

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1567

To promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States
and Mexico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2017

Mr. CUELLAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To promote economic partnership and cooperation between
the United States and Mexico.

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 “United States-Mexico
5 Economic Partnership Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to promote economic part-
8 nership and cooperation between the United States and
9 Mexico, particularly in the areas of academic exchange,
10 entrepreneurship, and infrastructure integration.

1 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF UNITED STATES-MEXICO ACADEMIC**
2 **EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the policy of the United
4 States to increase United States-Mexico academic ex-
5 changes at the secondary, post-secondary, and post-grad-
6 uate levels.

7 (b) PRIORITY.—The exchanges described in sub-
8 section (a) should be across the United States and Mexico,
9 however, priority should be given to strengthening ties be-
10 tween communities and academic institutions in the cov-
11 ered United States-Mexico border region.

12 (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
13 gress that—

14 (1) the exchanges described in subsection (a)
15 should reflect the goals of the 100,000 Strong in the
16 Americas Initiative; and

17 (2) the United States and Mexico should seek
18 to contribute to doubling the number of students
19 studying in each other's country by not later than 5
20 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

21 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITED STATES-MEXICO EN-**
22 **TREPRENEURSHIP COOPERATION, TRAINING,**
23 **AND MENTORING PROGRAMS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall develop a
25 plan to implement policies and programs that support co-
26 operation, training, and mentoring of entrepreneurs.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The policies and programs de-
2 scribed in subsection (a) shall seek to create innovation
3 through United States and Mexican academic institutions
4 and businesses assisting prospective and developing entre-
5 preneurs in strengthen their business skills and promoting
6 cooperation and joint business initiatives across the
7 United States and Mexico, with a focus on the covered
8 United States-Mexico border region.

9 (c) MATCHING FUNDS.—The policies and programs
10 described in subsection (a) should seek to ensure United
11 States Government funds are, at a minimum, matched by
12 private sector funds for purposes of carrying out such poli-
13 cies and programs.

14 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
15 gress that the policies and programs described in sub-
16 section (a) should reflect the goals of the 100,000 Strong
17 in the Americas Initiative and should seek to provide not
18 less than 100 grants of not more than \$25,000 each for
19 participants in such programs to better leverage participa-
20 tion by the private sector.

21 (e) REPORT.—The President shall submit to Con-
22 gress a report on the plan described in subsection (a) not
23 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
24 Act.

1 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES-MEXICO ENERGY INFRASTRUC-**
2 **TURE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**
3 **PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall develop a
5 plan to implement policies and programs that promote
6 United States-Mexico energy infrastructure coordination
7 and cooperation through support of vocational-level edu-
8 cation, internships, and exchanges between the two coun-
9 tries, particularly in the region in which the Eagle Ford
10 Shale is located and in proximity to such region.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The policies and programs de-
12 scribed in subsection (a) shall seek to develop skills related
13 to safe and responsible energy extraction and other inno-
14 vative energy technologies that can be provided by edu-
15 cational institutions located in the region described in sub-
16 section (a) or in proximity to such region, including by
17 seeking to provide such skills to individuals in Mexico who
18 are seeking vocational level jobs in Mexico’s energy sector.

19 (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that the policies and programs described in sub-
21 section (a) should seek to provide education, internships,
22 and exchanges for at least 1,000 participants.

23 (d) REPORT.—The President shall submit to Con-
24 gress a report on the plan described in subsection (a) not
25 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
26 Act.

1 **SEC. 6. MEDICAL SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall develop a
3 plan, in coordination with the private sector and non-profit
4 organizations, to implement a pilot program to develop a
5 pipeline between undergraduate colleges and universities
6 in the United States and medical school programs in Mex-
7 ico. The pilot program should be utilized to prepare med-
8 ical students to become doctors who can pass medical li-
9 censing board exams in the United States.

10 (b) ELEMENTS.—The pilot program described in sub-
11 section (a) shall seek to ensure that medical school pro-
12 grams in Mexico shall have comparable accreditation
13 standards as medical school program in the United States
14 by the Accreditation and Standards in Foreign Medical
15 Education as well as registered in the International Med-
16 ical Education Directory.

17 (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
18 gress that the pilot program described in subsection (a)
19 should seek to increase the number of bilingual medical
20 professionals in a cost-effective manner who can practice
21 in United States under-served communities.

22 (d) REPORT.—The President shall submit to Con-
23 gress a report on the plan described in subsection (a) not
24 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
25 Act.

1 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIA-
4 TIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas
5 Initiative” means the initiative established in March
6 2011 by the United States Government to increase
7 educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

8 (2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER
9 REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico
10 border region” means those portions of the United
11 States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of
12 the international boundary between those countries.

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