

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 849

Recognizing the 16th anniversary of the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program, a program funded by the Government of the United States to provide an opportunity for high school students from the countries of the former Soviet Union to study and live in the United States in order to promote democratic values and institutions in Eurasia, and supporting the mission, goals, and accomplishments of the FLEX program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 20, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 16th anniversary of the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program, a program funded by the Government of the United States to provide an opportunity for high school students from the countries of the former Soviet Union to study and live in the United States in order to promote democratic values and institutions in Eurasia, and supporting the mission, goals, and accomplishments of the FLEX program.

Whereas the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program is a program funded by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to provide an opportunity for high school students from the

countries of the former Soviet Union to spend one academic year attending schools and living with host families throughout the United States in order to promote democratic values and institutions in Eurasia;

Whereas since its inception in 1992, more than 14,000 high school students from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine have participated in the FLEX program;

Whereas the FLEX program affords talented and motivated high school students from Eurasia the opportunity to study abroad, an opportunity in which they may otherwise be unable to partake;

Whereas by participating in the FLEX program, students receive a first-hand experience with democracy and civil society;

Whereas many students who participate in the FLEX program return to their home countries with the knowledge and tools necessary to promote democracy and civil society among their peers;

Whereas, as a result of their participation in the FLEX program and alumni associations, many alumni of the FLEX program have joined or established nongovernmental organizations that foster social, economic, and political development in their home cities and regions; and

Whereas the FLEX program and its alumni have directly contributed to the spread of democracy and civil society in post-Soviet Eurasia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) recognizes the 16th anniversary of the Fu-
2 ture Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program;

3 (2) supports the mission, goals, and accomplish-
4 ments of the FLEX program;

5 (3) commends the FLEX program for its dedi-
6 cation to democracy and to the role that young peo-
7 ple play in the development of democracy;

8 (4) acknowledges the positive changes that
9 many alumni of the FLEX program have made in
10 their home countries as a result of their experiences
11 in the United States; and

12 (5) encourages the FLEX program to continue
13 to provide the invaluable opportunity for high school
14 students from Eurasia to study abroad in order to
15 learn the benefits of democratic values.

○