

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2313

To support programs that offer instruction in Chinese language and culture,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington,
and Mr. ISRAEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To support programs that offer instruction in Chinese
language and culture, 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 “U.S.-China Language
5 Engagement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LOCAL EDU-
9 CATIONAL AGENCY, SECONDARY SCHOOL, STATE
10 EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The terms “elementary

1 school”, “local educational agency”, “secondary
2 school”, and “State educational agency” have the
3 meanings given such terms in section 9101 of the
4 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
5 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

6 (2) PHYSICAL EXCHANGE.—The term “physical
7 exchange” means an academic, professional, or cul-
8 tural exchange between the United States and the
9 People’s Republic of China that requires inter-
10 national travel by one or more individuals involved
11 in the exchange.

12 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of Education.

14 (4) VIRTUAL EXCHANGE.—The term “virtual
15 exchange” means an academic, professional, or cul-
16 tural exchange between the United States and the
17 People’s Republic of China that does not require
18 international travel by one or more individuals in-
19 volved in the exchange.

20 **SEC. 3. PROGRAMS FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CUL-
21 TURAL STUDIES INSTRUCTION.**

22 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated
24 under subsection (e), the Secretary of Education
25 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to local

1 educational agencies to carry out innovative model
2 programs providing for the establishment, improve-
3 ment, or expansion of Chinese language and cultural
4 studies instruction for elementary school and sec-
5 ondary school students in the schools served by such
6 local educational agencies.

7 (2) DURATION.—A grant under paragraph (1)
8 shall be for a period of three years.

9 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In awarding a grant under
10 subsection (a) to a local educational agency, the Secretary
11 shall support programs that—

12 (1) demonstrate approaches that can be dis-
13 seminated and duplicated in other local educational
14 agencies; and

15 (2) may include a professional development
16 component.

17 (c) RESERVATION.—The Secretary may reserve not
18 more than .05 percent of funds appropriated under sub-
19 section (e) to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs
20 funded under this section.

21 (d) APPLICATIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency
23 desiring a grant under this section shall submit an
24 application to the Secretary at such time, in such

1 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
2 retary may require.

3 (2) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding
4 grants under this section, the Secretary shall give
5 special consideration to applications describing pro-
6 grams that—

7 (A) include intensive summer Chinese lan-
8 guage instruction programs for professional de-
9 velopment, with particular regard to such pro-
10 grams that include physical exchanges;

11 (B) link speakers in the community who
12 are bilingual in English and Chinese with ele-
13 mentary and secondary schools in order to pro-
14 mote two-way language learning;

15 (C) promote the sequential study of Chi-
16 nese language for students, beginning in ele-
17 mentary school;

18 (D) make effective use of technology, such
19 as computer-assisted instruction, language lab-
20 oratories, or distance learning, to promote Chi-
21 nese language study;

22 (E) promote innovative activities, such as
23 Chinese language immersion, partial Chinese
24 language immersion, or content-based instruc-
25 tion; and

(F) promote a comprehensive approach to learning Chinese, which includes programs on the history and culture of China.

4 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 SEC. 4. SCHOOL LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT.

15 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—From amounts appro-
16 priated under subsection (e) for a fiscal year, the Sec-
17 retary shall award grants to local educational agencies in
18 order for such agencies to acquire communications tech-
19 nologies or equipment to improve Chinese language in-
20 struction in elementary schools and secondary schools
21 through computer-assisted instruction, distance learning,
22 and virtual exchanges.

23 (b) APPLICATION.—Each local educational agency
24 desiring a grant under this section shall submit an appli-

1 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
2 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

3 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
4 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to local educational
5 agencies that commit to use the grant funds to acquire
6 communications technologies or equipment for the purpose
7 of conducting virtual exchanges involving elementary
8 school students and secondary school students served by
9 the local educational agencies.

10 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A local educational agency re-
11 ceiving a grant under this section shall use the grant to
12 acquire communications technologies or equipment that—

13 (1) may be used for collaborative ventures
14 with—

15 (A) foreign language and area or inter-
16 national studies centers supported under section
17 602(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
18 (20 U.S.C. 1122(a)); or

19 (B) national language resource and train-
20 ing centers supported under section 603 of the
21 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
22 1123); and

23 (2) shall be used to conduct virtual exchanges
24 with schools or other educational institutions in the
25 People's Republic of China.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
3 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-
4 tion \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010
5 through 2013, \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, and
6 such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding
7 fiscal year.

8 (2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
9 priated under this subsection are authorized to re-
10 main available until expended.

11 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING BENEFIT OF EX-**
12 **POSURE TO CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CUL-**
13 **TURE.**

14 It is the sense of Congress that an increase in the
15 number of students who receive substantial exposure to
16 Chinese language and cultural studies before graduating
17 from secondary school will enhance the global economic
18 competitiveness of the United States in the 21st century.

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