

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5091

To authorize assistance to the people of the Republic of Haiti to fund scholarships for talented disadvantaged students in Haiti to continue their education in the United States and to return to Haiti to contribute to the development of their country, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 2006

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. LEE, Mr. WELLER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. MEEKS of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To authorize assistance to the people of the Republic of Haiti to fund scholarships for talented disadvantaged students in Haiti to continue their education in the United States and to return to Haiti to contribute to the development of their country, 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 “Henry J. Hyde Schol-
5 arships for Haiti Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to establish an under-
3 graduate scholarship program which is designed to bring
4 talented students of limited financial means from Haiti
5 to the United States for study at United States institu-
6 tions of higher education to—

7 (1) improve the diversity and quality of edu-
8 cational opportunities for such students;

9 (2) assist the development efforts of Haiti by
10 providing training and educational assistance to per-
11 sons who can help address the social and economic
12 needs of Haiti;

13 (3) build a well-educated middle-class in Haiti
14 which is capable and willing to provide leadership in
15 the public and private sectors to help sustain the po-
16 litical and economic progress that is sorely needed to
17 confront the daunting challenges of that country;
18 and

19 (4) promote positive and productive relation-
20 ships between the United States and Haiti.

21 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

22 Congress finds the following:

23 (1) It is in the national interest of the United
24 States to provide a stable source of financial support
25 to give talented students in Haiti the opportunity to
26 study in the United States in order to improve the

1 range and quality of educational alternatives for
2 these students, further the development of Haiti,
3 and build enduring relationships between the people
4 of the United States and the people of Haiti.

5 (2) Providing scholarship to foreign students to
6 study in the United States has proven to be an ef-
7 fective means of creating strong bonds between the
8 United States and the future leadership of devel-
9 oping countries and assisting those countries to sub-
10 stantially further their development objectives.

11 (3) Talented students from families of limited
12 financial means in Haiti traditionally have few, if
13 any, opportunities to continue their education in
14 their own country and are less likely to pursue high-
15 er education in the United States.

16 (4) In 2003, 76 percent of the population in
17 Haiti earned less than the equivalent of \$2.00 per
18 day, and 56 percent of the population in the country
19 in the same year earned less than the equivalent of
20 \$1.00 per day.

21 (5) In 2003, the literacy rate of individuals in
22 Haiti who are older than 15 years of age was less
23 than 52 percent. The net primary school enrollment
24 rate was 68 percent, as compared to the average of

1 approximately 78 percent for other low income coun-
2 tries, such as Afghanistan and Guinea-Bissau.

3 (6) Women in Haiti are more likely to be ad-
4 versely affected by the dire economic and social con-
5 ditions in Haiti.

6 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the
8 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
9 national Development, shall provide scholarships (includ-
10 ing partial assistance) for undergraduate study at United
11 States institutions of higher education (as such term is
12 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
13 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) by citizens and nationals of Haiti
14 who have completed their secondary education with dis-
15 tinction and who would not otherwise have the opportunity
16 to study in the United States due to financial constraints.

17 (b) FORM OF SCHOLARSHIP; FORGIVENESS OF LOAN
18 REPAYMENT.—To encourage Haitian students to use their
19 training and education for the benefit of Haiti, each schol-
20 arship that is extended under this Act shall be in the form
21 of a loan. All repayment of the loan (including principal
22 and accrued interest) shall be forgiven upon the scholar-
23 ship recipient's prompt return to Haiti for a period which
24 is at least one year longer than the period spent studying
25 in the United States under the scholarship.

1 (c) GUIDELINES.—The scholarship program under
2 this Act shall be carried out in accordance with the perti-
3 nent guidelines of section 604 of the Foreign Relations
4 Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987 (22
5 U.S.C. 4704; Public Law 99–93; relating to guidelines for
6 United States scholarship program for developing coun-
7 tries).

8 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE PEACE**
9 **CORPS.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that the President, acting
11 through the Director of the Peace Corps, should, as soon
12 as practicable, make available again to the Government
13 of Haiti qualified Peace Corps volunteers who would serve
14 under hardship conditions to—

15 (1) assist the people of Haiti to improve literacy
16 rates and meet other basic needs so that they can
17 become economically self-sufficient; and

18 (2) promote mutual understanding between the
19 people of the United States and the people of Haiti.

20 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
22 priated \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2007, 2008,
23 and 2009, for the President, acting through the Adminis-
24 trator for the United States Agency for International De-
25 velopment, to carry out this Act.

1 (b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—Amounts appro-
2 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
3 under subsection (a) are—

4 (1) authorized to remain available until ex-
5 pended; and

6 (2) shall be in addition to funds otherwise avail-
7 able for such purposes.

8 (c) LITERACY AND OTHER BASIC EDUCATION PRO-
9 GRAMS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated
10 to carry out chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance
11 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.; relating to develop-
12 ment assistance) for each of fiscal years 2007, 2008, and
13 2009, and which are not allocated for assistance for coun-
14 tries in Latin America and the Caribbean, not less than
15 \$3,000,000 for each such fiscal year is authorized to be
16 made available for assistance for literacy and other basic
17 education programs in Haiti.

18 **SEC. 7. GENERAL AUTHORITIES.**

19 (a) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBU-
20 TIONS.—The public and private sectors, particularly the
21 Haitian-American community, in the United States and
22 in Haiti shall be encouraged to contribute to the costs of
23 the scholarship program financed under this Act. To this
24 end, the President, acting through the Administrator for
25 the United States Agency for International Development,

1 is strongly encouraged to design a matching program in
2 which contributions made by the public and private sectors
3 of either country are matched by amounts authorized
4 under this Act. Not more than twenty-five percent of the
5 amounts authorized to be appropriated under this Act may
6 be dedicated to such a matching program.

7 (b) UTILIZATION OF RETURNING SCHOLARSHIP RE-
8 CIPIENTS.—The President, acting through the Adminis-
9 trator for the United States Agency for International De-
10 velopment, shall seek to engage the private sector of Haiti
11 and international private enterprises that are conducting
12 business in Haiti to maximize the opportunities for pro-
13 ductive contributions to the development of Haiti by re-
14 turning scholarship recipients.

15 (c) DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COOP-
16 ERATIVE ASSOCIATION OF STATES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—
17 The President, acting through the Administrator for the
18 United States Agency for International Development, is
19 strongly encouraged to carry out the purposes of this Act
20 through existing scholarship programs, such as the Coop-
21 erative Association of States for Scholarships program.

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