SEC. ___. EXPANSION OF AIR UNIVERSITY AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT RESEARCH GRANTS FOR SCIENTIFIC, LITERARY, AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

Section 9417 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking "**Air War College**" and inserting "**Air University**";

(2) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) ACCEPTANCE OF RESEARCH GRANTS.—The Secretary of the Air Force may authorize the Air University Commander and President to accept qualifying research grants. Such grants must be carried out by a faculty, student, or staff member of the university for a scientific, literary, or educational purpose.";

(3) in subsection (d), by striking "Commandant" and inserting "Air University Commander and President"; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking "Air War College" and inserting "Air University".

[Please note: The "Changes to Existing Law" section below sets out in red-line format how the legislative text would amend existing law.]

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would expand the authority for faculty and staff at Air University to accept research grants to encompass all sectors of the university.

Section 9417 of title 10, United States Code, currently restricts the authority to accept research grants to the Air War College, a subordinate unit of Air University, thus excluding other applicable mission elements within Air University from accepting such research grants. Additionally, the current legislation restricts the potential for accepting research grants to professors and instructors rather than including the full range of faculty, students, and staff who may conduct research to benefit the Air Force and Air University.

The most significant return on investment from enacting this change will be manifested in the area of Developing the Force. Under the current authority, approximately 83 Air War College faculty and staff may accept research grants. This excludes nearly 1,900 faculty and staff and approximately 6,700 students across Air University schools and centers. By providing access to research grants across the full spectrum of the Air University mission, more Airmen will have the potential to collaborate and develop ideas and concepts that are more agile and innovative. Without such authority, the potential to conduct research on leading-edge education and training practices is limited only to the funding internally provided to Air University through Air Force appropriations. Expanding the authority to all Air University mission elements will provide access external funding which will inform and enhance faculty development and research, student achievement of learning outcomes, curriculum design, and efforts to present ideas for Air Force issues.

Expanding the authority to the Air University level will also open up opportunities for collaboration with corporations, funds, foundations, educational institutions, or similar entities for all mission elements of the University. This expansion will increase the university's networks and access to different perspectives that will inform efforts to facilitate operational collaboration, innovation, and agility.

Budget Implications: The discussion below details resource requirements associated with this proposal.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

This proposal would not create any additional positions and it would not require an increase in the Air University baseline to administer the proposed expanded authority to accept research grants.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)									
	FY 2019	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**	**Program Element**
Air Force	0	0	0	0	0	Air Force Operations and Maintenance	03	032C	84752F
Total	0	0	0	0	0	Air Force Operations and Maintenance	03	032C	84752F

NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AFFECTED:

This proposed change would not create any additional manpower requirements. Existing faculty, student, and staff would apply for and administer the research grants as such opportunities and funds become available.

PERSONNEL AFFECTED									
	FY 2019	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**	**Program Element**

Air Force	0	0	0	0	0	Air Force Operations and Maintenance	03	032C	84752F
Total	0	0	0	0	0	Air Force Operations and Maintenance	03	032C	84752F

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would make the following changes to section 9417 of title 10, United States Code:

"§9417. Air ~~War College~~University: acceptance of grants for faculty research for scientific, literary, and educational purposes

(a) ACCEPTANCE OF RESEARCH GRANTS.—The Secretary of the Air Force may authorize the ~~Commandant of the Air War College~~Air University Commander and President to accept qualifying research grants. ~~Any such grant may only be accepted if the work under the grant is to be carried out by a professor or instructor of the College for a scientific, literary, or educational purpose.~~Such grants must be carried out by a faculty, student, or staff member of the university for a scientific, literary, or educational purpose.

(b) QUALIFYIING GRANTS.—A qualifying research grant under this section is a grant that is awarded on a competitive basis by an entity referred to in subsection (c) for a research project with a scientific, literary, or educational purpose.

(c) ENTITIES FROM WHICH GRANTS MAY BE ACCEPTED.—A grant may be accepted under this section only from a corporation, fund, foundation, educational institution, or similar entity that is organized and operated primarily for scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

(d) ADMINISTRATION OF GRANT FUNDS.—The Secretary shall establish an account for administering funds received as research grants under this section. The ~~Commandant~~Air University Commander and President shall use the funds in the account in accordance with applicable provisions of the regulations and the terms and condition of the grants received.

(e) RELATED EXPENSES.—Subject to such limitations as may be provided in appropriations Acts, appropriations available for the ~~Air War College~~Air University may be used to pay expenses incurred in applying for, and otherwise pursuing, the award of qualifying research grants.

(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this section.