

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 119–33
OFFERED BY MS. KAMLAGER-DOVE OF
CALIFORNIA

At the end of title XVII of division A, add the following:

1 **Subtitle C—YALI Act of 2026**

2 **SEC. 17_. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This subtitle may be cited as the “Young African
4 Leaders Initiative Act of 2026” or the “YALI Act of
5 2026”.

6 **SEC. 17_. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

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

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

15 (3) the United States Government should
16 prioritize investments to build the capacity of emerg-
17 ing young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, in-
18 cluding through efforts to—

1 (A) enhance leadership skills;

2 (B) encourage entrepreneurship;

3 (C) strengthen public administration and
4 the role of civil society;

5 (D) enhance peace and security in their re-
6 spective countries of origin and across Africa;
7 and

8 (E) connect young African leaders con-
9 tinently and globally across the private, civic,
10 and public sectors;

11 (4) youth in Africa have a positive impact on
12 efforts to foster economic growth, improve public
13 sector transparency and governance, and counter ex-
14 tremism, and should be an area of focus for United
15 States outreach on the African continent; and

16 (5) the Secretary of State should—

17 (A) increase the number of fellows from
18 Africa participating in the Mandela Washington
19 Fellowship; and

20 (B) identify additional ways to connect
21 YALI alumni to United States public and pri-
22 vate resources and institutions.

1 **SEC. 17__ . YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Young
4 African Leaders Initiative (referred to in this section as
5 “YALI”), which shall be carried out by the Secretary of
6 State.

7 (b) PURPOSE.—YALI shall seek to build the capacity
8 of young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa—

9 (1) to support young African leaders by offering
10 professional development, training, and networking
11 opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership,
12 business, innovation, elections, human rights, entre-
13 preneurship, good governance, peace and security,
14 and public administration; and

15 (2) to provide increased economic and technical
16 assistance to young African leaders to promote eco-
17 nomic growth, strengthen ties between United States
18 and African businesses, build resilience to predatory
19 lending practices, and improve capacity in key eco-
20 nomic areas such as tendering, bidding, and contract
21 negotiations, budget management and oversight,
22 anti-corruption, and establishment of clear policy
23 and regulatory practices.

24 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—

25 (1) IN GENERAL.—YALI shall support the par-
26 ticipation in the United States in the Mandela

1 Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders
2 of fellows from Africa who—

3 (A) are between 25 and 35 years of age;

4 (B) have demonstrated strong capabilities
5 in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service,
6 and leadership; and

7 (C) have had a positive impact in their
8 communities, organizations, or institutions.

9 (2) OVERSIGHT.—The fellowships described in
10 paragraph (1) shall be overseen by the Secretary of
11 State through the Bureau of Educational and Cul-
12 tural Affairs.

13 (3) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of State shall
14 establish and publish—

15 (A) eligibility criteria for participation as a
16 fellow under paragraph (1); and

17 (B) criteria for determining which eligible
18 applicants will be selected.

19 (d) RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES.—Subject to the ap-
20 proval of the Secretary of State, United States citizens
21 may—

22 (1) engage in reciprocal exchanges in connec-
23 tion with alumni of the fellowship described in sub-
24 section (c); and

1 (2) collaborate on projects with such fellowship
2 alumni.

3 (e) REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS AND NET-
4 WORKS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the
5 heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies,
6 shall establish—

7 (1) not fewer than 4 regional leadership centers
8 in sub-Saharan Africa to offer in-person and online
9 training throughout the year on business and entre-
10 preneurship, civic leadership, and public manage-
11 ment to young African leaders who are between 18
12 and 35 years of age, have demonstrated strong capa-
13 bilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public serv-
14 ice and leadership, and peace-building and conflict
15 resolution, and have had a positive impact in their
16 communities, organizations, or institutions; and

17 (2) an online network that provides information
18 and courses on, and connections with leaders in, the
19 private and public sectors of Africa.

20 (f) ACTIVITIES.—

21 (1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The
22 Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of
23 relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall
24 oversee all United States-based activities carried out
25 under YALI, including—

1 (A) the participation of Mandela Wash-
2 ington Fellows in a 6-week Leadership Institute
3 at a United States educational institution in
4 business, or public management, including aca-
5 demic sessions, site visits, professional net-
6 working opportunities, leadership training, com-
7 munity service, and organized cultural activi-
8 ties; and

9 (B) the participation by Mandela Wash-
10 ington fellows in an annual Mandela Wash-
11 ington Fellowship Summit, to provide such Fel-
12 lows the opportunity to meet with United States
13 leaders from the private, public, and nonprofit
14 sectors.

15 (2) AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary
16 of State, in coordination with the heads of other rel-
17 evant Federal departments and agencies, should con-
18 tinue to support YALI activities in sub-Saharan Af-
19 rica, including—

20 (A) continued leadership training and
21 other professional development opportunities for
22 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young Af-
23 rican Leaders alumni upon their return to their
24 home countries, including online courses, tech-
25 nical assistance, and access to funding;

1 (B) training for young African leaders at
2 regional leadership centers established pursuant
3 to subsection (e), and through online and in-
4 person courses offered by such centers; and

5 (C) opportunities for networking and en-
6 gagement with—

7 (i) alumni of the Mandela Washington
8 Fellowship for Young African Leaders;

9 (ii) alumni of programs at regional
10 leadership centers established pursuant to
11 subsection (e);

12 (iii) United States and like-minded
13 diplomatic missions, business leaders, and
14 others as appropriate; and

15 (iv) where practicable and appro-
16 priate, other United States-funded regional
17 leadership programs, including the Young
18 Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative
19 (YSEALI), the Young Leaders of the
20 Americas Initiative (YLAI), the Young Pa-
21 cific Leaders (YPL), and the Young
22 Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative
23 (YTILI), and through Department of
24 State programs such as the Community

1 Engagement Exchange Program and other
2 initiatives.

3 (3) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out this sub-
4 section, the Secretary of State, in coordination with
5 the heads of other relevant Federal departments and
6 agencies, shall seek to partner with the private sec-
7 tor to pursue public-private partnerships, including
8 cost-sharing agreements, leverage private sector ex-
9 pertise, expand networking opportunities, and iden-
10 tify funding opportunities and fellowship and em-
11 ployment opportunities for YALI.

12 (g) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary of State, in coordination with the heads of other
15 relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit
16 a plan to the appropriate congressional committees for im-
17 plementing YALI, including—

18 (1) a description of clearly defined program
19 goals, targets, and planned outcomes for each year
20 and for the duration of implementation of the pro-
21 gram;

22 (2) a strategy to monitor and evaluate the pro-
23 gram and progress made toward achieving such
24 goals, targets, and planned outcomes; and

1 (3) a strategy to ensure the program is pro-
2 moting United States foreign policy goals in Africa,
3 including ensuring that the program is clearly
4 branded, paired with robust public diplomacy efforts,
5 and incorporates diversity among participants as
6 practicable, including countries and communities in
7 Africa facing economic distress, civil conflict,
8 marginalization, and other challenges.

9 (h) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
11 the following 4 years, the Secretary of State, in coordina-
12 tion with the heads of other relevant Federal departments
13 and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congres-
14 sional committees and publish in a publicly accessible,
15 internet-based form, a report that includes—

16 (1) a description of the progress made toward
17 achieving the goals, targets, and planned outcomes
18 described in subsection (g)(1), including an overview
19 of the program implemented in the previous year
20 and an estimated number of beneficiaries;

21 (2) an assessment of how YALI is contributing
22 to and promoting United States-Africa relations,
23 particularly in areas of increased private sector in-
24 vestment, trade promotion, support to civil society,
25 improved public administration, promoting peace

1 and security, and fostering entrepreneurship and
2 youth empowerment;

3 (3) recommendations for improvements or
4 changes to YALI and the implementation plan, if
5 any, that would improve their effectiveness during
6 subsequent years of YALI's implementation; and

7 (4) for the first report submitted under this
8 subsection, an assessment of the feasibility of ex-
9 panding YALI to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya,
10 and Egypt.

11 (i) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “ap-
12 propriate congressional committees” means—

13 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
14 Senate;

15 (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the
16 Senate;

17 (3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
18 House of Representatives; and

19 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the
20 House of Representatives.

21 (j) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have effect
22 on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment
23 of this Act.

