

Calendar No. 727

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 3688****[Report No. 111-383]**

To establish an international professional exchange program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2010

Mr. KERRY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

DECEMBER 22, 2010

Reported by Mr. KERRY, without amendment

A BILL

To establish an international professional exchange 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 “International Profes-
5 sional Exchange Act of 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) According to the National Research Council's 2007 report titled "International Education and
4 Foreign Languages: Keys to Securing America's Future", "knowledge of foreign languages and cultures
5 is increasingly critical for the nation's security and
6 its ability to compete in the global marketplace.
7 Language skills and cultural expertise are needed
8 for federal service, for business, for such professions
9 as law, health care, and social work, and for an in-
10 formed citizenry."

11 (2) Exchange programs play an important role
12 in learning about foreign cultures and languages and
13 building bridges between societies. Our Nation bene-
14 fits from having people from all over the world
15 study, work, and travel in the United States.

16 (3) The Fulbright Programs are widely recog-
17 nized and prestigious international exchange pro-
18 grams, with approximately 294,000 "Fulbrighters"
19 from more than 155 countries participating in the
20 academic exchange program since its inception more
21 than 60 years ago.

22 (4) In his June 4, 2009, speech in Cairo,
23 Egypt, President Barack Obama stated—
24
25

1 (A) “I have come here to seek a new be-
2 ginning between the United States and Muslims
3 around the world; one based on mutual interest
4 and mutual respect.”;

5 (B) in discussing economic development
6 and opportunity, “we will expand exchange pro-
7 grams” and “we will create a new corps of busi-
8 ness volunteers to partner with counterparts in
9 Muslim-majority countries”; and

10 (C) “Indeed, faith should bring us to-
11 gether. That is why we are forging service
12 projects in America that bring together Chris-
13 tians, Muslims, and Jews.” and “Around the
14 world, we can turn dialogue into Interfaith serv-
15 ice, so bridges between peoples lead to action.”.

16 (5) During the 2010 Presidential Summit on
17 Entrepreneurship, President Obama emphasized the
18 importance of partnering with global Muslim com-
19 munities “to expand economic prosperity . . . and to
20 deepen ties between business leaders, foundations,
21 and entrepreneurs in the United States and Muslim
22 communities around the world.”.

23 (6) In her November 2009 speech at the
24 “Forum for the Future” in Marrakech, Morocco,
25 Secretary of State Clinton stated “It is results, not

1 rhetoric, that matter in the end. Economic empower-
2 ment, education, healthcare, access to energy and to
3 credit, these are the basics that all communities
4 need to thrive. . . . We know that true progress
5 comes from within a society and cannot be imposed
6 from the outside, and we know that change does not
7 happen overnight. So we will not focus our energies
8 on one-time projects, but we will seek to work with
9 all of you in government and in civil society to try
10 to build local capacity and empower local organiza-
11 tions and individuals to create sustainable change.”.

12 (7) On January 28, 2010, Farah Pandith, Spe-
13 cial Representative to Muslim Communities for the
14 Department of State, stated, “by working together
15 in true partnership with Muslims around the world,
16 we can build new relationships and partnerships that
17 inspire and promote peace, prosperity, dignity, and
18 hope.”.

19 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

20 The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot pro-
21 gram—

22 (1) to help build professional capacity and con-
23 tribute professional skills to local communities
24 through a two-way exchange of fellows;

1 (2) to address some of the long-term economic
2 challenges facing the global economy by sharing and
3 building professional expertise and building civil so-
4 ciety capacity in the United States and in Muslim-
5 majority countries, including minority populations in
6 those countries;

7 (3) to promote cross-cultural understanding be-
8 tween the people of the United States and the people
9 in Muslim-majority countries, including minority
10 populations in those countries;

11 (4) to improve mutual understanding, change
12 perceptions, and strengthen the people-to-people ties
13 which unite Americans with people in Muslim-major-
14 ity countries, including minority populations in those
15 countries; and

16 (5) to promote international cooperation and
17 peace.

18 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

20 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
21 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
22 mittees” means—

23 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
24 the Senate;

1 (B) the Committee on Appropriations of
2 the Senate;

3 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
4 the House of Representatives; and

5 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
6 the House of Representatives.

7 (2) FELLOW.—The term “fellow” means a col-
8 lege-educated professional who—

9 (A) is between 21 and 40 years of age; and

10 (B) has been selected to participate in the
11 Program.

12 (3) FELLOWSHIP.—The term “fellowship”
13 means the vehicle through which inbound and out-
14 bound fellows participate in the Program.

15 (4) INBOUND FELLOW.—The term “inbound
16 fellow” means a fellow who is coming to the United
17 States from a Muslim-majority country.

18 (5) MUSLIM-MAJORITY COUNTRY.—The term
19 “Muslim-majority country” means—

20 (A) a country that is a Member State of
21 the Organization of the Islamic Conference; and

22 (B) the Republic of Kosovo.

23 (6) OUTBOUND FELLOW.—The term “outbound
24 fellow” means a fellow who is going to a Muslim-ma-
25 jority country from the United States.

1 (7) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
2 the 3-year International Professional Exchange Pilot
3 Program established under this Act.

4 **SEC. 5. INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PILOT**
5 **PROGRAM.**

6 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of State is au-
7 thorized to establish a 3-year international professional ex-
8 change pilot program for—

9 (1) young professionals in the United States to
10 live and work in a Muslim-majority country; and

11 (2) young professionals in Muslim-majority
12 countries to live and work in the United States.

13 (b) FELLOWSHIP DURATION.—The fellowships under
14 the Program should last between 3 and 6 months, during
15 which—

16 (1) time should be allocated for professional
17 training, community service, and cultural immersion
18 activities, including site visits and domestic travel;
19 and

20 (2) the majority of time should be spent in a
21 professional job setting that complements the fel-
22 low’s professional background and builds relevant
23 professional skill sets.

24 (c) COMMUNITY SERVICE.—Each fellow shall be re-
25 quired to complete at least 40 hours of community service

1 in the local community in which the fellow is placed to
2 gain a better appreciation for—

3 (1) issues surrounding the local community;

4 (2) the importance of civic engagement; and

5 (3) in some cases, interfaith service, which in-
6 volves service activities and projects for the common
7 good that draw participants from more than 1 faith
8 tradition, denomination, spiritual movement, or reli-
9 gion and often include secular participants and orga-
10 nizations.

11 (d) PLACEMENT.—Each fellow shall be placed in a
12 professional environment that complements his or her pro-
13 fessional training and experience. To the extent possible,
14 outbound fellowship placement selections should target
15 local companies and businesses in addition to placement
16 opportunities with local governments and civil society or-
17 ganizations.

18 (e) TRAVEL EXPENSES; STIPEND.—The Program
19 shall cover all relevant travel, administrative, and health
20 care costs for each fellow that are directly related to his
21 or her participation in the Program. Each fellow shall re-
22 ceive a stipend in an amount equal to the estimated costs
23 to be incurred for housing, meals, and local transportation
24 costs. Fellows shall not be paid a salary by the Program
25 for their fellowship. To the extent available and consistent

1 with local law, fellows may accept a stipend from the local
2 company or organization connected to their fellowship.

3 (f) TECHNOLOGY.—In administering the Program,
4 the Secretary of State is encouraged to support and utilize
5 communications technology to train fellows and provide
6 networking opportunities for fellows, including—

7 (1) simultaneous orientations;

8 (2) online educational and cultural trainings,
9 including refresher language training;

10 (3) classroom exchanges;

11 (4) online networks of fellows; and

12 (5) platforms for sharing experiences and cre-
13 ating alumni networks.

14 **SEC. 6. SELECTION OF INBOUND FELLOWS.**

15 (a) COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.—The selection of inbound
16 fellows shall reflect geographic diversity to the extent pos-
17 sible. The Secretary of State shall select not fewer than
18 4 and not more than 7 Muslim-majority countries from
19 which the initial group of inbound fellows may be selected.

20 In making such selections, the Secretary shall select at
21 least 1 country from each of the following geographic re-
22 gions:

23 (1) Middle East and North Africa.

24 (2) Central Asia and South Asia.

25 (3) Southeast Asia.

1 (b) RECRUITMENT.—In recruiting inbound fellows
2 for the Program, the Secretary should—

3 (1) build upon existing programs to engage
4 Muslim communities, including efforts by the De-
5 partment of State through the Office of the Special
6 Representative to Muslim Communities and the Of-
7 fice of the Special Envoy to the Organization of the
8 Islamic Conference;

9 (2) reach out to graduates of English learning
10 programs, such as the English Access Microscholar-
11 ship Program;

12 (3) work with local Chambers of Commerce and
13 leading private sector industries to identify potential
14 candidates;

15 (4) engage with public service networks and
16 leading public service and nonprofit organizations;

17 (5) use online networking and media tools to
18 reach potential fellows; and

19 (6) use other creative outlets to reach a broad
20 and diverse candidate pool.

21 (c) SELECTION PROCESS.—In selecting inbound fel-
22 lows for the Program, the Secretary should—

23 (1) give preference to candidates who—

24 (A) have relevant professional and lan-
25 guage qualifications;

1 (B) are prepared for cultural immersion;

2 and

3 (C) have demonstrated leadership in their

4 communities;

5 (2) take into account the gender and geographic

6 diversity of the candidates;

7 (3) conduct in-person interviews with all of the

8 finalists to test their character and personal commit-

9 ment to the goals of the Program; and

10 (4) select fellows from a variety of professional

11 backgrounds with a preference for individuals who

12 work in—

13 (A) the public sector, including teachers,

14 urban/city planners, public health workers, and

15 public administrators; or

16 (B) civil society, including journalists,

17 faith-based leaders, interfaith leaders, and those

18 working in nonprofit organizations.

19 **SEC. 7. OUTBOUND FELLOWS.**

20 (a) COUNTRY OF PLACEMENT.—The placement of

21 outbound fellows shall reflect geographic diversity to the

22 extent possible. The Secretary of State shall select not

23 fewer than 4 and not more than 7 Muslim-majority coun-

24 tries to which the initial group of outbound fellows may

25 be placed. This group of countries does not need to be

1 the same group of countries from which inbound fellows
2 are selected. In making such selection, at least 1 country
3 should be selected from each of the following geographic
4 regions:

5 (1) Middle East and North Africa.

6 (2) Central Asia, South Asia, and Southeast
7 Asia.

8 (b) RECRUITMENT.—In recruiting outbound fellows
9 for the Program, the Secretary should identify a large se-
10 lection of potential candidates by working closely with—

11 (1) Federal and State government agencies;

12 (2) United States academic institutions, par-
13 ticularly graduate schools;

14 (3) public and private sector professional net-
15 works;

16 (4) private businesses; and

17 (5) nongovernmental organizations.

18 (c) SELECTION PROCESS.—In selecting outbound fel-
19 lows for the Program, the Secretary should—

20 (1) identify candidates who—

21 (A) have relevant professional and lan-
22 guage qualifications;

23 (B) are prepared for cultural immersion;

24 and

1 (C) have demonstrated leadership in their
2 communities;

3 (2) take into account the gender and geographic
4 diversity of the candidates;

5 (3) conduct in-person interviews with all of the
6 finalists to test their character and personal commit-
7 ment to the goals of the Program; and

8 (4) select fellows from a variety of professional
9 backgrounds, with a preference for individuals who
10 work in—

11 (A) the public sector, including teachers,
12 urban/city planners, public health workers, and
13 public administrators; and

14 (B) civil society, including journalists,
15 faith-based leaders, interfaith leaders, and those
16 working in nonprofit organizations.

17 **SEC. 8. ORIENTATION, TRAINING, AND LANGUAGE.**

18 (a) ORIENTATION.—At the beginning of each fellow-
19 ship, the Program should include an orientation for each
20 class of inbound fellows and outbound fellows.

21 (b) TRAINING.—The Program should provide, and re-
22 quire each fellow to complete, appropriate professional and
23 cultural training before and during the fellowship.

24 (c) LANGUAGE.—The Program is not intended to
25 teach fellows professional competency in the working lan-

1 guage of the country in which fellows are placed. Fellows
2 should possess a working level knowledge of the language
3 needed for professional placement before the placement is
4 made. The Program shall provide refresher language
5 training for fellowship placement, as needed.

6 **SEC. 9. POST-FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES.**

7 (a) CERTIFICATE.—Upon successful completion of
8 the fellowship, each fellow shall receive a certificate from
9 the Department of State certifying such completion.

10 (b) ALUMNI NETWORKS.—The Program should in-
11 clude an alumni component that encourages former fellows
12 to meet and build relationships and provides an oppor-
13 tunity for former fellows—

14 (1) to remain linked to the Program and the
15 network of colleagues they met through the Pro-
16 gram;

17 (2) to share experiences with current and
18 former fellows and participating professional organi-
19 zations;

20 (3) to build international professional networks;

21 (4) to recruit candidates for future fellowships;

22 (5) to identify placement opportunities for fu-
23 ture fellows; and

24 (6) to raise funds in support of alumni activi-
25 ties and future fellows.

1 (c) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FUNDING.—The
2 Secretary of State is strongly encouraged to defray the
3 costs of the Program through public-private partnerships
4 that seek in-kind contributions, financial assistance for
5 travel and administrative costs, job placement, and re-
6 cruitment assistance from—

7 (1) the private sector, including private founda-
8 tions;

9 (2) foreign governments; and

10 (3) other interested parties.

11 **SEC. 10. REPORT.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months, 27
13 months, and 39 months after the date of the enactment
14 of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report
15 to the appropriate congressional committees that describes
16 the administration and outcomes of the Program.

17 (b) CONTENTS.—The reports submitted under sub-
18 section (a) shall include—

19 (1) the administrative costs of the Program;

20 (2) recommendations for improving cost-shar-
21 ing;

22 (3) the country selection process for the Pro-
23 gram;

1 (4) the qualifications, overhead, and achieve-
2 ments of any partners involved in the implementa-
3 tion of the Program;

4 (5) the program models used by grantees to
5 promote cross-learning;

6 (6) recruitment practices and outcomes;

7 (7) the number of candidates per country;

8 (8) selection criteria used to choose fellows, in-
9 cluding issues that arose during selection and rec-
10 ommendations for improved selection;

11 (9) the placement process, including issues that
12 arose during selection and recommendations for im-
13 proved placement;

14 (10) the training offered, including rec-
15 ommendations for improved training;

16 (11) the alumni networks created, including
17 recommendations for improving alumni activity; and

18 (12) other recommendations for improving the
19 administration and funding of the overall program.

20 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
22 retary of State such sums as may be necessary for each
23 of the fiscal years 2011 through 2014, which shall be ex-
24 pended to carry out the Program in accordance with this
25 Act.

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