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*For Immediate Release*

**SUSPEND CONSIDERATION OF GHANA SCHOLARSHIPS  
AUTHORITY BILL, 2025 TO ALLOW FOR STAKEHOLDER  
CONSULTATIONS**

We, the Citizens' Coalition, a group of Public Interest Civil Society Organizations and Eminent Citizens call on Parliament to suspend further consideration of the Ghana Scholarships Authority Bill, 2025, which is currently before the House.

While we commend the government for this laudable effort to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for scholarships management in Ghana, there is no known emergency in the management of scholarships that justifies the speedy consideration of this all-important Bill without public consultation.

The need for reform is undeniable, yet, the Bill in its current form does not adequately address the structural weaknesses of the existing scholarships regime. Rather than remedying the prevailing opacity, nepotism and political interference, it risks institutionalizing them.

We are convinced that the proposed legislation falls short of establishing a transparent, accountable and merit-based system consistent with global best practice in public scholarships management. Consequently, genuine reform must begin with broad stakeholder engagement, including students and youth groups, tertiary institutions, civil society organizations and development partners. These consultations are essential in designing a legal framework that consolidates the fragmented scholarships landscape into a coherent and credible authority that serves the national interest.

We are fully aware of the unfortunate situation of the about 200 Ghanaian students studying abroad who risk deportation and termination of their programs for failure to pay tuition fees and other obligations. The Ministry of Education which currently oversees the Scholarship Secretariat is working to resolve the matter. This should not under any circumstances dispense with the thorough stakeholder engagement needed for this Bill.

It is therefore imperative that Parliament allows sufficient time for meaningful consultations to be undertaken. A law that shapes access to academic and professional opportunity for generations of Ghanaians must not be passed in haste. It must be informed, inclusive and legitimate.

Given this background, we respectfully call on Parliament, particularly the Right Honorable Speaker to facilitate the suspension of the current legislative process to allow for stakeholder consultations on this important national reform.

**Signed:**

For and on behalf of the **Citizens' Coalition**

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2. **Dr. Kojo Asante**, Director of Partnerships and Policy Engagement, Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana)
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