

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5784

To authorize assistance to the countries of the Caribbean to fund educational development and exchange programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2006

Ms. LEE (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. WYNN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. STARK, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. HOYER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To authorize assistance to the countries of the Caribbean to fund educational development and exchange programs.

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 “Shirley A. Chisholm
5 United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of
6 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) CARIBBEAN.—The term “Caribbean” in-
4 cludes—

5 (A) the member countries of the Caribbean
6 Community (CARICOM), but does not include
7 any country having observer status in
8 CARICOM;

9 (B) the member countries of the Associa-
10 tion of Caribbean States (ACS), but does not
11 include any country having observer status in
12 the ACS.

13 (2) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise provided,
14 the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

15 (3) ADMINISTRATOR.—Except as otherwise pro-
16 vided, the term “Administrator” means the Adminis-
17 trator of the United States Agency for International
18 Development.

19 (4) UNITED STATES COOPERATING AGEN-
20 CIES.—The term “United States cooperating agen-
21 cies” means any nongovernmental organization hav-
22 ing United States citizenship that is designated by
23 the Secretary to carry out the program authorized
24 under section 6.

25 (5) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
26 ondary school” means a school that serves students

1 in any of the grades 9 through 12 or equivalent
2 grades in a foreign education system as determined
3 by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary
4 of Education.

5 (6) UNDERGRADUATE.—The term “under-
6 graduate” means a college or university student
7 working toward an associate-level or bachelor’s de-
8 gree.

9 (7) GRADUATE.—The term “graduate” means a
10 student pursuing a degree beyond the bachelor’s
11 level.

12 (8) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
13 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
14 mittees” means the Committee on International Re-
15 lations and the Committee on Appropriations of the
16 House of Representatives and the Committee on
17 Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropria-
18 tions of the Senate.

19 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

20 Congress finds the following:

21 (1) The United States and the Caribbean have
22 enjoyed long-standing friendly relations.

23 (2) As an important regional partner for trade
24 and democratic values, the Caribbean constitutes a
25 “Third Border” of the United States.

1 (3) The decrease in tourism revenue in the
2 aftermath of the tragic terrorist attacks on Sep-
3 tember 11, 2001, had an adverse affect on the Car-
4 ibbean.

5 (4) According to a 2005 World Bank Report on
6 the Caribbean, unemployment, particularly youth
7 unemployment, has severe implications on poverty
8 and income distributions, as well as drug trafficking
9 and addiction.

10 (5) The World Bank Report also concludes that
11 better synchronization is needed between current
12 Caribbean curricula and the skills needed in an
13 evolving job market and economy.

14 (6) Many Caribbean leaders have linked the in-
15 crease in crime to a decrease in economic alter-
16 natives. Consequently, United States and Caribbean
17 leaders have highlighted the need for increased edu-
18 cational opportunities for Caribbean students.

19 (7) By enhancing United States cultural and
20 educational exchange programs in the Caribbean, re-
21 gional security is improved by expanding human re-
22 sources and providing opportunities that promote
23 economic growth.

24 (8) Many Caribbean leaders studied at the un-
25 dergraduate or graduate level in the United States

1 before returning to their respective countries to con-
2 tribute towards the strengthening of democracy, the
3 economy, or the provision of social services.

4 (9) From 2003 through 2005, 217 Caribbean
5 leaders participated in exchange programs with the
6 United States that focused on good governance,
7 combating drug trafficking, anti-corruption, and
8 other regional issues of concern.

9 (10) The Department of State currently admin-
10 isters public outreach programs that include cul-
11 tural, academic, and citizen exchange initiatives in
12 Caribbean countries through the Embassy Public Af-
13 fairs Sections with support from the Office of Public
14 Diplomacy in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere
15 Affairs.

16 (11) In some Caribbean countries, the United
17 States Agency for International Development coordi-
18 nates the Center of Excellence for Teacher Training
19 (CETT), a successful Presidential initiative that em-
20 phasizes teacher training as a key to the develop-
21 ment of a competitive work force.

22 (12) In Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the
23 Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Cayman Islands,
24 the Dominican Republic, Dominica, Grenada, Guy-
25 ana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St.

1 Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname,
2 and Trinidad and Tobago, the Bureau of Edu-
3 cational and Cultural Affairs sponsors educational
4 advisors to promote study in the United States.

5 (13) In the 2004-2005 academic year, approxi-
6 mately 14,000 Caribbean students were enrolled in
7 United States universities.

8 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

9 The purpose of this Act is to develop two comprehen-
10 sive educational initiatives targeted toward the Caribbean.
11 The first will establish a system for United States-Carib-
12 bean educational exchange programs, and the second will
13 develop a plan to enhance teacher training and community
14 involvement in early education in the region.

15 **SEC. 5. AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.**

16 The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary
17 for Public Diplomacy, shall consult with the Administrator
18 and the Secretary of Education to ensure that—

19 (1) activities under this act are not duplicative
20 of other efforts in the Caribbean; and

21 (2) partner institutions in the Caribbean and
22 United States cooperating agencies are creditable.

1 **SEC. 6. SHIRLEY CHISHOLM UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN**
2 **EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purpose of this
4 section, the Secretary of State, acting through the Under
5 Secretary for Public Diplomacy, is authorized to establish
6 a Caribbean international exchange visitor program, to be
7 known as the “Shirley Chisholm United States-Caribbean
8 Educational Exchange Program”, under which—

9 (1) secondary students from the Caribbean
10 would—

11 (A) attend a public equivalent school in the
12 United States;

13 (B) participate in activities designed to
14 promote a greater understanding of United
15 States values and culture; and

16 (C) have the option to live with a United
17 States host family and experience life in a
18 United States host community; and

19 (2) undergraduate, graduate students, and
20 scholars from the Caribbean would—

21 (A) attend a private or public college or
22 university in the United States;

23 (B) participate in activities designed to
24 promote a greater understanding of United
25 States values and culture; and

1 (C) have the option to live with a United
2 States host family and experience life in a
3 United States host community.

4 (b) PERCENTAGE REQUIREMENT.—Not less than 75
5 percent of Program participants may be from member
6 countries of CARICOM.

7 (c) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary shall collabo-
8 rate with Caribbean counterparts to establish similar ex-
9 change opportunities for United States secondary, under-
10 graduate, graduate students, and scholars.

11 (d) COOPERATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall cooper-
13 ate with United States cooperating agencies to de-
14 velop and implement the Program.

15 (2) ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.—The
16 cooperating agencies shall be eligible for Federal
17 funds and may request assistance from other private
18 donors to assist in the implementation of the Pro-
19 gram.

20 (3) SCHOLARSHIPS.—The cooperating agencies
21 may offer, on a merit and need-based basis, scholar-
22 ships to eligible United States and Caribbean par-
23 ticipants.

1 **SEC. 7. CARIBBEAN EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRO-**
2 **GRAMS.**

3 The Administrator, acting through the Assistant Ad-
4 ministrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, shall
5 develop a comprehensive program that extends and ex-
6 pands existing primary and secondary school initiatives in
7 the Caribbean to provide—

8 (1) teacher training methods; and

9 (2) increased community involvement in school
10 activities.

11 **SEC. 8. PUBLIC PRIVATE VENTURE.**

12 Where possible for the purposes of implementing sec-
13 tions 6 and 7, the Secretary, the Administrator, and co-
14 operating agencies are authorized to solicit funding from
15 private sources.

16 **SEC. 9. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

17 (a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than three months
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
19 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
20 a report setting forth plans to implement sections 6 and
21 7. The report shall include—

22 (1) an estimate of the number of participating
23 students from each country;

24 (2) an identification of United States cooper-
25 ating agencies; and

1 (3) a schedule for implementation of the Shirley
2 Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Ex-
3 change Program.

4 (b) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—The Secretary shall
5 submit to the appropriate congressional committees reg-
6 ular reports upon the request of such committees or their
7 Members.

8 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
10 priated to the President to carry out this Act such sums
11 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years from 2007
12 through 2017.

13 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
14 gress that not less than \$6,000,000 in additional funding
15 above the amount that is otherwise authorized to be appro-
16 priated for educational exchange programs should be made
17 available for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2017 to
18 carry out this Act, as follows:

19 (1) \$4,000,000 for the Shirley Chisholm United
20 States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Program
21 administered by the Department of State under sec-
22 tion 6; and

23 (2) \$2,000,000 for Caribbean educational devel-
24 opment programs administered by the United States

- 1 Agency for International Development under section
- 2 7.

