

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8139

To establish a new charter for the Congressional Office for International Leadership.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2026

Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself and Mrs. BICE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To establish a new charter for the Congressional Office for International Leadership.

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 “Congressional Office
5 for International Leadership Accountability and Reform
6 Act of 2026”.

7 **SEC. 2. REFORM OF CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTER-**
8 **NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CHARTER.**

9 Section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations
10 Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 313 CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL**
2 **LEADERSHIP.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
4 legislative branch of the Government an office known as
5 the ‘Congressional Office for International Leadership’ (in
6 this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

7 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Office is to sup-
8 port the Congress in a nonpartisan manner with core mis-
9 sions—

10 “(1) to foster connections between the Congress
11 and emerging political, civic, and professional lead-
12 ers of eligible foreign states by administering ex-
13 change programs to help the leaders build lasting re-
14 lationships with the Congress and American commu-
15 nities; and

16 “(2) to serve as a bridge between the Congress
17 and emerging political, civic, and professional lead-
18 ers of eligible foreign states by facilitating direct
19 dialogue on American foreign policy, legislative de-
20 velopments, and key policy issues through grassroots
21 diplomacy.

22 “(c) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—

23 “(1) COMPOSITION.—The Office shall be sub-
24 ject to the supervision and direction of a Board of
25 Trustees (in this section referred to as the ‘Board’)
26 composed of the following 12 members:

1 “(A) Two Members of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives appointed by the Speaker, one of
3 whom shall be designated by the Majority Lead-
4 er of the House of Representatives and one of
5 whom shall be designated by the Minority Lead-
6 er of the House of Representatives.

7 “(B) Two Senators appointed by the Presi-
8 dent pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom
9 shall be designated by the Majority Leader of
10 the Senate and one of whom shall be designated
11 by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

12 “(C) The chairman and ranking minority
13 member of the Committee on House Adminis-
14 tration of the House of Representatives.

15 “(D) The chairman and ranking minority
16 member of the Committee on Rules and Admin-
17 istration of the Senate.

18 “(E) Four private individuals, with inter-
19 ests in improving relations between the United
20 States and eligible foreign states, who shall be
21 appointed by the Executive Director of the Of-
22 fice, with the approval of the chairman of the
23 Committee on House Administration of the
24 House of Representatives and the chairman of
25 the Committee on Rules and Administration of

1 the Senate, without regard to civil service laws
2 and political affiliation.

3 “(2) TERM.—Each member appointed under
4 subparagraph (A), (B), or (E) of paragraph (1)
5 shall serve a renewable term of 3 years.

6 “(3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members ap-
7 pointed to the Board shall constitute a quorum.

8 “(4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy with respect to a
9 member, other than a member appointed under sub-
10 paragraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (1), shall be
11 filled in the same manner as the original appoint-
12 ment, and the individual so appointed shall serve for
13 the remainder of the term.

14 “(5) EXPENSES.—The members of the Board
15 shall serve without pay, but each member shall be
16 entitled to reimbursement for travel, subsistence,
17 and other necessary expenses incurred in the per-
18 formance of the duties of the Board, in accordance
19 with chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

20 “(d) ELIGIBLE FOREIGN STATES.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall decide
22 from time to time on the designation of a country
23 as an ‘eligible foreign state’ or the removal of such
24 designation.

1 “(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The Board shall provide written notice to
3 the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch of the
4 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives and the Subcommittee on Legislative
6 Branch of the Committee on Appropriations of the
7 Senate of a decision under paragraph (1) not later
8 than 90 days before the decision takes effect.

9 “(e) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be an Execu-
11 tive Director of the Office who shall be the chief ex-
12 ecutive officer of the Office and who shall carry out
13 the functions of the Office, subject to the supervision
14 and direction of the Board, without political or par-
15 tisan bias.

16 “(2) APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL.—The House
17 and Senate leadership shall appoint, and may re-
18 move, the Executive Director of the Office, without
19 regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis
20 of fitness to perform the duties of the Executive Di-
21 rector, only on the recommendation of the appoint-
22 ment or removal by the members of the Board de-
23 scribed in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection
24 (c)(1).

1 “(3) TERM.—The Executive Director of the Of-
2 fice shall serve a renewable term of 6 years, to begin
3 from the date of the appointment of the Executive
4 Director.

5 “(4) PAY.—The Executive Director of the Of-
6 fice shall receive compensation at the annual rate
7 specified by the Board, which may not exceed level
8 III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of
9 title 5, United States Code.

10 “(5) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—The Executive Di-
11 rector of the Office shall appoint a Deputy Director,
12 without regard to political affiliation and solely on
13 the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the of-
14 fice, who shall act as the Executive Director during
15 the absence or incapacity of the Executive Director
16 or a vacancy in the office of the Executive Director
17 and perform such other duties assigned to the Dep-
18 uty Director by the Executive Director, but the
19 House and Senate leadership may appoint the Dep-
20 uty Director, on the recommendation of the appoint-
21 ment by members of the Board described in sub-
22 paragraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (c)(1), if a va-
23 cancy arises with respect to the office of the Deputy
24 Director and more than 120 days have elapsed
25 since—

1 “(A) the initial appointment of the Execu-
2 tive Director of the Office; and

3 “(B) the creation of the vacancy.

4 “(6) HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERSHIP DE-
5 FINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘House and
6 Senate leadership’ means the following:

7 “(A) The Speaker of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives.

9 “(B) The Minority Leader of the House of
10 Representatives.

11 “(C) The Majority Leader of the Senate.

12 “(D) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

13 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

14 “(1) PERSONNEL.—The Executive Director of
15 the Office may appoint and fix the compensation of
16 such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the
17 functions of the Office, except that in no case shall
18 employees other than the Executive Director be com-
19 pensated at a rate to exceed the maximum rate for
20 employees in grade GS–15 of the General Schedule
21 under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code.

22 “(2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Exec-
23 utive Director of the Office may procure temporary
24 and intermittent services of experts and consultants
25 as are necessary to the extent authorized by section

1 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not
2 to exceed the rate specified at the time of such serv-
3 ice for level IV of the Executive Schedule under sec-
4 tion 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

5 “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Executive Director
6 of the Office may prescribe such regulations as the
7 Executive Director considers necessary governing the
8 manner in which the functions of the Office shall be
9 carried out.

10 “(4) RECEIVING AND USING GIFTS.—The Exec-
11 utive Director of the Office may solicit and receive
12 money and other property donated, bequeathed, or
13 devised to the Office, without condition or restriction
14 other than the money or other property to be used
15 for the purposes of the Office, and to use, sell, or
16 otherwise dispose of such property for the purpose
17 of carrying out the functions of the Office.

18 “(5) NONCOMPENSATED PERSONNEL.—The Ex-
19 ecutive Director of the Office may accept and utilize
20 the services of voluntary and noncompensated per-
21 sonnel and reimburse such personnel for expenses in
22 accordance with chapter 57 of title 5, United States
23 Code.

24 “(6) CONTRACTS.—The Executive Director of
25 the Office may enter into contracts, grants, or other

1 arrangements to carry out the provisions of this sec-
2 tion, and the Executive Director may enter into such
3 contracts, grants, or other arrangements without
4 performance or other bonds or without regard to
5 section 6101 of title 41, United States Code, with
6 the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the
7 Board.

8 “(7) OFFICIAL EXPENSES.—The Executive Di-
9 rector of the Office may make expenditures for—

10 “(A) official reception and representation
11 expenses; and

12 “(B) expenditures for meals, entertain-
13 ment, and refreshments in connection with offi-
14 cial training sessions or other programs or ac-
15 tivities conducted by the Office.

16 “(8) ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES.—The
17 Executive Director of the Office may apply for, re-
18 ceive, and use for the purposes of the Office grants
19 or other assistance from Federal sources.

20 “(9) NECESSARY EXPENDITURES.—The Execu-
21 tive Director of the Office may make other necessary
22 expenditures.

23 “(10) NONPARTISAN SERVICE.—The personnel
24 of the Office shall carry out the duties and respon-

1 sibilities with respect to the Office without partisan
2 bias.

3 “(11) REPORTING OF FINANCES.—For each fis-
4 cal year, the Executive Director of the Office shall—

5 “(A) prepare an audited financial state-
6 ment for the preceding fiscal year, which
7 shall—

8 “(i) cover all accounts and associated
9 activities of the Office; and

10 “(ii) reflect the overall financial posi-
11 tion of the Office, including assets and li-
12 abilities of the Office, and the results of
13 the operations of the Office;

14 “(B) appoint an independent external
15 auditor who shall, in accordance with applicable
16 generally accepted government auditing stand-
17 ards—

18 “(i) carry out an audit of the financial
19 statement described in subparagraph (A);
20 and

21 “(ii) submit a report of the audit to
22 the Executive Director of the Office and
23 the Comptroller General; and

24 “(C) submit to the Committee on House
25 Administration of the House of Representatives

1 and the Committee on Rules and Administra-
2 tion of the Senate the audited financial state-
3 ment and the report.

4 “(12) AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year,
6 the Executive Director of the Office shall pre-
7 pare and submit to the Committee on House
8 Administration of the House of Representatives
9 and the Committee on Rules and Administra-
10 tion of the Senate an audited financial state-
11 ment for the preceding fiscal year, covering all
12 accounts and associated activities of the Office.

13 “(B) CONTENTS OF FINANCIAL STATE-
14 MENT.—An audited financial statement under
15 this paragraph shall reflect—

16 “(i) the overall financial position of
17 the activities covered by the statement, in-
18 cluding assets and liabilities thereof; and

19 “(ii) results of operations of those ac-
20 tivities.

21 “(C) AUDIT BY INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL
22 AUDITOR.—A financial statement under this
23 paragraph shall be audited in accordance with
24 applicable generally accepted government audit-
25 ing standards by an independent external audi-

1 tor appointed by the Executive Director of the
2 Office.

3 “(D) SUBMISSION OF AUDIT REPORT BY
4 AUDITOR.—The auditor appointed under sub-
5 paragraph (C) to audit a financial statement
6 under this paragraph shall submit a report on
7 the audit, which shall be prepared in accord-
8 ance with generally accepted government audit-
9 ing standards, to the Executive Director of the
10 Office and the Comptroller General.

11 “(E) GAO REVIEW.—The Comptroller
12 General of the United States—

13 “(i) may review any audit of a finan-
14 cial statement conducted under this sub-
15 section;

16 “(ii) shall report to the Executive Di-
17 rector of the Office, the Committee on
18 House Administration of the House of
19 Representatives, and the Committee on
20 Rules and Administration of the Senate,
21 regarding the results of the review and
22 make any recommendation that the Comp-
23 troller General considers appropriate; and

24 “(iii) may audit a financial statement
25 prepared under this paragraph at the dis-

1 cretion of the Comptroller General or at
2 the request of the Committee on House
3 Administration of the House of Represent-
4 atives or the Committee on Rules and Ad-
5 ministration of the Senate.

6 “(F) REGULATIONS.—The Comptroller
7 General may prescribe regulations to carry out
8 this paragraph and include in such regulations
9 any requirement in chapter 35 of title 31,
10 United States Code, that the Comptroller Gen-
11 eral considers appropriate.

12 “(g) GRANT PROGRAM.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purpose
14 described in subsection (b), the Office shall award
15 grants to government or community organizations in
16 the United States to host emerging political or civic
17 leaders at any level of government who are nationals
18 of eligible foreign states (in this subsection referred
19 to as ‘program participants’) in the United States.

20 “(2) DURATION OF STAY IN THE UNITED
21 STATES.—A recipient of a grant under this sub-
22 section may not host a program participant in the
23 United States for not more than 30 days for each
24 calendar year.

1 “(3) LIMITATION.—The Office shall ensure that
2 grant funds under this subsection shall support not
3 more than 3,500 program participants in any cal-
4 endar year.

5 “(4) PERMISSIBLE USES OF GRANT FUNDS.—
6 Grant funds under this subsection may be used to
7 pay—

8 “(A) the costs and expenses incurred by a
9 program participant for travel in the United
10 States and between an eligible foreign state and
11 the United States;

12 “(B) the costs for the lodging of a pro-
13 gram participant in the United States, whether
14 such lodging is provided through public accom-
15 modations or private homes; and

16 “(C) administrative expenses incurred by a
17 recipient of a grant under this subsection to
18 host a program participant.

19 “(5) APPLICATIONS.—An organization in the
20 United States may submit to the Office, at such
21 time and in such manner as the Office may reason-
22 ably require, an application for a grant under this
23 subsection that includes the following information,
24 for each funding period for which the organization
25 requests grant funds in the application:

1 “(A) A calendar of proposed events or ac-
2 tivities sponsored by the organization for the
3 benefit of program participants for the funding
4 period that includes the location and a descrip-
5 tion of each such proposed event or activity.

6 “(B) The number and proposed qualifica-
7 tions of program participants hosted using the
8 grant funds.

9 “(C) Assurances that the organization will
10 address any concern raised by the Office or the
11 Board to support the Congress without partisan
12 bias.

13 “(D) Any such other assurances and other
14 information as the Office may reasonably re-
15 quire.

16 “(6) BOARD REVIEW.—The Board may review
17 the decision of the Executive Director of the Office
18 to approve or deny the disbursement of grant funds with
19 respect to a funding period based on an application
20 submitted pursuant to paragraph (5) and direct the
21 Executive Director of the Office to reconsider the
22 decision.

23 “(7) CHANGES TO APPLICATION INFORMA-
24 TION.—An organization that submits an application
25 pursuant to paragraph (5) shall submit to the Office

1 any changes to the information in the application at
2 such time and in such manner as the Office may
3 reasonably require, and the Board may review the
4 decision of the Executive Director of the Office with
5 respect to the application in light of such changes.

6 “(8) FUNDING PERIOD.—The funding period
7 referred to in this subsection shall be a quarter of
8 a calendar year, unless the Executive Director of the
9 Office specifies another period with the approval of
10 the Board.

11 “(9) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—The Executive
12 Director of the Office shall take reasonable measures
13 to provide written notice to each Member of the
14 House of Representatives and Senator of each event
15 or activity funded under this subsection located in
16 the congressional district of the Member and the
17 State of the Senator, not later than 30 days before
18 the event or activity.

19 “(10) REPORTS.—

20 “(A) BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Not later
21 than 30 days after the end of a calendar year,
22 a recipient of a grant under this subsection for
23 the calendar year shall submit to the Office, at
24 such time and in such manner as the Office

1 may reasonably require, a report containing a
2 description of—

3 “(i) the events or activities sponsored
4 by the recipient;

5 “(ii) the use of the grant funds; and

6 “(iii) such other information as re-
7 quired by the Office.

8 “(B) BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—Not
9 later than 90 days after the end of a calendar
10 year, the Executive Director of the Office shall
11 submit to the Committee on House Administra-
12 tion of the House of Representatives and the
13 Committee on Rules and Administration of the
14 Senate a report containing a summary of the
15 reports submitted pursuant to subparagraph
16 (A) with respect to the calendar year.

17 “(h) CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL
18 LEADERSHIP FUND.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the
20 Treasury of the United States a trust fund known
21 as the ‘Congressional Office for International Lead-
22 ership Fund’ (in this section referred to as the
23 ‘Fund’), which shall consist of amounts which may
24 be appropriated, credited, or transferred to the Fund
25 under this section.

1 “(2) DONATIONS.—Any money or other prop-
2 erty donated, bequeathed, or devised to the Office
3 shall be credited to the Fund.

4 “(3) MANAGEMENT.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of sub-
6 sections (b), (c), and (d) of section 116 of the
7 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2
8 U.S.C. 1105(b), (c), and (d)), and the provi-
9 sions of section 117(b) of such Act (2 U.S.C.
10 1106(b)), shall apply to the Fund and the Of-
11 fice.

12 “(B) EXPENDITURES.—The Secretary of
13 the Treasury is authorized to pay to the Office
14 from amounts in the Fund such sums as the
15 Board determines are necessary and appro-
16 priate to enable the Office to carry out the pro-
17 visions of this section.

18 “(i) SUPPORT FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—
19 The Librarian of Congress shall provide to the Office such
20 office and meeting space and such administrative, legal,
21 financial management, and other services required for the
22 operation of the Office, including the disbursement of
23 funds appropriated to the Office, and collect from the
24 Fund the full costs of providing the services under this
25 paragraph, as provided under an agreement for services

1 ordered under sections 1535 and 1536 of title 31, United
2 States Code.”.

3 **SEC. 3. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.**

4 (a) **TERMS OF TRUSTEES.**—The members of the
5 Board of Trustees of the Congressional Office for Inter-
6 national Leadership under subparagraphs (A), (B), and
7 (D) of section 313(c)(1) of the Legislative Branch Appro-
8 priations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151(c)(1)), immediately
9 prior to the effective date of this Act, shall continue to
10 be members on the effective date of this Act until the expi-
11 ration of their respective terms as specified under such
12 section immediately prior to the effective date of this Act.

13 (b) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Executive Director
14 of the Congressional Office for International Leadership
15 as of the effective date of this Act may continue to serve
16 as Executive Director until not later than 6 months after
17 the effective date, and the Executive Director may be ap-
18 pointed to a new term in accordance with section 313(e)
19 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001, as
20 amended by this Act.

21 (c) **ELIGIBLE FOREIGN STATES.**—The countries that
22 are eligible foreign states under section 313(j) of the Leg-
23 islative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C.
24 1151(j)), immediately prior to the effective date of this
25 Act, shall be eligible foreign states subject to section

1 313(d) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act,
2 2001, as amended by this Act.

3 (d) OTHER PERSONNEL.—The amendments made by
4 this Act shall not affect the continued employment or
5 other appointment of the personnel of the Congressional
6 Office for International Leadership as of the effective date
7 of this Act, other than the members of the Board of Trust-
8 ees and the Executive Director.

9 (e) OTHER MATTERS.—The amendments made by
10 this Act shall not affect the validity of the contracts, liabil-
11 ities, records, property, appropriations, and other assets
12 and interests of the Congressional Office for International
13 Leadership as of the effective date of this Act.

14 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15 This Act shall take effect on the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act.

○