

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 965
OFFERED BY MS. BASS OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Young African Leaders
3 Initiative Act of 2021” or “YALI Act of 2021”.

4 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) the Young African Leaders Initiative,
7 launched in 2010, is a signature effort to invest in
8 the next generation of African leaders;

9 (2) Africa is a continent of strategic importance
10 and it is vital for the United States to support
11 strong and enduring partnerships with the next gen-
12 eration of African leaders; and

13 (3) the United States Government should
14 prioritize investments to build the capacity of emerg-
15 ing young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, in-
16 cluding through efforts to enhance leadership skills,
17 encourage entrepreneurship, strengthen public ad-
18 ministration and the role of civil society, and connect

1 young African leaders continentally and globally
2 across the private, civic, and public sectors.

3 **SEC. 3. YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE PROGRAM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the De-
5 partment of State the Young African Leaders Initiative
6 (“YALI”) program.

7 (b) PURPOSE.—The YALI program shall seek to
8 build the capacity of young African leaders in sub-Saharan
9 Africa in the areas of business, civic engagement, or public
10 administration, including through efforts to—

11 (1) support young African leaders by offering
12 professional development, training, and networking
13 opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership,
14 innovation, civic engagement, elections, human
15 rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, and pub-
16 lic administration; and

17 (2) provide increased economic and technical
18 assistance to young African leaders to promote eco-
19 nomic growth and strengthen ties between United
20 States and African businesses.

21 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—The YALI program shall award
22 fellowships under the Mandela Washington Fellowship for
23 Young African Leaders program to young African leaders
24 ages 18 to 35 who have demonstrated strong capabilities
25 in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leader-

1 ship, and who have had a positive impact in their commu-
2 nities, organizations, or institutions.

3 (d) REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS.—The YALI
4 program shall seek to establish regional leadership centers
5 in sub-Saharan Africa to offer training to young African
6 leaders ages 18 to 35 who have demonstrated strong capa-
7 bilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service and
8 leadership, and who have had a positive impact in their
9 communities, organizations, or institutions.

10 (e) ACTIVITIES.—

11 (1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The
12 Secretary of State, in coordination with the Admin-
13 istrator for the United States Agency for Inter-
14 national Development and the heads of other rel-
15 evant Federal departments and agencies, shall over-
16 see all United States-based activities carried out
17 under the YALI program, including the following:

18 (A) The participation of Mandela Wash-
19 ington fellows in a six-week Leadership Insti-
20 tute at a United States university or college in
21 business, civic engagement, or public manage-
22 ment, including academic sessions, site visits,
23 professional networking opportunities, leader-
24 ship training, community service, and organized
25 cultural activities.

1 (B) The participation by Mandela Wash-
2 ington fellows in an annual Mandela Wash-
3 ington Fellowship Summit, to provide such Fel-
4 lows the opportunity to meet with United States
5 leaders from the private, public, and non-profit
6 sectors.

7 (2) AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
8 of State, in coordination with the Administrator for
9 the United States Agency for International Develop-
10 ment and the heads of other relevant Federal de-
11 partments and agencies, should continue to support
12 YALI programs in sub-Saharan Africa, including the
13 following:

14 (A) Access to continued leadership training
15 and other professional development opportuni-
16 ties for Mandela Washington Fellowship for
17 Young African Leaders alumni upon their re-
18 turn to their home countries, including online
19 courses, technical assistance, and access to
20 funding.

21 (B) Training for young African leaders at
22 regional leadership centers established in ac-
23 cordance with subsection (d), and through on-
24 line and in-person courses offered by such cen-
25 ters.

1 (C) Opportunities for networking and en-
2 gagement with—

3 (i) other alumni of the Mandela
4 Washington Fellowship for Young African
5 Leaders;

6 (ii) alumni of programs at regional
7 leadership centers established in accord-
8 ance with subsection (d); and

9 (iii) United States and like-minded
10 diplomatic missions, business leaders, and
11 others as appropriate.

12 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out this sub-
13 section, the Secretary of State, in coordination with
14 the Administrator of the United States Agency for
15 International Development and the heads of other
16 relevant Federal departments and agencies shall
17 seek to partner with the private sector to pursue
18 public-private partnerships, leverage private sector
19 expertise, expand networking opportunities, and
20 identify funding opportunities as well as fellowship
21 and employment opportunities for participants in the
22 YALI program.

23 (f) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
24 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
25 retary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of

1 the United States Agency for International Development
2 and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and
3 agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
4 committees a plan for implementing the YALI program,
5 including the following:

6 (1) A description of clearly defined program
7 goals, targets, and planned outcomes for each year
8 and for the duration of implementation of the pro-
9 gram.

10 (2) A strategy to monitor and evaluate the pro-
11 gram and progress made toward achieving such
12 goals, targets, and planned outcomes.

13 (3) A strategy to ensure the program is pro-
14 moting United States foreign policy goals in Africa,
15 including ensuring that the program is clearly
16 branded and paired with robust public diplomacy ef-
17 forts.

18 (g) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
20 5 years, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the
21 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
22 national Development, shall submit to the appropriate
23 congressional committees and publish in a publicly acces-
24 sible, internet-based form, a report on the following:

1 (1) The progress made toward achieving the
2 goals, targets, and planned outcomes described in
3 subsection (f)(1), including an overview of the pro-
4 gram implemented in the previous year and an esti-
5 mated number of beneficiaries.

6 (2) An assessment of how the YALI program is
7 contributing to and promoting United States-Africa
8 relations, particularly in areas of increased private
9 sector investment, trade promotion, support to civil
10 society, improved public administration, and fos-
11 tering entrepreneurship and youth empowerment.

12 (3) Recommendations for improvements or
13 changes to the program and implementation plan, if
14 any, that would improve their effectiveness during
15 subsequent years of implementation of the program.

16 (h) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
17 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
18 gressional committees” means—

19 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
20 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives; and

22 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
23 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

1 (i) SUNSET.—The requirements of this section shall
2 terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of
3 the enactment of this Act.

