

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3698

To establish a Global Service Fellowship Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota (for herself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SUTTON, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Global Service Fellowship 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 “Global Service Fellow-
5 ship Program Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

22 (4) The duration of volunteer service opportuni-
23 ties and financial limitations are common barriers to
24 qualified individuals of all backgrounds and ages in-
25 terested in volunteering overseas, which would be

1 significantly reduced by a global service fellowship
2 program.

3 (5) A global service fellowship program would
4 provide funding and programmatic flexibility for vol-
5 unteers of all backgrounds and ages.

6 (6) Eligible organizations willing to participate
7 in the fellowship program as sponsoring organiza-
8 tions would be in a better position to recruit volun-
9 teers for their programs overseas.

10 **SEC. 3. GLOBAL SERVICE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—The Secretary
12 of State, in consultation with representatives of the Volun-
13 teers for Prosperity program administered by the United
14 States Agency for International Development, shall estab-
15 lish and administer a grant program to be known as the
16 “Global Service Fellowship Program” (in this section re-
17 ferred to as the “Program”) to fund fellowships to pro-
18 mote international volunteering opportunities as a means
19 of addressing critical human needs and promoting mutual
20 understanding by building bridges across cultures, ad-
21 dressing critical human needs, and promoting mutual un-
22 derstanding.

23 (b) FELLOWSHIPS.—Grants awarded under the Pro-
24 gram shall be used to fund fellowships as follows:

9 (c) COORDINATION WITH SPONSORING ORGANIZA-

10 TIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Fellowships funded under
12 the Program shall be coordinated and supervised by
13 participating volunteer sponsoring organizations.
14 The sponsoring organizations shall be registered
15 with the Secretary of State and shall collaborate
16 with host country organizations in developing pro-
17 grams that appropriately address local needs for the
18 transfer of volunteer skills, capacity building, and
19 cross-cultural service organizations.

1 (A) Eradication of extreme poverty in con-
2 junction with the goals of the United Nations
3 Millennium Development Goals.

(B) Achievement of universal primary education.

(C) Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and families.

8 (D) Reducing child mortality and improv-
9 ing maternal health.

10 (E) Providing medical and dental health
11 care and prevention.

12 (F) Providing assistance for the elderly,
13 orphans, people with disabilities, and refugees.

14 (G) Promoting environmental sustainability.
15 ability.

(H) Providing economic and social opportunities for youth in countries with growing cohorts of young people.

19 (I) Promoting youth service by building re-
20 lated volunteer-sector capacity in host countries.

(J) Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other infectious diseases.

23 (K) Helping to build or provide decent
24 housing.

(L) Providing disaster and humanitarian response, preparedness, and reconstruction.

(M) Promoting cross-cultural exchange,
conflict resolution, and peace.

5 (N) Developing global partnerships for de-
6 velopment in the areas of economic growth,
7 microenterprise, asset development, and agricul-
8 tural and rural development.

9 (O) Advancing access to information tech-
10 nology and strengthening civil society.

11 (P) Providing services to orphans and vul-
12 nerable children.

13 (Q) Carrying out additional activities in
14 impact areas designated by the Secretary of
15 State in accordance with the purposes of this
16 Act.

17 (d) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

18 (1) SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.—Applicants
19 shall submit applications for fellowships under the
20 Program to sponsoring organizations.

8 (i) nongovernmental organizations
9 based in the United States that sponsor
10 international volunteer service;

11 (ii) faith-based organizations engaged
12 in the delivery of nonsectarian services;

13 (iii) universities and colleges operating
14 international service learning and volunteer
15 service programs; and

16 (iv) nongovernmental organizations
17 based in the United States that collaborate
18 with local or national host government
19 agencies or nongovernmental organizations
20 in promoting volunteer capacity and na-
21 tional and community service in impact
22 areas designated by the Secretary of State
23 under subsection (c)(2)(Q).

(B) APPLICANTS.—Applicants shall be nominated and selected for Global Service Fellowships as follows:

(i) Applicants shall have clearly defined and structured goals for their proposed fellowships, including a plan for assessing and monitoring progress toward such goals with sponsoring organizations and a basis for follow-up and review by the Secretary of State.

(ii) Priority should be given to—

(I) applicants from households with an income that is less than 200 percent of the poverty level established pursuant to current census figures;

(II) applicants who have demonstrated prior community service experience;

(III) applicants with skills and experience suited to the specific needs of host countries; and

(IV) applicants who demonstrate a clear plan to communicate their vol-

3 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Individuals receiv-
4 ing Global Service Fellowships shall submit such reports,
5 including post-fellowship reports prepared for their home
6 communities, as the Secretary of State may require.

7 (f) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—

11 (A) Airfare, in-country travel, accommoda-
12 tions.

13 (B) Fees assessed by sponsoring organiza-
14 tions to defray international service program
15 costs and administrative costs.

16 (C) Subsistence allowance in accordance
17 with local market conditions.

18 (D) Program and local service project ma-
19 terials and tools to be expressly used for imple-
20 menting and executing individual fellowship
21 projects.

(E) Language and cultural training and other costs associated with pre-service project orientation.

3 (g) NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS.—

9 (2) SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—A sponsoring organiza-
11 tion shall not discriminate against a Global
12 Service Fellowship Program participant or ap-
13 plicant, a beneficiary of any project in which a
14 Global Service Fellow participates, or, except as
15 provided in subparagraph (B), an employee of
16 the organization who is paid with Program
17 funds on the basis of race, religion, color, na-
18 tional origin, sex, age, political affiliation, or
19 disability.

20 (B) LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR EMPLOYEES
21 OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS EMPLOYED AT
22 TIME OF AWARDING OF FUNDS.—The prohibi-
23 tion under subparagraph (A) on discrimination
24 on the basis of religion shall not apply to the
25 employment, with assistance provided under

1 this Program, of any employee who was em-
2 ployed with the sponsoring organization on the
3 date that the funds were awarded.

4 **SEC. 4. EVALUATION AND REPORT.**

5 (a) EVALUATION OF GLOBAL SERVICE FELLOWSHIP
6 PROGRAM.—The Secretary of State shall establish and im-
7 plement an evaluation process for determining the effec-
8 tiveness of the Global Service Fellowship Program.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2010, the
10 Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on
11 the Global Service Fellowships Program established under
12 section 3. The report shall describe—

13 (1) the identity and location of sponsoring orga-
14 nizations;

15 (2) for each impact issue areas identified by
16 sponsoring organizations, the number of volunteer
17 opportunities and the number of related Global Serv-
18 ice Fellowships that have been funded;

19 (3) the number of local volunteers recruited or
20 engaged with Global Service Fellows and their spon-
21 soring organizations or local host organizations;

22 (4) the locations of volunteer services;

23 (5) the effectiveness of such services based upon
24 findings of the evaluation process; and

4 SEC. 5. FELLOWSHIPS EXCLUDED FROM GROSS INCOME.

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chap-
6 ter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
7 (relating to items specifically excluded from gross income)
8 is amended by inserting after section 139A the following
9 new section:

10 “SEC. 139B. GLOBAL SERVICES FELLOWSHIPS.

11 “Gross income does not include amounts received
12 under the Global Services Fellowship Program (within the
13 meaning of section 3 of the Global Service Fellowship Pro-
14 gram Act of 2007).”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle A
17 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relat-
18 ing to section 139A the following new item:

“139B. Global Services Fellowships.”

19 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
20 this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act.

22 SEC. 6. REGULATIONS.

23 The Secretary of State shall prescribe regulations to
24 carry out the provisions of this Act.

1 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) **FUNDING.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State \$50,000,000 for each of 3 fiscal years 2008 through 2010 for purposes of establishing and implementing the Global Service Fellowship 4 Program.

5 (b) **OFFSET.**—In order to provide an offset for 6 amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a), the Internal 7 Revenue Service shall deposit in the Treasury as 8 miscellaneous receipts all of the fees it receives for services. 9

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