

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2657

To require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with family members
in North Korea.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2016

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. GARDNER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with
family members in North Korea.

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. CONSULTATIONS ON REUNITING KOREAN**
4 **AMERICANS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN**
5 **NORTH KOREA.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

8 (1) The division of the Korean Peninsula into
9 South Korea and North Korea separated more than
10 10,000,000 Koreans from family members.

1 (2) Since the signing of the Agreement Con-
2 cerning a Military Armistice in Korea, signed at
3 Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as
4 the “Korean War Armistice Agreement”), there has
5 been little to no contact between Korean Americans
6 and family members who remain in North Korea.

7 (3) North Korea and South Korea first agreed
8 to reunions of divided families in 1985 and have
9 since held 19 face-to-face reunions and 7 video link
10 reunions.

11 (4) Those reunions have subsequently given ap-
12 proximately 22,000 Koreans the opportunity to
13 briefly reunite with loved ones.

14 (5) The most recent family reunions between
15 North Korea and South Korea took place in October
16 2015 and did not include any Korean Americans.

17 (6) The United States and North Korea do not
18 maintain diplomatic relations and certain limitations
19 exist on Korean Americans participating in inter-Ko-
20 rean family reunions.

21 (7) More than 1,700,000 people living in the
22 United States are of Korean descent.

23 (8) The number of first generation Korean and
24 Korean American family members divided from fam-

1 ily members in North Korea is rapidly diminishing
2 given the advanced age of those family members.

3 (9) Many Korean Americans with family mem-
4 bers in North Korea have not seen or communicated
5 with those family members in more than 60 years.

6 (10) Korean Americans and North Koreans
7 both continue to suffer from the tragedy of being di-
8 vided from loved ones.

9 (11) The inclusion of Korean American families
10 in the reunion process would constitute a positive
11 humanitarian gesture by the Government of North
12 Korea.

13 (12) Section 1265 of the National Defense Au-
14 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law
15 110–181; 122 Stat. 407) required the President to
16 submit to Congress a report on “efforts, if any, of
17 the United States Government to facilitate family re-
18 unions between United States citizens and their rel-
19 atives in North Korea”.

20 (13) In the report of the Committee on Appro-
21 priations of the House of Representatives accom-
22 panying H.R. 3081, 111th Congress (House Report
23 111–187), the Committee urged “the Special Rep-
24 resentative on North Korea Policy, as the senior of-
25 ficial handling North Korea issues, to prioritize the

1 issues involving Korean divided families and to, if
2 necessary, appoint a coordinator for such families”.

3 (b) CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—

4 (1) CONSULTATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA.—

5 The Secretary of State, or a designee of the Sec-
6 retary, shall consult with officials of South Korea, as
7 appropriate, on potential opportunities to reunite
8 Korean American families with family members in
9 North Korea from which such Korean American
10 families were divided after the signing of the Korean
11 War Armistice Agreement.

12 (2) CONSULTATIONS WITH KOREAN AMERI-

13 CANS.—Not less frequently than every 180 days, the
14 Special Representative on North Korea Policy of the
15 Department of State shall consult with representa-
16 tives of Korean Americans with family members in
17 North Korea with respect to efforts to reunite fami-
18 lies divided after the signing of the Korean War Ar-
19 mistice Agreement.

20 (3) NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF AP-

21 PROPRIATIONS.—No additional amounts are author-
22 ized to be appropriated to the Department of State
23 to carry out consultations under this subsection.

24 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit
2 to Congress, as part of the report required by sec-
3 tion 107(d) of the North Korean Human Rights Act
4 of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)), a report on consulta-
5 tions described in subsection (b) conducted during
6 the year preceding the submission of the report.

7 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
8 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form to the
9 maximum extent possible, but may include a classi-
10 fied annex.

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