

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1464

To establish a Global Service Fellowship Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2007

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. COCHRAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To establish a Global Service Fellowship Program, 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 “Global Service Fellow-
5 ship Program Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has
9 said that a critical component to the war on terror
10 includes changing opinions and minds.

1 (2) Polling data from Terror Free Tomorrow
2 indicates that nearly 60 percent of the people of In-
3 donesia and 75 percent of the people of Pakistan
4 held more favorable views of the United States fol-
5 lowing humanitarian assistance after their tsunami
6 and earthquake tragedies, and this change in percep-
7 tion toward the United States was sustained beyond
8 the initial period of aid and service.

9 (3) International volunteering opportunities are
10 effective means of addressing critical human needs,
11 building bridges across cultures, and promoting mu-
12 tual understanding.

13 (4) Current volunteer programs, such as the
14 Peace Corps, remain an important part of Federal
15 efforts to promote volunteer service and provide re-
16 lated programming.

17 (5) Financial limitations are a common obstacle
18 to volunteering overseas, and providing grant fund-
19 ing would reduce barriers to many individuals other-
20 wise unable to afford travel overseas.

21 (6) Allowing flexibility in the duration of volun-
22 teering opportunities would reduce another barrier
23 to volunteering.

1 (7) A global service fellowship program would
2 provide funding and programmatic flexibility for vol-
3 unteers of all backgrounds and ages.

4 (8) Eligible organizations willing to participate
5 in the fellowship program as sponsoring organiza-
6 tions would be in a better position to recruit volun-
7 teers for their programs overseas.

8 **SEC. 3. GLOBAL SERVICE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in
10 consultation with representatives of the Volunteers for
11 Prosperity program administered by the United States
12 Agency for International Development, shall establish and
13 administer a grant program to be known as the Global
14 Service Fellowship Program (in this section referred to as
15 the “Program”).

16 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Program is to
17 fund fellowships to promote international volunteering op-
18 portunities as a means of building bridges across cultures,
19 addressing critical human needs, and promoting mutual
20 understanding.

21 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—Grants awarded under the Pro-
22 gram shall be used to fund fellowships as follows:

23 (1) Fellowships lasting 90 days or less in dura-
24 tion may be funded at levels of up to \$2,500.

1 (2) Fellowships lasting between 91 days and
2 180 days may be funded at levels up to \$5,000.

3 (3) Fellowships lasting between 181 days and
4 one year may be funded at levels up to \$7,500.

5 (d) COORDINATION WITH SPONSORING ORGANIZA-
6 TIONS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Fellowships funded under
8 the Program shall be coordinated and supervised by
9 participating volunteer sponsoring organizations.
10 The sponsoring organizations shall be registered
11 with the Secretary of State and shall collaborate
12 with host country organizations in developing pro-
13 grams that appropriately address local needs for the
14 transfer of volunteer skills, capacity building, and
15 cross-cultural service organizations.

16 (2) PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS.—Spon-
17 soring organizations shall recommend and prioritize
18 fellowship projects based on one or more of the fol-
19 lowing objectives:

20 (A) Eradication of extreme poverty in con-
21 junction with the goals of the United Nations
22 Millennium Development Goals.

23 (B) Achievement of universal primary edu-
24 cation.

1 (C) Promotion of gender equality and the
2 empowerment of women and families.

3 (D) Reducing child mortality and improv-
4 ing maternal health.

5 (E) Providing medical and dental health
6 care and prevention.

7 (F) Providing assistance for the elderly,
8 orphans, people with disabilities, and refugees.

9 (G) Promoting environmental sustain-
10 ability.

11 (H) Providing economic and social oppor-
12 tunities for youth in countries with growing co-
13 horts of young people.

14 (I) Promoting youth service by building re-
15 lated volunteer-sector capacity in host countries.

16 (J) Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and
17 other infectious diseases.

18 (K) Helping to build or provide decent
19 housing.

20 (L) Providing disaster and humanitarian
21 response, preparedness, and reconstruction.

22 (M) Promoting cross-cultural exchange,
23 conflict resolution, and peace.

24 (N) Developing global partnerships for de-
25 velopment in the areas of economic growth,

1 microenterprise, asset development, and agricul-
2 tural and rural development.

3 (O) Advancing access to information tech-
4 nology and strengthening civil society.

5 (P) Carrying out additional activities in
6 impact areas designated by the Secretary of
7 State in accordance with the purposes of this
8 Act.

9 (e) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

10 (1) SUBMISSION AND REVIEW OF APPLICA-
11 TIONS.—Applicants shall submit applications for fel-
12 lowships under the Program to their congressional
13 offices. Congressional offices shall review such appli-
14 cations and nominate qualified candidates for con-
15 sideration by the Secretary of State.

16 (2) SELECTION.—The Secretary of State shall
17 determine the eligibility of nominated candidates
18 and, in consultation with sponsoring organizations,
19 award and administer fellowships under the Pro-
20 gram.

21 (3) CRITERIA.—The Secretary of State shall
22 develop and publish criteria for fellowships in ac-
23 cordance with the following guidelines:

24 (A) SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS.—Appli-
25 cants for Global Service Fellowships must be

1 registered with qualified sponsoring organiza-
2 tions such as—

3 (i) nongovernmental organizations
4 based in the United States that sponsor
5 international volunteer service;

6 (ii) faith-based organizations engaged
7 in the delivery of nonsectarian services;

8 (iii) universities and colleges operating
9 international service learning and volunteer
10 service programs; and

11 (iv) nongovernmental organizations
12 based in the United States that collaborate
13 with local or national host government
14 agencies or nongovernmental organizations
15 in promoting volunteer capacity and na-
16 tional and community service in impact
17 areas designated by the Secretary of State
18 under subsection (d)(2)(P).

19 (B) APPLICANTS.—Applicants shall be
20 nominated and selected for Global Service Fel-
21 lowships as follows:

22 (i) Applicants shall have clearly de-
23 fined and structured goals for their pro-
24 posed fellowships, including a plan for as-
25 sessing and monitoring progress toward

1 such goals with sponsoring organizations
2 and a basis for follow-up and review by the
3 Secretary of State.

4 (ii) Priority should be given to—

5 (I) applicants from households
6 with an income that is less than 200
7 percent of the poverty level estab-
8 lished pursuant to current census fig-
9 ures;

10 (II) applicants who have dem-
11 onstrated prior community service ex-
12 perience;

13 (III) applicants with skills and
14 experience suited to the specific needs
15 of host countries; and

16 (IV) applicants who demonstrate
17 a clear plan to communicate their vol-
18 unteer experiences to their community
19 upon their return.

20 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Individuals receiv-
21 ing Global Service Fellowships shall submit such reports,
22 including post-fellowship reports prepared for their home
23 communities, as the Secretary of State may require.

24 (g) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds awarded under this
2 section may be used to cover the following costs as-
3 sociated with Global Service Fellowships:

4 (A) Airfare, accommodations, and trans-
5 portation within the host country.

6 (B) Fees assessed by sponsoring organiza-
7 tions to defray international service program
8 costs and administrative costs.

9 (C) Subsistence allowance in accordance
10 with local market conditions.

11 (D) Program materials and tools used for
12 service-related purposes.

13 (E) Seed funding for local service projects.

14 (F) Language and cultural training and
15 other costs associated with pre-service project
16 orientation.

17 (2) TUITION NOT COVERED.—Funds awarded
18 under this section may not be used for tuition costs.

19 (h) NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS.—

20 (1) NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF APPLI-
21 CANTS.—The nomination and selection of applicants
22 under subsection (e) shall be without regard to race,
23 religion, color, national origin, sex, age, political af-
24 filiation, or disability.

25 (2) SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—A sponsoring organiza-
2 tion shall not discriminate against a Global
3 Service Fellowship Program participant or ap-
4 plicant, a beneficiary of any project in which a
5 Global Service Fellow participates, or, except as
6 provided in subparagraph (B), an employee of
7 the organization who is paid with Program
8 funds on the basis of race, religion, color, na-
9 tional origin, sex, age, political affiliation, or
10 disability.

11 (B) LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR EMPLOYEES
12 OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS EMPLOYED AT
13 TIME OF AWARDING OF FUNDS.—The prohibi-
14 tion under subparagraph (A) on discrimination
15 on the basis of religion shall not apply to the
16 employment, with assistance provided under
17 this Program, of any employee who was em-
18 ployed with the sponsoring organization on the
19 date that the funds were awarded.

20 **SEC. 4. EVALUATION AND REPORT.**

21 (a) EVALUATION OF GLOBAL SERVICE FELLOWSHIP
22 PROGRAM.—The Secretary of State shall establish and im-
23 plement an evaluation process for determining the effec-
24 tiveness of the Global Service Fellowship Program.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2010, the
2 Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on
3 the Global Service Fellowships Program established under
4 section 3. The report shall describe—

5 (1) the identity and location of sponsoring orga-
6 nizations;

7 (2) for each impact issue areas identified by
8 sponsoring organizations, the number of volunteer
9 opportunities and the number of related Global Serv-
10 ice Fellowships that have been funded;

11 (3) the number of local volunteers recruited or
12 engaged with Global Service Fellows and their spon-
13 soring organizations or local host organizations;

14 (4) the locations of volunteer services;

15 (5) the effectiveness of such services based upon
16 findings of the evaluation process; and

17 (6) the total numbers of nominations for Global
18 Service Fellowships that have been received and ac-
19 cepted by the Secretary of State.

20 **SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.**

21 The Secretary of State shall prescribe regulations to
22 carry out the provisions of this Act.

23 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24 (a) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
25 priated to the Secretary of State \$50,000,000 for each of

1 fiscal years 2008 through 2010 for purposes of estab-
2 lishing and implementing the Global Service Fellowship
3 Program.

4 (b) OFFSET.—In order to provide an offset for
5 amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a), the In-
6 ternal Revenue Service shall deposit in the Treasury as
7 miscellaneous receipts all of the fees it receives for serv-
8 ices.

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