

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6216

To establish the Daniel Webster Congressional Fellowship Program for qualified graduates of law schools to serve in temporary positions in offices of the House of Representatives and Senate, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California (for himself and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To establish the Daniel Webster Congressional Fellowship Program for qualified graduates of law schools to serve in temporary positions in offices of the House of Representatives and Senate, 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 “Daniel Webster Con-
5 gressional Fellowship Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DANIEL WEBSTER CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
4 the Daniel Webster Congressional Fellowship Program
5 (hereafter referred to as the “Program”), under which up
6 to 40 eligible law school graduates shall be selected as
7 Daniel Webster Congressional Fellows (hereafter referred
8 to as “Fellows”) for each Congress.

9 (b) SELECTION BY JOINT CONGRESSIONAL LEADER-
10 SHIP.—The Fellows for a Congress shall be selected joint-
11 ly from among eligible individuals by the Speaker and Mi-
12 nority Leader of the House of Representatives and the
13 Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, or their des-
14 ignees.

15 (c) EMPLOYMENT WITH PARTICIPATING OFFICE.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual selected as a
17 Fellow shall be appointed to serve as an employee in
18 a participating office of the House of Representa-
19 tives or Senate during the Congress for which the
20 Fellow is selected.

21 (2) COMPENSATION.—Notwithstanding any
22 other authority regarding the salaries of employees
23 of the House of Representatives or Senate, for each
24 session of a Congress during which a Fellow is em-
25 ployed in a participating office under the Program,
26 the individual shall receive compensation at an an-

1 nual rate established by the Committee on House
2 Administration of the House of Representatives and
3 the Committee on Rules and Administration of the
4 Senate, except that the rate established by the Com-
5 mittees may not be less than the average annual
6 rate of compensation for pay periods during that
7 session for judicial clerks of the United States Dis-
8 trict Court for the District of Columbia.

9 **SEC. 3. CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligible to serve
11 as a Fellow under the Program if the individual—

12 (1) meets the criteria for eligibility described in
13 subsection (b); and

14 (2) submits the application materials described
15 in subsection (c) at such time and in such form as
16 the Committees on House Administration of the
17 House of Representatives and Rules and Adminis-
18 tration of the Senate may require.

19 (b) CRITERIA SPECIFIED.—An individual meets the
20 criteria described in this subsection if—

21 (1) the individual received a juris doctor degree
22 from an accredited law school;

23 (2) the individual provides evidence of a record
24 of exceptional academic achievement in law school;

1 (3) the individual demonstrates a commitment
2 to public service and a strong interest in public pol-
3 icy;

4 (4) the individual possesses the professional
5 knowledge and skills necessary to contribute success-
6 fully to the legislative process; and

7 (5) the individual meets such other criteria as
8 the Committees referred to in subsection (a)(2) may
9 establish.

10 (c) APPLICATION MATERIALS.—The application ma-
11 terials described in this subsection are as follows:

12 (1) A Program application prepared by the
13 Committees referred to in subsection (a)(2).

14 (2) A resume highlighting academic, profes-
15 sional, and personal achievements.

16 (3) 2 writing samples.

17 (4) A brief essay describing why the individual
18 seeks to become a Fellow.

19 (5) Such other materials as the Committees
20 may require.

21 **SEC. 4. ASSIGNMENT OF FELLOWS TO PARTICIPATING OF-**
22 **FICES.**

23 (a) ASSIGNMENT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committees on House
25 Administration of the House of Representatives and

1 Rules and Administration of the Senate shall assign
2 the individuals selected as Fellows to be appointed
3 as employees with participating offices of the House
4 and Senate on the basis of such criteria as the Com-
5 mittees shall establish, taking into consideration the
6 background and interest of each Fellow and the
7 needs of the participating office, except that—

8 (A) the number of Fellows assigned to of-
9 fices of the House of Representatives may not
10 be less than the number of Fellows assigned to
11 offices of the Senate; and

12 (B) the number of Fellows assigned to of-
13 fices of a House of Congress which are affili-
14 ated with the majority political party of that
15 House shall be equal to the number of Fellows
16 assigned to offices of that House of Congress
17 which are affiliated with the minority political
18 party of that House.

19 (2) TREATMENT OF COMMITTEES.—For pur-
20 poses of paragraph (1)—

21 (A) a Fellow who is assigned to a joint
22 committee of the Congress shall be considered
23 to be assigned both to an office of the House
24 and an office of the Senate; and

1 (B) a Fellow who is assigned to a com-
2 mittee shall be considered to be assigned to an
3 office affiliated with the majority political party,
4 except that if the assignment specifies that the
5 Fellow is to work under the direction of the
6 ranking minority member of the committee, the
7 Fellow shall be considered to be assigned to an
8 office affiliated with the minority political
9 party.

10 (b) PARTICIPATING OFFICES.—For purposes of this
11 Act, a “participating office” of the House of Representa-
12 tives or Senate is any office of the House or Senate, in-
13 cluding the office of a Member, committee, joint com-
14 mittee, or any other entity, which enters into an agree-
15 ment with the Committee on House Administration of the
16 House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and
17 Administration of the Senate (as the case may be) to par-
18 ticipate in the Program.

19 **SEC. 5. NO EFFECT ON NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES OR AL-**
20 **LOWANCE FOR PARTICIPATING OFFICES.**

21 The employment of a Fellow by an office of the
22 House of Representatives or Senate during a year, and
23 the payment of a salary to such a Fellow by an office dur-
24 ing a year, shall be in addition to all personnel and allow-
25 ances otherwise made available to the office during the

1 year under other provisions of law, rule, or other author-
2 ity.

3 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION; REGULATIONS.**

4 The Program shall be operated and administered
5 jointly by the Committee on House Administration of the
6 House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules
7 and Administration of the Senate, and each such Com-
8 mittee is authorized to promulgate such regulations as
9 may be necessary to carry out the Program.

10 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be ap-
12 propriated to carry out the Program such sums as may
13 be necessary for fiscal year 2007 and each succeeding fis-
14 cal year.

15 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
16 priated in any fiscal year pursuant to the authorization
17 under this section shall remain available until expended.

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