

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 176

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2007

Received

AUGUST 3, 2007

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

To authorize the establishment of educational exchange and development programs for member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Edu-
4 cational Exchange Act of 2007”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
6 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Findings and statement of purpose.

Sec. 4. Shirley A. Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange
Program.

Sec. 5. Program to provide educational development assistance for CARICOM
countries.

Sec. 6. Administrative provisions.

Sec. 7. Reporting requirements.

Sec. 8. Authorization of appropriations.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—Except as otherwise pro-
10 vided, the term “Administrator” means the Adminis-
11 trator of the United States Agency for International
12 Development.

13 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
14 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
15 mittees” means—

16 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
17 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
18 of Representatives; and

19 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
20 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
21 Senate.

1 (3) CARICOM COUNTRY.—The term
2 “CARICOM country”—

3 (A) means a member country of the Carib-
4 bean Community (CARICOM); but

5 (B) does not include—

6 (i) a country having observer status in
7 CARICOM; or

8 (ii) a country the government of which
9 the Secretary of State has determined, for
10 purposes of section 6(j) of the Export Ad-
11 ministration Act of 1979 (as continued in
12 effect pursuant to the International Emer-
13 gency Economic Powers Act), section 40 of
14 the Arms Export Control Act, section
15 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of
16 1961, or any other provision of law, is a
17 government that has repeatedly provided
18 support for acts of international terrorism.

19 (4) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise provided,
20 the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

21 (5) UNITED STATES COOPERATING AGENCY.—
22 The term “United States cooperating agency”
23 means—

24 (A) an accredited institution of higher edu-
25 cation, including, to the maximum extent prac-

1 ticable, an historically Black college or univer-
2 sity that is a part B institution (as such term
3 is defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Edu-
4 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2))) or an
5 Hispanic-serving institution (as such term is
6 defined in section 502(5) of such Act (20
7 U.S.C. 1101a(5)));

8 (B) a higher education association;

9 (C) a nongovernmental organization incor-
10 porated in the United States; or

11 (D) a consortium consisting of two or more
12 such institutions, associations, or nongovern-
13 mental organizations.

14 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

15 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

16 (1) The United States and CARICOM countries
17 have enjoyed long-standing friendly relations.

18 (2) As an important regional partner for trade
19 and democratic values, the Caribbean region con-
20 stitutes a “Third Border” of the United States.

21 (3) The decrease in tourism revenue in the
22 aftermath of the tragic terrorist attacks on Sep-
23 tember 11, 2001, had an adverse affect on the Car-
24 ibbean region.

1 (4) According to a 2005 World Bank Report on
2 the Caribbean region, high rates of unemployment,
3 particularly youth unemployment, have had severe
4 implications on poverty and income distributions, as
5 well as drug trafficking and addiction.

6 (5) The 2005 World Bank Report also con-
7 cludes that better synchronization is needed between
8 curricula in CARICOM countries and the skills
9 needed in evolving national and regional job markets
10 and economies.

11 (6) Caribbean leaders have highlighted the need
12 for increased educational opportunities for Carib-
13 bean students in fields that will contribute to and
14 support an increasingly competitive regional econ-
15 omy.

16 (7) Enhancing United States cultural and edu-
17 cational exchange programs in CARICOM countries
18 will expand human resources, provide opportunities
19 that promote economic growth, and improve regional
20 security.

21 (8) Many Caribbean leaders studied at the un-
22 dergraduate or graduate level in the United States
23 before returning to their respective countries to con-
24 tribute toward the strengthening of democracy, the
25 economy, or the provision of social services.

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

6 (10) The Department of State currently admin-
7 isters public outreach programs that include cul-
8 tural, academic, and citizen-exchange initiatives in
9 CARICOM countries through the public affairs sec-
10 tions at United States embassies with support from
11 the Office of Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of
12 Western Hemisphere Affairs.

13 (11) The Caribbean Center for Excellence in
14 Teacher Training (C-CETT), a Presidential Initia-
15 tive funded by the United States Agency for Inter-
16 national Development and implemented by the Uni-
17 versity of the West Indies, works to improve the
18 quality of reading instruction by training classroom
19 and student teachers in seven countries of the
20 English-speaking Caribbean. Belize, Jamaica, Gre-
21 nada, St. Lucia, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Gren-
22 adines, and Trinidad and Tobago have participated
23 in the C-CETT as a means to reducing illiteracy
24 in the most disadvantaged urban and remote rural
25 areas.

1 (12) In Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the
2 Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Cayman Islands,
3 the Dominican Republic, Dominica, Grenada, Guy-
4 ana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St.
5 Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname,
6 and Trinidad and Tobago, the Bureau of Edu-
7 cational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of
8 State sponsors educational advisors to promote
9 study in the United States.

10 (13) In the 2004–2005 academic year, approxi-
11 mately 14,000 Caribbean students were enrolled in
12 United States colleges and universities.

13 (14) Shirley Anita Chisholm, who served as a
14 member of the United States House of Representa-
15 tives from 1968 to 1983, had family roots in the
16 Caribbean nation of Barbados, was a staunch advo-
17 cate for educational opportunity and access, and in-
18 creased support for historically Black colleges and
19 universities and other minority-serving institutions
20 in the United States.

21 (b) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—The purpose of this
22 Act is to establish—

23 (1) an educational exchange program between
24 the United States and CARICOM countries, to be
25 known as the “Shirley A. Chisholm United States-

1 Caribbean Educational Exchange Program”, pursu-
2 ant to section 4 of this Act to assist in educating
3 promising students and scholars from CARICOM
4 countries who will invest the knowledge and experi-
5 ences they gain in the United States back into the
6 community of CARICOM countries; and

7 (2) a program to provide educational develop-
8 ment assistance for CARICOM countries pursuant
9 to section 5 of this Act.

10 **SEC. 4. SHIRLEY A. CHISHOLM UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN**
11 **EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

12 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of State
13 is authorized to establish an educational exchange pro-
14 gram between the United States and CARICOM countries,
15 to be known as the “Shirley A. Chisholm United States-
16 Caribbean Educational Exchange Program,” under
17 which—

18 (1) secondary school students from CARICOM
19 countries will—

20 (A) attend a public or private secondary
21 school in the United States;

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

4 (2) undergraduate students, graduate students,
5 post-graduate students, and scholars from
6 CARICOM countries will—

7 (A) attend a public or private college or
8 university, including a community college, in
9 the United States;

10 (B) participate in activities designed to
11 promote a greater understanding of the values
12 and culture of the United States; and

13 (C) have the option to live with a United
14 States host family and experience life in a
15 United States host community or live in an on-
16 campus housing environment.

17 (b) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—The program author-
18 ized under subsection (a) shall meet the following require-
19 ments:

20 (1) The program will offer scholarships to stu-
21 dents and scholars based on merit and need. It is
22 the sense of Congress that scholarships should be of-
23 fered under the program to students and scholars
24 who evidence merit, achievement, and strong poten-
25 tial for the studies such students and scholars wish

1 to undertake under the program and 40 percent of
2 scholarships offered under the program should be
3 based on financial need.

4 (2) The program will seek to achieve gender
5 equality in granting scholarships under the program.

6 (3) The program will limit participation to—

7 (A) two years of study for secondary school
8 students;

9 (B) four years of study for undergraduate
10 students;

11 (C) 30 months of study for graduate stu-
12 dents; and

13 (D) one year of study for post-graduate
14 students and scholars.

15 (4) For a period of time equal to the period of
16 time of participation in the program, but not to ex-
17 ceed 2 years, the program will require participants
18 who are students and scholars described in sub-
19 section (a)(2) to—

20 (A) agree to return to live in a CARICOM
21 country and maintain residence in such coun-
22 try, within 6 months of completion of academic
23 studies; or

24 (B) agree to obtain employment that di-
25 rectly benefits the growth, progress, and devel-

1 opment of one or more CARICOM countries
2 and the people of such countries.

3 (5) The Secretary of State shall have the dis-
4 cretion to waive, shorten the duration, or otherwise
5 alter the requirements of paragraph (5) in limited
6 circumstances of hardship, humanitarian needs, for
7 specific educational purposes, or in furtherance of
8 the national interests of the United States.

9 (c) ROLE OF UNITED STATES COOPERATING AGEN-
10 CIES.—The Secretary shall consult with United States co-
11 operating agencies in developing the program authorized
12 under subsection (a) and shall make grants to United
13 States cooperating agencies in carrying out the program
14 authorized under subsection (a).

15 (d) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAM.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
17 and implement a system to monitor and evaluate the
18 effectiveness and efficiency of the program author-
19 ized under subsection (a). In carrying out the sys-
20 tem, the Secretary shall evaluate the program's posi-
21 tive or negative effects on brain drain from the par-
22 ticipating CARICOM countries and suggest ways in
23 which the program may be improved to promote the
24 basic goal of alleviating brain-drain from the partici-
25 pating CARICOM countries.

1 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out para-
2 graph (1), the Secretary shall review on a regular
3 basis—

4 (A) financial information relating to the
5 program;

6 (B) budget plans for the program;

7 (C) adjustments to plans established for
8 the program;

9 (D) graduation rates of participants in the
10 program;

11 (E) the percentage of participants who are
12 students described in subsection (a)(1) who
13 pursue higher education;

14 (F) the percentage of participants who re-
15 turn to their home country or another
16 CARICOM country;

17 (G) the types of careers pursued by par-
18 ticipants in the program and the extent to
19 which such careers are linked to the political,
20 economic, and social development needs of
21 CARICOM countries; and

22 (H) the impact of gender, country of ori-
23 gin, financial need of students, and other rel-
24 evant factors on the data collected under sub-
25 paragraphs (D) through (G).

1 (e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that the Secretary should seek to work with
3 CARICOM countries to establish an educational exchange
4 program under which—

5 (1) secondary school students from the United
6 States will attend a public or private equivalent
7 school in CARICOM countries; and

8 (2) undergraduate students, graduate students,
9 post-graduate students, and scholars from the
10 United States will attend a public or private college
11 or university in CARICOM countries.

12 **SEC. 5. PROGRAM TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOP-**
13 **MENT ASSISTANCE FOR CARICOM COUN-**
14 **TRIES.**

15 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of
16 State, acting through the Administrator of the United
17 States Agency for International Development, is author-
18 ized to establish a program to provide educational develop-
19 ment assistance for CARICOM countries.

20 (b) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—The purpose of the pro-
21 gram authorized under subsection (a) is to improve pri-
22 mary and secondary education in CARICOM countries by
23 enhancing teacher training, strengthening curriculum and
24 instructional materials, and assisting improvements in

1 school management and public administration of edu-
2 cation.

3 (c) ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM.—The program author-
4 ized under subsection (a) shall extend and expand upon
5 existing primary and secondary school programs in
6 CARICOM countries to provide—

7 (1) teacher-training methods and training in
8 subject area studies;

9 (2) classroom and school management;

10 (3) development and modernization of cur-
11 riculum and instructional materials;

12 (4) increased community involvement in school
13 activities; and

14 (5) local, regional, and national government pol-
15 icy planning on the elements described in para-
16 graphs (1) through (4).

17 (d) ROLE OF UNITED STATES COOPERATING AGEN-
18 CIES.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of
19 Education and United States cooperating agencies in de-
20 veloping the program authorized under subsection (a) and
21 shall make grants to United States cooperating agencies
22 in carrying out the program authorized under subsection
23 (a).

24 (e) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAM.—
25 The Secretary shall establish and implement a system to

1 monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of
2 the program authorized under subsection (a).

3 (f) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that the Secretary should seek to work with
5 CARICOM countries to establish an educational develop-
6 ment program under which education in the CARICOM
7 countries is improved and access to quality education for
8 children in CARICOM countries is increased.

9 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

10 (a) FUNDING FROM PRIVATE SOURCES AND PART-
11 NERSHIPS WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE ENTITIES.—To
12 the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of State
13 and the Administrator of the United States Agency for
14 International Development should implement the pro-
15 grams authorized under sections 4 and 5 of this Act
16 through utilization of funding from private sources to
17 maximize the impact of United States funds under this
18 Act, and through partnerships with appropriate United
19 States organizations, institutions, and corporations.

20 (b) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—The Secretary
21 and the Administrator shall consult with the Secretary of
22 Education to ensure that—

23 (1) activities under the programs authorized
24 under sections 4 and 5 of this Act are not duplica-

1 tive of other United States educational programs for
2 CARICOM countries; and

3 (2) United States cooperating agencies and
4 partner institutions in CARICOM countries are ac-
5 credited by national or regional accrediting bodies.

6 (c) REPORTING UNDER SEVIS.—To the extent nec-
7 essary, the Secretary shall provide support to United
8 States cooperating agencies that are participating in the
9 program authorized under section 4 of this Act in order
10 to fulfill the requirements for student data reporting
11 under the Student and Exchange Visitor Information Sys-
12 tem (SEVIS).

13 **SEC. 7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

14 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
16 of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional
17 committees a report on plans to implement the programs
18 authorized under sections 4 and 5 of this Act.

19 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-
20 quired by subsection (a) shall include—

21 (1) with respect to implementation of the pro-
22 gram authorized under section 4—

23 (A) a plan for selecting participants in the
24 program, including an estimate of the number
25 of secondary school students, undergraduate

1 students, graduate students, post-graduate stu-
2 dents, and scholars from each country, by edu-
3 cational level, who will be selected as partici-
4 pants in the program for each fiscal year;

5 (B) a timeline for selecting United States
6 cooperating agencies that will assist in imple-
7 menting the program;

8 (C) a financial plan that—

9 (i) identifies budget plans for each
10 educational level under the program; and

11 (ii) identifies plans or systems to en-
12 sure that the costs to public school, college,
13 and university education under the pro-
14 gram and the costs to private school, col-
15 lege, and university education under the
16 program are reasonably allocated; and

17 (D) a plan to provide outreach to and link-
18 ages with schools, colleges and universities, and
19 nongovernmental organizations in both the
20 United States and CARICOM countries for im-
21 plementation of the program; and

22 (2) a plan outlining implementation of the pro-
23 gram authorized under section 5, identifying the ini-
24 tial countries in which the program will be imple-
25 mented and a timeline for implementation.

1 (c) UPDATES OF REPORT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit
3 to the appropriate congressional committees updates
4 of the report required by subsection (a) for each fis-
5 cal year for which amounts are appropriated pursu-
6 ant to the authorization of appropriations under sec-
7 tion 8 of this Act.

8 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Such updates
9 shall include the following:

10 (A) Information on United States cooper-
11 ating agencies that are selected to assist in im-
12 plementing the programs authorized under sec-
13 tions 4 and 5 of this Act.

14 (B) An analysis of the positive and nega-
15 tive impacts the program authorized under sec-
16 tion 4 will have or is having on brain drain
17 from the participating CARICOM countries.

18 (C) A description of efforts made by the
19 Secretary of State, acting through the Adminis-
20 trator of the United States Agency for Inter-
21 national Development, to implement the pro-
22 gram authorized under section 5.

23 (D) A description of the programs estab-
24 lished in each CARICOM country receiving as-
25 sistance under the program authorized under

1 section 5 that provides a detailed explanation of
2 the extent to which the program and the assist-
3 ance provided are contributing to the purpose
4 of the program described in section 5(b) in the
5 CARICOM country.

6 (E) An evaluation of additional educational
7 development goals in CARICOM countries,
8 identifying those goals that could be maximized
9 or achieved with United States assistance
10 through the program authorized under section
11 5. In addition to standard or necessary areas of
12 education review, the evaluation should give at-
13 tention to factors affecting academic achieve-
14 ment, attrition, and graduation rates in
15 CARICOM countries. The evaluation should
16 suggest ways in which United States assistance
17 can maximize success factors and address fac-
18 tors contributing to poor achievement.

19 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 To carry out this Act, there are authorized to be ap-
21 propriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the
22 fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Amounts appropriated
23 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under this

- 1 section are in addition to amounts otherwise available for
- 2 such purposes.

Passed the House of Representatives July 31, 2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.