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H. R. 9923

To demonstrate United States leadership and to engage successfully in biotechnology diplomacy by recruiting and training biotechnology experts that can advocate for United States biotechnology priorities internationally, to ensure that Regional Technology Officers receive specialized training in biotechnology, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN (for himself, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MOULTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To demonstrate United States leadership and to engage successfully in biotechnology diplomacy by recruiting and training biotechnology experts that can advocate for United States biotechnology priorities internationally, to ensure that Regional Technology Officers receive specialized training in biotechnology, 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 “Biotechnology Diplo-
5 macy and Expertise Enhancement Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF THE REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY OFFI-**
2 **CER PROGRAM TO INCLUDE BIO-**
3 **TECHNOLOGY TRAINING AND EXPERTISE.**

4 Section 9508 of the Department of State Authoriza-
5 tion Act of 2022 (division I of Public Law 117–263; 22
6 U.S.C. 10305) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
8 section (e); and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(d) **EXPANSION OF TRAINING TO INCLUDE BIO-**
12 **TECHNOLOGY EXPERTISE.**—

13 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall estab-
14 lish hiring directives to expand the Program to in-
15 clude biotechnology experts and to ensure the Pro-
16 gram requires current and new Regional Technology
17 Officers to receive specialized training in bio-
18 technology and emerging biotechnologies. These bio-
19 technology-trained Regional Technology Officers
20 shall serve as critical diplomatic assets for the
21 United States in fostering international collabora-
22 tion, strengthening national security, driving innova-
23 tion, and shaping policy development in bio-
24 technology.

1 “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the training re-
2 quired under paragraph (1) shall be to prepare Re-
3 gional Technology Officers to—

4 “(A) promote diplomatic engagement to
5 advance United States leadership in bio-
6 technology and biomanufacturing innovation
7 and security in international forums and part-
8 nerships;

9 “(B) work with government and non-gov-
10 ernment partners to increase the deployment of
11 biotechnology in support of democratic values;

12 “(C) shape diplomatic agreements in re-
13 gional and international fora with respect to
14 biotechnology;

15 “(D) facilitate the role of biotechnology in
16 advancing the foreign policy objectives of the
17 United States through engagement with foreign
18 governments, international organizations, pri-
19 vate sector entities, research labs, incubators,
20 and venture capitalists;

21 “(E) promote the responsible use and se-
22 cure international transfer of biotechnologies;
23 and

24 “(F) maintain the advantages of the
25 United States with respect to biotechnology.

1 “(3) SPECIALIZED TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.—

2 The Secretary shall develop and implement a com-
3 prehensive training program for all Regional Tech-
4 nology Officers, with a focus on biotechnology and
5 emerging biotechnologies, including training on—

6 “(A) advances in biotechnology, such as
7 gene editing technologies, synthetic biology, and
8 bioengineering;

9 “(B) biotechnology security and biosecu-
10 rity, including the protection of sensitive bio-
11 technology research and preventing the misuse
12 of biotechnologies;

13 “(C) ethical considerations in bio-
14 technology research and the responsible applica-
15 tion of biotechnologies in areas such as public
16 health, agriculture, defense and security;

17 “(D) international regulations and policies
18 governing biotechnology; and

19 “(E) diplomatic engagement strategies spe-
20 cific to biotechnology-related issues, such as es-
21 tablishing multilateral agreements and negoti-
22 ating biotechnology-related trade agreements.

23 “(4) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary is en-
24 couraged to collaborate with relevant Federal agen-
25 cies, private-sector stakeholders, international bio-

1 technology associations, and academic institutions
2 while developing and implementing the training pro-
3 grams required under this subsection.

4 “(5) CONTINUING EDUCATION.—The Secretary
5 should ensure continuing technology education for
6 Regional Technology Officers, including require-
7 ments for refresher training on the latest advances
8 in biotechnology and their impacts on international
9 policy and relations.

10 “(6) GEOGRAPHIC AND DIPLOMATIC PRIOR-
11 ITIES.—Regional Technology Officers who have re-
12 ceived biotechnology training pursuant to this sub-
13 section shall receive priority to be assigned to re-
14 gions or countries where biotechnology research and
15 development are critical to United States foreign
16 policy interests, including regions and countries with
17 growing biotechnology sectors, strategic bio-
18 technology partnerships, or emerging security
19 risks.”.

20 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR EXPANDED REGIONAL**
21 **TECHNOLOGY OFFICER PROGRAM.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall ad-
23 vance the goals described in section 9508(d)(2) of the De-
24 partment of State Authorization Act of 2022, as amended
25 by section 2, by—

1 (1) developing a comprehensive strategy for the
2 recruitment and hiring of technical experts to join
3 the Regional Technology Officer Program (referred
4 to in this section as the “Program”); and

5 (2) expanding the Program to include Regional
6 Technology Officers with expertise in biotechnology
7 during fiscal year 2026, and further expanding the
8 Program, as needed.

9 (b) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 180
10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
11 retary of State shall submit an implementation plan to
12 Congress that outlines the Department of State’s strate-
13 gies for—

14 (1) advancing the goals of the Program with a
15 focus on biotechnology diplomacy, security, and in-
16 novation;

17 (2) hiring and training Regional Technology Of-
18 ficers with biotechnology expertise; and

19 (3) expanding the Program to include Regional
20 Technology Officers with specific expertise in bio-
21 technology.

22 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall
23 submit to Congress an annual report that describes—

24 (1) the progress of the biotechnology-focused
25 Program, including—

1 (A) the number of officers who have re-
2 ceived the training required under section
3 9508(d)(2) of the Department of State Author-
4 ization Act of 2022, as amended by section 2;
5 and

6 (B) the countries or regions to which such
7 officer have been assigned; and

8 (2) outcomes from diplomatic efforts, partner-
9 ships, and agreements related to biotechnology, in-
10 cluding results in advancing United States leader-
11 ship in biotechnology security and innovation.

12 **SEC. 4. TARGETED HIRING FREEZE EXEMPTION FOR RE-**
13 **GIONAL TECHNOLOGY OFFICERS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
15 sion of law or policy imposing a hiring freeze or personnel
16 limitation within the Department of State, the Secretary
17 of State may appoint and employ such additional per-
18 sonnel as may be necessary to carry out this Act, and the
19 amendments made by this Act, including biotechnology-
20 focused Regional Technology Officers.

21 (b) PRIORITY.—The Secretary of State shall
22 prioritize the recruitment, training, and overseas deploy-
23 ment of Regional Technology Officers with expertise in
24 biotechnology, biosecurity, and emerging life science tech-
25 nologies in order to support United States diplomatic en-

- 1 gagement, technology monitoring, and international co-
- 2 operation in the biotechnology sector.

