

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4823

To establish a United States-Poland parliamentary youth exchange program,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKY (for himself and Mr. EMANUEL) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To establish a United States-Poland parliamentary youth
exchange 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 “United States-Poland
5 Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The United States established diplomatic
9 relations with the newly-formed Polish Republic in
10 April 1919.

1 (2) The United States and Poland have enjoyed
2 close bilateral relations since 1989.

3 (3) Poland became a member of the North At-
4 lantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in March 1999.

5 (4) Poland became a member of the European
6 Union (EU) in May 2004.

7 (5) Poland has been a strong supporter, both
8 diplomatically and militarily, of efforts led by the
9 United States to combat global terrorism and has
10 contributed troops to the United States-led coalitions
11 in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

12 (6) Poland cooperates closely with the United
13 States on such issues as democratization, nuclear
14 proliferation, human rights, regional cooperation in
15 Eastern Europe, and reform of the United Nations.

16 (7) The United States and Poland seek to en-
17 sure enduring ties between both governments and
18 societies.

19 (8) It is important to invest in the youth of the
20 United States and Poland in order to help ensure
21 long-lasting ties between both societies.

22 (9) It is in the interest of the United States to
23 preserve a United States presence in Europe and to
24 continue to contribute to the development of trans-
25 atlantic relationships.

1 (10) Poland for many years received inter-
2 national and United States financial assistance and
3 is now determined to invest its own resources toward
4 attaining its shared desire with the United States to
5 develop international cooperation.

6 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES-POLAND PARLIAMENTARY YOUTH**
7 **EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

8 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The President, acting through the
9 Secretary of State and in cooperation with the Govern-
10 ment of Poland, may establish and carry out a parliamen-
11 tary exchange program for youth of the United States and
12 Poland.

13 (b) **DESIGNATION.**—The youth exchange program
14 carried out under this subsection shall be known as the
15 “United States-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange
16 Program”.

17 (c) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of the youth exchange
18 program is to demonstrate to the youth of the United
19 States and Poland the benefits of friendly cooperation be-
20 tween the United States and Poland based on common po-
21 litical and cultural values.

22 (d) **ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.**—An individual is eligi-
23 ble for participation in the youth exchange program if the
24 individual—

1 (1) is a citizen or national of the United States
2 or of Poland;

3 (2) is under the age of 19 years;

4 (3) is a student who is enrolled and in good
5 standing at a secondary school in the United States
6 or Poland;

7 (4) has been accepted for up to one academic
8 year of study in a program of study abroad approved
9 for credit at such school; and

10 (5) meets any other qualifications that the
11 President may establish for purposes of the pro-
12 gram.

13 (e) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Under the youth ex-
14 change program, eligible participants selected for partici-
15 pation in the program shall—

16 (1) live in and attend a public secondary school
17 in the host country for a period of one academic
18 year;

19 (2) while attending public school in the host
20 country, undertake academic studies in the host
21 country, with particular emphasis on the history,
22 constitution, and political development of the host
23 country;

1 (3) be eligible, either during or after the com-
2 pletion of such academic studies, for an internship
3 in an appropriate position in the host country; and
4 (4) engage in such other activities as the Presi-
5 dent considers appropriate to achieve the purpose of
6 the program.

7 (f) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The
8 President may utilize the authorities and procedures set
9 out in title VIII of the United States Information and
10 Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1471 et
11 seq.) to establish and carry out the youth exchange pro-
12 gram.

13 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

14 The Secretary of State shall submit to Congress an
15 annual report on the United States-Poland Parliamentary
16 Youth Exchange Program established under this Act.
17 Each annual report shall include—

18 (1) information on the implementation of the
19 Program during the preceding year;

20 (2) the number of participants in the Program
21 during such year;

22 (3) the names and locations of the secondary
23 schools in the United States and Poland attended by
24 such participants;

1 (4) a description of the areas of study of such
2 participants during their participation in the Pro-
3 gram;

4 (5) a description of any internships taken by
5 such participants during their participation in the
6 Program; and

7 (6) a description of any other activities such
8 participants carried out during their participation in
9 the Program.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
12 priated for the Department of State for fiscal year 2007
13 such sums as may be necessary to carry out the youth
14 exchange program authorized by this Act.

15 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be appro-
16 priated by subsection (a) shall remain available until ex-
17 pended.

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