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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish a mobile hotspot grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MENG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish a mobile hotspot grant program, and for other purposes.

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 “Closing the Homework
5 Gap Through Mobile Hotspots Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MOBILE HOTSPOT GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 The National Telecommunications and Information
8 Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C 901 et seq.)

1 is amended by adding after section 158 the following new
2 section:

3 **“SEC. 159 MOBILE HOTSPOT GRANT PROGRAM.**

4 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Assistant Secretary
5 shall establish a program (to be known as the ‘Mobile
6 Hotspot Grant Program’) to provide grants to eligible in-
7 stitutions to facilitate mobile hotspot programs.

8 “(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Assistant Secretary
9 may provide grants to eligible institutions under the pro-
10 gram established in subsection (a).

11 “(c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
12 provided under this section, an eligible institution shall
13 submit an application at such time, in such manner, and
14 containing such information as the Assistant Secretary
15 may require.

16 “(d) USE OF GRANTS.—A grant provided under this
17 section shall be used to facilitate a mobile hotspot program
18 that provides a hotspot device to an enrolled student, or
19 the family or guardian of such enrolled student, and such
20 hotspot device shall—

21 “(1) be portable;

22 “(2) not contain a data limitation; and

23 “(3) comply with the Children’s Online Privacy
24 Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).

25 “(e) PRIORITY OF GRANTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary
2 shall prioritize providing a grant to eligible institu-
3 tions that create a mobile hotspot program that will
4 provide hotspot devices to the highest number of
5 low-income students.

6 “(2) SET ASIDES.—

7 “(A) FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN
8 TRIBES.—To the extent practicable, at least 5
9 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry
10 out this section shall be used to provide grants
11 to federally recognized Indian Tribes.

12 “(B) U.S. TERRITORIES AND THE DIS-
13 TRICT OF COLUMBIA.—To the extent prac-
14 ticable, at least 5 percent of the amounts ap-
15 propriated to carry out this section shall be
16 used to provide grants to territories of the
17 United States and the District of Columbia.

18 “(f) GRANT LIMIT.—An eligible institution may not
19 receive more than 2 percent of the total sum appropriated
20 for a fiscal year to carry out this section.

21 “(g) REPORT.—The Assistant Secretary shall submit
22 to Congress a report on—

23 “(1) the number of eligible institutions that re-
24 ceive a grant provided under this section;

1 “(2) the number of enrolled students that re-
2 ceive access to broadband internet access service
3 through a grant provided under this section;

4 “(3) the number of enrolled students that are
5 part of the homework gap;

6 “(4) how hotspot devices are used; and

7 “(5) the amount of data used per hotspot de-
8 vice.

9 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 is authorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for each
11 fiscal year 2020 through 2025.

12 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERV-
14 ICE.—The term ‘broadband internet access service’
15 has the meaning given such term in section 8.1(b)
16 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any suc-
17 cessor regulation).

18 “(2) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; SECONDARY
19 SCHOOL.—The terms ‘elementary school’ and ‘sec-
20 ondary school’ have the meanings given such terms
21 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

23 “(3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
24 ble institution’ means any of the following:

25 “(A) An elementary school.

1 “(B) A secondary school.

2 “(C) An institution of higher education.

3 “(D) A federally recognized Indian Tribe.

4 “(E) A library.

5 “(F) A library consortium.

6 “(G) A State library administrative agen-
7 cy.

8 “(4) ENROLLED STUDENT.—The term ‘enrolled
9 student’ means a student who is enrolled in an ele-
10 mentary school, a secondary school, or an institution
11 of higher education.

12 “(5) FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN
13 TRIBE.—The term ‘federally recognized Indian
14 Tribe’ has the meaning given the term ‘Indian tribe’
15 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
16 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

17 “(6) HOMEWORK GAP.—The term ‘homework
18 gap’ means unequal access to digital devices and
19 broadband internet access service that prevents an
20 enrolled student from completing homework.

21 “(7) HOTSPOT DEVICE.—The term ‘hotspot de-
22 vice’ means a portable device—

23 “(A) that connects to broadband internet
24 access service using a cellular data connection;

1 “(B) to which other devices wirelessly con-
2 nect by means of Wi-Fi; and

3 “(C) that enables the devices described in
4 subparagraph (B) to connect to the broadband
5 internet access service described in subpara-
6 graph (A).

7 “(8) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
8 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
9 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
10 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

11 “(9) LIBRARY; LIBRARY CONSORTIUM; STATE
12 LIBRARY ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY.—The terms ‘li-
13 brary’, ‘library consortium’, and ‘State library ad-
14 ministrative agency’ have the meanings given such
15 terms in section 213 of the Museum and Library
16 Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9122).

17 “(10) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term ‘low-
18 income student’ has the meaning given such term in
19 section 6122 of the America COMPETES Act (20
20 U.S.C. 9832).”.