AMENDMENT TO H.R. 6395
OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

At the appropriate place in title II, add the following new section:

SEC. 2. TRAINEESHIPS FOR AMERICAN LEADERS TO EXCEL IN NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, acting through the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, shall establish a traineeship program to expand Department of Defense access to domestic scientific and technological talent in areas of strategic importance to national security.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The traineeship program established under subsection (a) shall be known as the “Traineeships for American Leaders to Excel in National Technology and Science” or “TALENTS program” (referred to in this section as the “traineeship program”).

(c) PROGRAM PRIORITIES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Defense Science Board and the Defense Innovation Board, shall determine the multidisciplinary fields of study on which the traineeship program will focus and, in making such determination, shall consider the core
modernization priorities derived from the most recent na-
tional defense strategy provided under section 113(g) of
title 10, United States Code.

(d) PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary
shall establish partnerships with not fewer than ten eligi-
ble institutions selected by the Secretary for the purposes
of the program under subsection (a).

(e) PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES.—The activities con-
ducted under the partnerships under subsection (d) be-
tween an eligible institution and the Department of De-
fense shall include—

(1) providing traineeships led by faculty for eli-
gible students described in subsection (h); and

(2) establishing scientific or technical internship
programs for such students.

(f) PREFERENCE IN SELECTION OF INSTITUTIONS.—
In establishing partnerships under subsection (d), the Sec-
retary shall consider—

(1) the relevance of the eligible institution’s
proposed partnership to existing and anticipated
strategic national needs, as determined under sub-
section (c);

(2) the ability of the eligible institution to effec-
tively carry out the proposed partnership;
(3) the geographic location of an eligible institution as it relates to the need of the Department of Defense to develop specific workforce capacity and skills within a particular region of the country;

(4) whether the eligible institution is a covered minority institution;

(5) the extent to which the eligible institution’s proposal would—

(A) include students underrepresented in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; or

(B) involve partnering with one or more covered minority institutions; and

(6) the integration of internship opportunities into the program provided by the eligible institution, including internships with government laboratories, non-profit research organizations, and for-profit commercial entities.

(g) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide grants to individuals who are eligible students described in subsection (h) to—

(A) participate in activities under subsection (e);
(B) pay tuition, fees, and other costs associated with participating in such activities;

(C) pay other costs associated with participating in the traineeship program; and

(D) pay costs associated with other scientific or technical internship or fellowship programs.

(2) Award Totals.—The total amount of grants awarded to individuals at an eligible institution under this section in each fiscal year shall not exceed $1,000,000.

(3) Duration.—The duration of each grant under this section shall not exceed four years.

(h) Eligible Students.—In order to receive any grant under this section, a student shall—

(1) be a citizen or national of the United States or a permanent resident of the United States;

(2) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an eligible institution in a masters or doctoral degree program in a field of study determined under subsection (c); and

(3) if the student is presently enrolled at an institution, be maintaining satisfactory progress in the course of study the student is pursuing in accord-
ance section 484(c) of the Higher Education Act of
1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(c)).

(i) PREFERENTIAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HIR-
ing.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of
the Office of Personnel Management, shall develop and
implement a process by which traineeship program partici-
pants shall receive preferred consideration in hiring activi-
ties conducted by the Department of Defense and each
Department of Defense Laboratory.

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “eligible institution” means an in-
stitution of higher education (as defined in section
101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
U.S.C. 1001)).

(2) The term “covered minority institution” has
the meaning given the term “covered institution” in
section 262(g)(2) of the National Defense Author-
ization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–
92; 10 U.S.C. 2362 note).

(3) The term “Department of Defense Labora-

tory” means—

(A) a laboratory operated by the Depart-
ment of Defense or owned by the Department
of Defense and operated by a contractor; or
(B) a facility of a Defense Agency (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code) at which research and development activities are conducted.