

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4379

To ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of Education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. EVANS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. KHANNA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of Education.

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 “Senator Paul Simon
5 Study Abroad Program Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) To prepare students for success in the mod-
2 ern global economy, opportunities for study abroad
3 should be included as part of a well-rounded edu-
4 cation.

5 (2) Study abroad programs provide students
6 with unparalleled access to international knowledge,
7 an unmatched opportunity to learn foreign lan-
8 guages, and a unique environment for developing
9 cultural understanding, all of which are knowledge
10 and skills needed in today’s global economy.

11 (3) Less than 2 percent of all enrolled postsec-
12 ondary students in the United States study abroad
13 for credit in any given year, and minority students,
14 first generation college students, community college
15 students, and students with disabilities are signifi-
16 cantly underrepresented in study abroad participa-
17 tion.

18 (4) Congress authorized the establishment of
19 the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study
20 Abroad Fellowship Program pursuant to section 104
21 of the Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets Act,
22 2004 (division H of Public Law 108–199). Pursuant
23 to its mandate, the Lincoln Commission submitted
24 to Congress and the President a report of its rec-
25 ommendations for greatly expanding the opportunity

1 for students at institutions of higher education in
2 the United States to study abroad, with special em-
3 phasis on studying in developing nations.

4 (5) According to the Lincoln Commission,
5 “[e]xperience shows that leadership from adminis-
6 trators and faculty will drive the number of study
7 abroad participants higher and improve the quality
8 of programs. Such leadership is the only way that
9 study abroad will become an integral part of the un-
10 dergraduate experience.”. A competitive grant pro-
11 gram is necessary to encourage and support such
12 leadership.

13 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

14 The purposes of this Act are—

15 (1) to ensure that significantly more students
16 have access to quality study abroad opportunities;

17 (2) to ensure that the diversity of students
18 studying abroad reflects the diversity of students
19 and institutions of higher education in the United
20 States;

21 (3) to encourage greater diversity in study
22 abroad destinations by increasing the portion of
23 study abroad that takes place in nontraditional
24 study abroad destinations, especially in developing
25 countries; and

1 (4) to encourage a greater commitment by in-
2 stitutions of higher education to expand study
3 abroad opportunities.

4 **SEC. 4. SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.**

5 Section 741 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
6 U.S.C. 1138) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (12) and
9 (13) as paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively;
10 and

11 (B) by inserting after paragraph (11) the
12 following:

13 “(12) awarding grants under the Senator Paul
14 Simon Study Abroad Program described in sub-
15 section (g);” and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(g) SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PRO-
18 GRAM.—

19 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

20 “(A) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-
21 CATION.—The term ‘institution of higher edu-
22 cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
23 tion 101(a).

24 “(B) NATIONAL OF THE UNITED
25 STATES.—The term ‘national of the United

1 States' means a national of the United States
2 or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent res-
3 idence (as those terms are defined in section
4 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
5 U.S.C. 1101)).

6 “(C) NONTRADITIONAL STUDY ABROAD
7 DESTINATION.—The term ‘nontraditional study
8 abroad destination’ means a location that is de-
9 termined by the Secretary to be a less common
10 destination for students who study abroad.

11 “(D) STUDENT.—The term ‘student’
12 means a national of the United States who is
13 enrolled at an institution of higher education lo-
14 cated within the United States.

15 “(E) STUDY ABROAD.—The term ‘study
16 abroad’ means an educational program of
17 study, work, research, internship, or combina-
18 tion thereof that is conducted outside the
19 United States and that carries academic credit.

20 “(2) SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD
21 PROGRAM.—

22 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
23 lished in the Department a program to be
24 called the ‘Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad
25 Program’.

1 “(B) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the
2 program established under subparagraph (A)
3 are, that not later than 10 years after the date
4 of enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Study
5 Abroad Program Act of 2017—

6 “(i) not less than 1,000,000 under-
7 graduate students will study abroad annu-
8 ally;

9 “(ii) the demographics of study
10 abroad participation will reflect the demo-
11 graphics of the United States under-
12 graduate population by increasing the par-
13 ticipation of underrepresented groups; and

14 “(iii) an increasing portion of study
15 abroad will take place in nontraditional
16 study abroad destinations, with a substan-
17 tial portion of such increases in developing
18 countries.

19 “(C) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO INSTITU-
20 TIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—In order to ac-
21 complish the objectives set forth in subpara-
22 graph (B), the Secretary shall award grants on
23 a competitive basis to institutions of higher
24 education, individually or in a consortium,
25 based on applications by the institutions that—

1 “(i) set forth detailed plans for using
2 grant funds to further such objectives;

3 “(ii) include an institutional commit-
4 ment to expanding access to study abroad;

5 “(iii) include plans for evaluating
6 progress made in increasing access to
7 study abroad;

8 “(iv) describe how increases in study
9 abroad participation achieved through the
10 grant will be sustained in subsequent
11 years; and

12 “(v) demonstrate that the programs
13 have established health and safety guide-
14 lines and procedures.

15 “(D) NONGOVERNMENTAL INSTITU-
16 TIONS.—Consortia of institutions of higher edu-
17 cation applying for grants described in subpara-
18 graph (C) may include nongovernmental institu-
19 tions that provide and promote study abroad
20 opportunities for students.

21 “(E) COMMISSION ON THE ABRAHAM LIN-
22 COLN STUDY ABROAD FELLOWSHIP PRO-
23 GRAM.—In administering the program, the Sec-
24 retary shall take fully into account the rec-
25 ommendations of the Commission on the Abra-

1 ham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Pro-
2 gram, established pursuant to section 104 of
3 the Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets
4 Act, 2004 (division H of Public Law 108–199).

5 “(F) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out
6 this paragraph, the Secretary shall consult with
7 representatives of diverse institutions of higher
8 education, educational policy organizations, and
9 others with appropriate expertise.

10 “(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than Decem-
11 ber 31 of each year following the date of enactment
12 of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program
13 Act of 2017, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
14 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
15 of the Senate and the Committee on Education and
16 the Workforce of the House of Representatives a re-
17 port on the implementation of this subsection during
18 the prior fiscal year.

19 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
20 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this subsection such sums as may be necessary for
22 fiscal year 2018 and each subsequent fiscal year.”.

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