

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 133

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. CUELLAR (for himself, Mr. McCAUL, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## 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. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States and Mexico have bene-  
9 fitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partner-

1 ship focused on advancing the economic interests of  
2 both countries.

3 (2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy re-  
4 forms that opened its energy sector to private invest-  
5 ment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico  
6 and the United States and opening new opportuni-  
7 ties for United States energy engagement.

8 (3) On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy  
9 Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Af-  
10 fairs at the Department of State stated, “Our ex-  
11 change programs build enduring relationships and  
12 networks to advance U.S. national interests and for-  
13 eign policy goals . . . The role of our exchanges  
14 . . . in advancing U.S. national security and eco-  
15 nomic interests enjoys broad bipartisan support from  
16 Congress and other stakeholders, and provides a  
17 strong return on investment.”

18 (4) According to the Institute of International  
19 Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more  
20 than 56,000 United States students studied in other  
21 countries in the Western Hemisphere region while  
22 more than 84,000 non-United States students from  
23 the region studied in the United States, but only  
24 5,000 of those United States students studied in

1 Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States  
2 students were from Mexico.

3 (5) In March 2011, the United States launched  
4 the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, which  
5 seeks to increase educational exchanges between the  
6 United States and other countries in the Western  
7 Hemisphere region so that 100,000 United States  
8 students are studying in other countries in the West-  
9 ern Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United  
10 States students from the region are studying in the  
11 United States per year by 2020.

12 (6) In January 2014, the United States estab-  
13 lished the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innova-  
14 tion Fund, which seeks to realize the goals of the  
15 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facili-  
16 tating a public-private partnership between the De-  
17 partment of State and nongovernmental organiza-  
18 tions, corporations, and universities in the United  
19 States and other countries of the Western Hemi-  
20 sphere region.

21 (7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Amer-  
22 icas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100  
23 grants to more than 250 higher education institu-  
24 tions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere  
25 region, and has raised \$9,000,000 in investments,

1 75 percent of which was from corporations, founda-  
2 tions, and regional governments.

3 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4 It is the policy of the United States—

5 (1) to continue deepening economic cooperation  
6 between the United States and Mexico; and

7 (2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational  
8 and professional exchange programs with Mexico, in-  
9 cluding through the framework of the 100,000  
10 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

11 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDU-  
12 CATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE  
13 PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall de-  
15 velop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section  
16 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and  
17 professional exchange programs with Mexico through the  
18 framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initia-  
19 tive.

20 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
21 section (a) shall—

22 (1) encourage more academic exchanges be-  
23 tween the United States and Mexico at the sec-  
24 ondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, es-  
25 pecially with communities and through academic in-

1       stitutions in the covered United States-Mexico bor-  
2       der region;

3               (2) encourage United States and Mexican aca-  
4       ademic institutions and businesses to collaborate to  
5       assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in  
6       strengthening their business skills and promoting co-  
7       operation and joint business initiatives across the  
8       United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives  
9       in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

10              (3) promote energy infrastructure coordination  
11       and cooperation through support of vocational-level  
12       education, internships, and exchanges between the  
13       United States and Mexico, particularly in the region  
14       in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in  
15       proximity to such region; and

16              (4) assess the feasibility of fostering partner-  
17       ships between universities in the United States and  
18       medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to  
19       ensure that medical school and nursing programs in  
20       Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as  
21       medical school and nursing programs in the United  
22       States by the Accreditation and Standards in For-  
23       eign Medical Education, in addition to the Accredi-  
24       tation Commission For Education in Nursing, so  
25       that medical students can pass medical licensing

1 board exams, and nursing students can pass nursing  
2 licensing exams, in the United States.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall  
5 submit to Congress a report on the strategy required  
6 under subsection (a).

7 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIA-  
10 TIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas  
11 Initiative” means the initiative established in March  
12 2011 by the United States Government to increase  
13 educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

14 (2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER  
15 REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico  
16 border region” means those portions of the United  
17 States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of  
18 the international boundary between those countries.

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