CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

SEC. 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY FOR THE UNITED STATES.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should establish an international education policy to enhance national security and significantly further United States foreign policy and global competitiveness, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution which had been reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment, an amendment to the preamble, and an amendment to the title, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 7

Whereas promoting international education for United States citizens and ensuring access to high level international experts are important to meet national security, foreign policy, economic, and other global challenges facing the United States;

Whereas international education entails the imparting of effective global competence to United States students and other citizens as an integral part of their education at all levels;

Whereas research indicates that the United States is failing to graduate enough students with expertise in foreign languages, cultures, and policies to fill the demands of business, government, and universities;

Whereas, according to the American Council on Education, foreign language enrollments in United States higher education fell from 36 percent in 1960 to just 8 percent today, and the number of 4-year colleges with foreign language entrance and graduation requirements also declined;

Whereas educating international students is an important way to impart cross-cultural understanding, to spread United States values and influence, and to create goodwill for the United States throughout the world;

Whereas, based on studies by the College Board, the Institute for International Education, and Indiana University, more than 500,000 international students and their dependents contributed an estimated $12,300,000,000 to the United States economy in the academic year 1999-2000;

Whereas, according to the Department of State and Education, the proportion of international students choosing to study in the United States has declined from 40 to 30 percent since 1982;

Whereas international exchange programs, which in the past have done much to extend United States influence in the world by educating the world’s future leaders, as well as educating United States citizens about other nations and their cultures, are suffering from decline; and

Whereas American educational institutions chartered in the United States but operating abroad are important resources both for deepening the international knowledge of United States citizens and for nurturing United States ideals in other countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).

SEC. 2. OBJECTIVES OF AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY FOR THE UNITED STATES.

An international education policy for the United States should strive to achieve the following:

(1) Enhance the educational infrastructure through which the United States produces citizens with a high level of international expertise, and builds a broad knowledge base that serves the United States;

(2) Promote greater diversity of locations, languages, and subjects involved in teaching, research, and study abroad to ensure that the United States maintains a broad international knowledge base;

(3) Significantly increase participation in study and internships abroad by United States students;

(4) Invigorate citizen and professional international exchange programs and promote the international exchange of scholars, researchers, and students that promote increased numbers of international students;

(5) Ensure that a United States college graduate has knowledge of a second language and of a foreign area, as well as a broader understanding of the world;

(6) Encourage programs that begin foreign language learning in the United States at an early age;

(7) Promote educational exchanges and research collaboration with American educational institutions abroad that can strengthen the foreign language skills and a better understanding of the world by United States citizens;

(8) Promote partnerships among government, business, and educational institutions and organizations to provide adequate resources for implementing this policy.

The title so far as to read: “Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should establish an international education policy to further national security, foreign policy, and economic competitiveness, promote mutual understanding and cooperation among nations, and for other purposes.”

Mr. DeWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; that the amendment to the title be agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the Record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 7), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The title amendment was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DeWINE. In executive session, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 31. Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Cosumano, Jr., to be Lieutenant General, and Tim McClain to be general counsel for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.