

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 133

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 11, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Mexico
3 Economic Partnership Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The United States and Mexico have bene-
7 fitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partner-
8 ship focused on advancing the economic interests of
9 both countries.

10 (2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy re-
11 forms that opened its energy sector to private invest-
12 ment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico
13 and the United States and opening new opportuni-
14 ties for United States energy engagement.

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

25 (4) According to the Institute of International
26 Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more

1 than 56,000 United States students studied in other
2 countries in the Western Hemisphere region while
3 more than 84,000 non-United States students from
4 the region studied in the United States, but only
5 5,000 of those United States students studied in
6 Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States
7 students were from Mexico.

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

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

1 (7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Amer-
2 icas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100
3 grants to more than 250 higher education institu-
4 tions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere
5 region, and has raised \$9,000,000 in investments,
6 75 percent of which was from corporations, founda-
7 tions, and regional governments.

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

9 It is the policy of the United States—

10 (1) to continue deepening economic cooperation
11 between the United States and Mexico; and

12 (2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational
13 and professional exchange programs with Mexico, in-
14 cluding through the framework of the 100,000
15 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

16 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDU-**
17 **CATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE**
18 **PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall de-
20 velop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section
21 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and
22 professional exchange programs with Mexico through the
23 framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initia-
24 tive.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-
2 section (a) shall—

3 (1) encourage more academic exchanges be-
4 tween the United States and Mexico at the sec-
5 ondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, es-
6 pecially with communities and through academic in-
7 stitutions in the covered United States-Mexico bor-
8 der region;

9 (2) encourage United States and Mexican aca-
10 demic institutions and businesses to collaborate to
11 assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in
12 strengthening their business skills and promoting co-
13 operation and joint business initiatives across the
14 United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives
15 in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

16 (3) promote energy infrastructure coordination
17 and cooperation through support of vocational-level
18 education, internships, and exchanges between the
19 United States and Mexico, particularly in the region
20 in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in
21 proximity to such region; and

22 (4) assess the feasibility of fostering partner-
23 ships between universities in the United States and
24 medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to
25 ensure that medical school and nursing programs in

1 Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as
2 medical school and nursing programs in the United
3 States by the Accreditation and Standards in For-
4 eign Medical Education, in addition to the Accredi-
5 tation Commission For Education in Nursing, so
6 that medical students can pass medical licensing
7 board exams, and nursing students can pass nursing
8 licensing exams, in the United States.

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

13 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIA-
16 TIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas
17 Initiative” means the initiative established in March
18 2011 by the United States Government to increase
19 educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

20 (2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER
21 REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico
22 border region” means those portions of the United

1 States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of
2 the international boundary between those countries.
Passed the House of Representatives January 10,
2019.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.