of America significantly contributes to better national security outcomes by providing a wider range of perspectives, experiences, and cultural understanding, enabling more effective threat identification, innovative solutions, and stronger diplomatic engagement across the globe;

Whereas international affairs fellowships that promote the employment of candidates who belong to historically excluded groups and with a financial need, including the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program, the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship Program, the William D. Clarke, Sr. Diplomatic Security Fellowship, and the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program, represent smart investments vital for building a strong, merit-based, capable, and diverse national security workforce;

Whereas Congress, on a bipartisan basis, has authorized each of these fellowship programs recognizing their importance in expanding merit- and need-based recruitment from a wide geographic and economically diverse talent pool, including from all 50 States and more than 500 institutions of higher education;

Whereas Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, other minority-serving institu-

tions and other institutions of higher education, including community colleges and trade schools, serve populations historically excluded from the Department of State or USAID and prepare the next generation of international affairs professionals with the core skills necessary to meet the United States global diplomatic and development imperatives; and

Whereas the Secretary of State and Administrator of USAID are required by law to consult with Congress before taking steps to modify these programs: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) recognizes the importance of efforts to re-  
3       recruit, hire, and retain employees from the broadest  
4       talent pool for United States foreign affairs agencies  
5       in order for the United States to be globally com-  
6       petitive and ensure that our diplomatic and develop-  
7       ment agencies remain the best in the world;

8               (2) reaffirms that the Charles B. Rangel Grad-  
9       uate Fellowship Program, Thomas R. Pickering For-  
10      eign Affairs Graduate Fellowship Program, William  
11      D. Clarke Sr. Diplomatic Security Fellowship, and  
12      Donald M. Payne International Development Grad-  
13      uate Fellowship Program are statutorily mandated  
14      programs enacted into law by Congress on a bipar-  
15      tisan basis to address recognized issues of exclusion  
16      for women and racial and ethnic minority groups as  
17      well as economically disadvantaged and rural popu-

1 lations plaguing the Department of State and  
2 United States Agency for International Development  
3 for decades;

4 (3) underscores the importance of international  
5 affairs fellowships and similar career entry programs  
6 to United States national security and foreign policy;  
7 and

8 (4) recognizes the substantial United States  
9 taxpayer investment in ensuring the Department of  
10 State and United States Agency for International  
11 Development can recruit top talent from across the  
12 country, provide them with critical training, and  
13 strengthen America's development and diplomatic  
14 capabilities—efforts that are undermined by at-  
15 tempts to dismantle these programs, wasting tax-  
16 payer resources and weakening national security.