

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 7

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2001

Referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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.

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 Institute for International Education, less than 10 percent of United States students graduating from college have studied abroad;

Whereas, according to the American Council on Education, foreign language enrollments in United States higher education fell from 16 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 Departments 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 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

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT**
4 **OF AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY**
5 **FOR THE UNITED STATES.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
7 should establish an international education policy to en-
8 hance national security, significantly further United
9 States foreign policy and economic competitiveness, and
10 promote mutual understanding and cooperation among
11 nations.

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

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

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

1 (2) Promote greater diversity of locations, lan-
2 guages, and subjects involved in teaching, research,
3 and study abroad to ensure that the United States
4 maintains a broad international knowledge base.

5 (3) Significantly increase participation in study
6 and internships abroad by United States students.

7 (4) Invigorate citizen and professional inter-
8 national exchange programs and promote the inter-
9 national exchange of scholars.

10 (5) Support visas and employment policies that
11 promote increased numbers of international stu-
12 dents.

13 (6) Ensure that a United States college grad-
14 uate has knowledge of a second language and of a
15 foreign area, as well as a broader understanding of
16 the world.

17 (7) Encourage programs that begin foreign lan-
18 guage learning in the United States at an early age.

19 (8) Promote educational exchanges and re-
20 search collaboration with American educational insti-
21 tutions abroad that can strengthen the foreign lan-
22 guage skills and a better understanding of the world
23 by United States citizens.

24 (9) Promote partnerships among government,
25 business, and educational institutions and organiza-

1 tions to provide adequate resources for implementing
2 this policy.

Passed the Senate April 6, 2001.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.