

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1636

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY (for himself, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (7) The United States and Poland seek to en-
20 sure enduring ties between both governments and
21 societies.

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

1 (9) It is in the interest of the United States to
2 preserve a United States presence in Europe and to
3 continue to contribute to the development of trans-
4 atlantic relationships.

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

10 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES-POLAND PARLIAMENTARY YOUTH**
11 **EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

12 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of State, in coopera-
13 tion with the Government of Poland, may establish and
14 carry out a parliamentary exchange program for youth of
15 the United States and Poland.

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

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

1 (d) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—An individual is eligi-
2 ble for participation in the youth exchange program if the
3 individual—

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

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

7 (3) is a student who is enrolled and in good
8 standing at a secondary school in the United States
9 or Poland;

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

13 (5) meets any other qualifications that the Sec-
14 retary of State may establish for purposes of the
15 program.

16 (e) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Under the youth ex-
17 change program, eligible participants selected for partici-
18 pation in the program shall—

19 (1) live in and attend a public secondary school
20 in the host country for a period of one academic
21 year;

22 (2) while attending public school in the host
23 country, undertake academic studies in the host
24 country, with particular emphasis on the history,

1 constitution, and political development of the host
2 country;

3 (3) be eligible, either during or after the com-
4 pletion of such academic studies, for an internship
5 in an appropriate position in the host country; and

6 (4) engage in such other activities as the Presi-
7 dent considers appropriate to achieve the purpose of
8 the program.

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

10 The Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee
11 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and
12 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate an an-
13 nual report on the United States-Poland Parliamentary
14 Youth Exchange Program established under this Act.
15 Each annual report shall include—

16 (1) information on the implementation of the
17 Program during the preceding year;

18 (2) the number of participants in the Program
19 during such year;

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

23 (4) a description of the areas of study of such
24 participants during their participation in the Pro-
25 gram;

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

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

7 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appro-
9 priated to the Secretary of State for fiscal year 2008 such
10 sums as may be necessary to carry out the youth exchange
11 program authorized by this Act.

12 (b) **AVAILABILITY.**—Amounts authorized to be appro-
13 priated under subsection (a) are authorized to remain
14 available until expended.

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