

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4303

To authorize the Secretary of State to make grants to American-sponsored schools in Arab and other predominantly Muslim countries to provide full or partial merit-based scholarships for children from lower- and middle-income families of such countries to attend such schools, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 2004

Mr. BERMAN (for himself and Mr. KNOLLENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

---

## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of State to make grants to American-sponsored schools in Arab and other predominantly Muslim countries to provide full or partial merit-based scholarships for children from lower- and middle-income families of such countries to attend such schools, 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 “American Schools  
5 Abroad Support Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) During the 2003–2004 school year, the Of-  
4 fice of Overseas Schools of the Department of State  
5 is financially assisting 189 elementary and sec-  
6 ondary schools in other countries.

7 (2) These “American-sponsored” schools serve  
8 99,318 students, of whom 27,412 are United States  
9 citizens.

10 (3) Twenty of these American-sponsored  
11 schools—serving 10,907 students—are located in the  
12 Near East and South Asia region, and other Amer-  
13 ican-sponsored schools are located in countries with  
14 significant Muslim populations in Africa, Central  
15 Asia, and East Asia.

16 (4) American-sponsored schools provide an  
17 American-style education in English, with curricula  
18 that typically include an emphasis on the develop-  
19 ment of critical thinking and analytical skills.

20 (5) In response to growing anti-American senti-  
21 ment in Arab and other predominantly Muslim coun-  
22 tries, the United States has placed a renewed em-  
23 phasis on public diplomacy programs, with education  
24 at the elementary, secondary, and university levels  
25 representing an important part of that effort.

1           (6) Education is a key element of the efforts of  
2 the United States to promote political, economic,  
3 and social reform in Arab and predominantly Mus-  
4 lim countries, and is one of the main components of  
5 the Middle East Partnership Initiative.

6           (7) As active, vibrant institutions, American-  
7 sponsored schools play a vital role in their local com-  
8 munities, and help advance public diplomacy inter-  
9 ests of the United States.

10          (8) The Department of State currently provides  
11 funds to American-sponsored schools amounting  
12 only, on average, to between one and two percent of  
13 their annual operating expenses.

14          (9) The United States has an interest in in-  
15 creasing the level of financial support provided to  
16 American-sponsored schools in Arab and predomi-  
17 nantly Muslim countries, in order to—

18               (A) increase the number of students in  
19 such countries who attend such schools; and

20               (B) increase the number of young people  
21 who may thereby gain at any early age an ap-  
22 preciation for the culture, society, and history  
23 of the United States.

24          (10) The United States has an interest in in-  
25 creasing the number of students in Arab and pre-

1 dominately Muslim countries who attend American-  
2 sponsored schools beyond those from affluent fami-  
3 lies who are able to afford the cost of tuition, to in-  
4 clude children from lower- and middle-income fami-  
5 lies who otherwise might not be able to afford to at-  
6 tend such schools.

7 (11) Many American-sponsored schools have the  
8 capacity to increase the number of students who at-  
9 tend such schools.

10 (12) The Department of State has legal author-  
11 ity under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Ex-  
12 change Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.) (com-  
13 monly referred to as the Fulbright-Hays Act) to pro-  
14 vide increased financial support for American-spon-  
15 sored schools.

16 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

17 It is the sense of Congress that, based on the findings  
18 contained in section 2, additional funds should be made  
19 available to American-sponsored schools in Arab and pre-  
20 dominately Muslim countries to provide full or partial  
21 merit-based scholarships to children from lower- and mid-  
22 dle-income families of such countries to attend such  
23 schools.

1 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO AMERICAN-SPONSORED SCHOOLS IN**  
2 **ARAB AND OTHER PREDOMINANTLY MUSLIM**  
3 **COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO**  
4 **STUDENTS.**

5 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of State,  
6 acting through the Director of the Office of Overseas  
7 Schools of the Department of State, may make grants to  
8 American-sponsored schools in Arab and predominantly  
9 Muslim countries for the purpose of providing full or par-  
10 tial merit-based scholarships to students from lower- and  
11 middle-income families of such countries to attend such  
12 schools.

13 (b) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—For  
14 purposes of expending grant funds, an American-spon-  
15 sored school that receives a grant under subsection (a) is  
16 authorized to establish criteria to be implemented by such  
17 school to determine what constitutes lower- and middle-  
18 income families in the country (or region of the country,  
19 if regional variations in income levels in the country are  
20 significant) in which such school is located.

21 (c) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts ap-  
22 propriated to the Secretary of State pursuant to the au-  
23 thorization of appropriations in subsection (c) shall be  
24 used for the sole purpose of making grants under this sec-  
25 tion, and may not be used for the administration of the

1 Office of Overseas Schools of the Department of State or  
2 any other activity of the Office.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
4 are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years  
5 2005 and 2006, \$15,000,000 to carry out subsection (a).

○