

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2640

To establish the Elie Wiesel Youth Leadership Congressional Fellowship Program in the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2001

Mr. SERRANO (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To establish the Elie Wiesel Youth Leadership Congressional Fellowship Program in the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.

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 “Elie Wiesel Youth
5 Leadership Congressional Fellowship Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The participation of young people in public
9 life is thwarted by perceptions that the legislative
10 process is corrupted by special interests which over-

1 whelm ethical concerns in the consideration and for-
2 mation of public policy, and by a feeling among
3 young people that idealism is disrespected by elected
4 officials.

5 (2) Elie Wiesel's leadership against indifference,
6 intolerance, and injustice encourages political activ-
7 ism by all members of society, and in particular pro-
8 vides inspiration to our youth.

9 (3) Elie Wiesel is a fitting role model for the
10 youth of America.

11 (4) Elie Wiesel has dedicated his life to leader-
12 ship for social justice and equality for all. He is a
13 survivor of the Holocaust and has worked tirelessly
14 to gain acknowledgment of the atrocities suffered by
15 the Jewish people.

16 (5) Elie Wiesel has published over 40 books
17 dealing with the moral responsibility of all people to
18 fight hatred, racism, and genocide.

19 (6) Elie Wiesel was awarded the Nobel Peace
20 Prize, the Congressional Gold Medal, and the Presi-
21 dential Medal of Freedom in recognition of his many
22 contributions to human rights.

23 (7) A congressional fellowship can create oppor-
24 tunities for young leaders by enabling them to ob-
25 serve directly how public decisions are made.

1 (8) A congressional fellowship can be designed
2 to allow youth to focus on ethical decision-making in
3 preparation for future leadership roles.

4 (9) Such a congressional fellowship should be
5 named the Elie Wiesel Youth Leadership Congres-
6 sional Fellowship after Elie Wiesel, because Elie
7 Wiesel's service to society will complement and in-
8 spire the Fellowship's purpose of developing ethically
9 informed youth leadership.

10 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP**
11 **PROGRAM.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established the
13 Elie Wiesel Youth Leadership Congressional Fellowship
14 Program, under which each Member of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives may hire for the month of July in any year
16 one additional employee who meets the eligibility criteria
17 described in subsection (b) to serve as the Elie Wiesel
18 Youth Leadership Congressional Fellow for the Member's
19 office.

20 (b) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligible to
22 serve as an Elie Wiesel Youth Leadership Congres-
23 sional Fellow for the office of a Member of the
24 House of Representatives if the individual meets
25 such criteria as the Committee on House Adminis-

1 tration (in conjunction with the Elie Wiesel Founda-
2 tion) may establish.

3 (2) SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND ASSUR-
4 ANCES.—Under the criteria established under para-
5 graph (2), an individual shall not be eligible to serve
6 as a Fellow for the office of a Member of the House
7 of Representatives unless the individual provides the
8 following:

9 (A) A certification that the individual is a
10 resident of the district the Member represents.

11 (B) A certification that the individual at-
12 tended secondary school during the academic
13 year immediately preceding the period of the in-
14 dividual's service as the Fellow for the Mem-
15 ber's office.

16 (C) A recommendation certifying that the
17 individual is of a high moral character.

18 (D) An assurance that during the period of
19 the individual's service as the Fellow for the
20 Member's office, the individual will participate
21 in leadership and ethics courses offered by the
22 Elie Wiesel Foundation.

23 (c) COMPENSATION.—

24 (1) ALLOWANCE FOR FELLOWS.—A Member of
25 the House of Representatives shall pay the Elie

1 Wiesel Youth Leadership Congressional Fellow serv-
2 ing in the Member's office an allowance of \$1,400,
3 to be paid out of the applicable accounts of the
4 House of Representatives.

5 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Chief
6 Administrative Officer of the House of Representa-
7 tives shall make an annual payment out of the appli-
8 cable accounts of the House of Representatives to
9 the Elie Wiesel Foundation in an amount equal to
10 the product of—

11 (A) the number of Elie Wiesel Youth
12 Leadership Congressional Fellows serving for
13 Members of the House of Representatives dur-
14 ing the year; and

15 (B) \$100.

16 **SEC. 4. NO EFFECT ON NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES OR MEM-**
17 **BER'S REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCE.**

18 The employment of an Elie Wiesel Youth Leadership
19 Congressional Fellow by a Member of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives, and the payment of an allowance to such a
21 Fellow by a Member, shall be in addition to all personnel
22 and allowances otherwise made available to Members
23 under other provisions of law, rule, or other authority.

1 **SEC. 5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPERVISED HOUSING AND**
2 **TRANSPORTATION.**

3 The Chief Administrative Officer of the House of
4 Representatives shall make arrangements for supervised
5 housing for Elie Wiesel Youth Leadership Congressional
6 Fellows at such facilities as the Chief Administrative Offi-
7 cer determines are available and appropriate (including
8 the House Page Dorm, to the extent that space is avail-
9 able), and (upon request) for transportation for such Fel-
10 lows to and from the District of Columbia.

11 **SEC. 6. REGULATIONS.**

12 The Committee on House Administration shall pre-
13 scribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out
14 this Act.

15 **SEC. 7. DEFINITION.**

16 In this Act, the term “Member of the House of Rep-
17 resentatives” includes a Delegate or Resident Commis-
18 sioner to the Congress.

○