

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 192

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives encouraging the active engagement of Americans in world affairs and urging the Secretary of State to take the lead and coordinate with other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations in creating an online database of international exchange programs and related opportunities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2005

Mr. MCGOVERN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives encouraging the active engagement of Americans in world affairs and urging the Secretary of State to take the lead and coordinate with other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations in creating an online database of international exchange programs and related opportunities.

Whereas the United States needs to do a better job of building personal and institutional relationships with peoples and Nations around the world in order to combat the rise in anti-American sentiment that many polls and studies have reported;

Whereas a broad bipartisan consensus in favor of strengthening United States public diplomacy emerged during 2003 in Congress and was expressed in various reports, including reports of the Council on Foreign Relations, the General Accounting Office, the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, the Heritage Foundation, and the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World;

Whereas, in July 2004, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States released its final report on United States intelligence, which determined that “[j]ust as we did in the Cold War, we need to defend our ideals abroad vigorously. America does stand up for its values . . . If the United States does not act aggressively to define itself in the Islamic World, the extremists will gladly do the job for us.”;

Whereas the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 declares the sense of Congress that the United States should commit to a long-term and significant investment in promoting people-to-people engagement with all levels of society in other countries;

Whereas international exchange programs, which have assisted in extending American influence around the world by educating the world’s leaders, have suffered from a decline in funding and policy priority;

Whereas, when students are instructed in their civic and community responsibilities during secondary education, the importance of their participation in global affairs should be underscored as well;



1           (1) the Secretary of State should coordinate  
2           with implementing partners in creating an online  
3           database that provides information on how Ameri-  
4           cans can take advantage of—

5                   (A) international exchange programs of the  
6           Department of State, the Department of Edu-  
7           cation, and other Federal Government and non-  
8           government entities;

9                   (B) volunteer opportunities with organiza-  
10          tions that assist refugees and immigrants in the  
11          United States;

12                  (C) opportunities to host international stu-  
13          dents and professionals in the United States;

14                  (D) sister-city organizations in the United  
15          States;

16                  (E) international fairs and cultural events  
17          in the United States; and

18                  (F) foreign language learning opportuni-  
19          ties;

20           (2) Americans should strive to become more en-  
21           gaged in international affairs and more aware of  
22           peoples and developments outside the United States;

23           (3) Americans should seize 1 or more opportu-  
24           nities toward this end, by such means as—

1 (A) participating in a professional or cul-  
2 tural exchange;

3 (B) studying abroad;

4 (C) volunteering abroad;

5 (D) working with an immigrant or refugee  
6 group;

7 (E) hosting a foreign student or profes-  
8 sional;

9 (F) participating in a sister-city program;  
10 and

11 (G) learning a foreign language; and

12 (4) Members of Congress should raise the im-  
13 portance of international engagement in the districts  
14 and States the Members represent.

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