

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 210

To establish a commission to review, and make recommendations with respect to, leadership in mathematics education.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a commission to review, and make recommendations with respect to, leadership in mathematics education.

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 “Commission for Amer-
5 ican Mathematics Leadership Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Students in the United States should be the
2 world leaders in mathematics achievement within the
3 next decade.

4 (2) The Third International Mathematics and
5 Science Study (hereinafter in this Act referred to as
6 the “TIMSS”), the largest international study ever
7 undertaken of how students perform in mathematics
8 and science, demonstrated that the mathematics
9 skills of students in the United States (including the
10 top 10 percent of students in the United States) lag
11 far behind the skills of students in many other na-
12 tions, even though students in the United States
13 spend more class time on mathematics and science
14 and usually are assigned more homework.

15 (3) Research indicates that the problems of
16 mathematics and science education in the United
17 States stem largely from the lack of a coherent and
18 focused curriculum designed for high-level learning
19 goals, the lack of assessment instruments aligned
20 with such curricula, and the lack of a sufficient com-
21 mitment by colleges and universities in the United
22 States to high-quality teacher preparation and pro-
23 fessional development programs.

24 (4) Core problems exist with the courses of
25 study and the teaching style on which many schools

1 in the United States rely to instruct students in
2 mathematics and science, as reflected in the conclu-
3 sion of the National Science Foundation that schools
4 in the United States teach math concepts in super-
5 ficial, and ultimately ineffective, ways.

6 (5) A developed framework for mathematics
7 and science should be coherent, focused, and give
8 balanced attention to basic skills, conceptual under-
9 standing, problem solving, reasoning, and commu-
10 nication skills, and appropriate uses of technology.

11 (6) The failure of mathematics and science
12 teaching methods in the United States requires a
13 systemic retraining of, and an increased emphasis on
14 the professional development of, teachers in the
15 United States.

16 (7) Teachers of mathematics and science should
17 be well-trained professionals who combine sound
18 knowledge of subject matter with the necessary skills
19 and a good understanding of student learning and
20 assessment.

21 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a
23 commission to be known as the “Commission for American
24 Mathematics Leadership” (in this Act referred to as the
25 “Commission”).

1 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be com-
2 posed of 12 members as follows:

3 (1) Four members appointed by the President.

4 (2) Four members appointed by the Speaker of
5 the House of Representatives, in consultation with
6 the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

7 (3) Four members appointed by the President
8 pro tempore of the Senate, in consultation with the
9 minority leader of the Senate.

10 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

11 The Commission shall, in coordination with the Na-
12 tional Academy of Sciences—

13 (1) review the existing research base on mathe-
14 matics education leadership, including the status of
15 mathematics education in the United States relative
16 to international competitors;

17 (2) propose professional development priorities
18 to assure that the teaching of mathematics at all
19 educational levels in the United States is strength-
20 ened; and

21 (3) formulate an implementation proposal, in-
22 cluding specific recommendations which can be im-
23 plemented by appropriate public and private agen-
24 cies, for assuring world class achievement of the

1 United States in mathematics education within a
2 decade.

3 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

4 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the
6 Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the Presi-
7 dent pro tempore of the Senate a report including the find-
8 ings and recommendations of the Commission under sec-
9 tion 4.

10 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

11 The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out
12 its duties, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times
13 and places, take such testimony, and receive such evi-
14 dence, as the Commission considers appropriate.

15 **SEC. 7. COMMISSION PROCEDURES.**

16 (a) CHAIRMAN.—A chairman of the Commission shall
17 be elected by the members of the Commission.

18 (b) QUORUM.—Seven members of the Commission
19 shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting
20 meetings.

21 **SEC. 8. PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

22 (a) PAY OF MEMBERS.—Members of the Commission
23 shall not be paid by reason of their service as members.

24 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Com-
25 mission shall be allowed, while away from their homes or

1 regular places of business in the performance of services
2 for the Commission, travel expenses (including per diem
3 in lieu of subsistence) in the same manner as persons em-
4 ployed intermittently in Government service are allowed
5 expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United States
6 Code.

7 **SEC. 9. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**

8 The National Academy of Sciences shall provide the
9 administrative support services necessary for the Commis-
10 sion to carry out its duties under this Act.

11 **SEC. 10. FUNDING.**

12 Out of any amounts appropriated for the National
13 Science Foundation, \$750,000 shall be available for activi-
14 ties of the Commission.

15 **SEC. 11. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.**

16 The Commission shall terminate 30 days after sub-
17 mitting the report required under section 5.

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