

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 589

To establish a Global Service Fellowship Program and to authorize Volunteers for Prosperity, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2009

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To establish a Global Service Fellowship Program and to authorize Volunteers for Prosperity, 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 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said
9 that a critical component of our efforts to bolster
10 national and global security is to “find common

1 ground and common purpose with other peoples”
2 and to invest in social development.

3 (2) Polling data from Terror Free Tomorrow
4 indicates that nearly 60 percent of the people of In-
5 donesia and 75 percent of the people of Pakistan
6 held more favorable views of the United States fol-
7 lowing humanitarian assistance after their tsunami
8 and earthquake tragedies, respectively, and these
9 changes in perception of the United States were sus-
10 tained beyond the initial period of aid and service.

11 (3) International volunteering opportunities are
12 effective means of addressing critical human needs,
13 building bridges across cultures, and promoting mu-
14 tual understanding.

15 (4) Current volunteer programs, such as the
16 Peace Corps, remain an important part of Federal
17 efforts to promote volunteer service and provide re-
18 lated programming.

19 (5) Financial limitations are a common obstacle
20 to volunteering overseas, and awarding financial fel-
21 lowships would reduce barriers for many individuals
22 otherwise unable to afford travel overseas.

23 (6) Allowing flexibility in the duration of volun-
24 teering opportunities would reduce another barrier
25 to volunteering.

1 (7) A global service fellowship program would
2 provide funding and programmatic flexibility for vol-
3 unteers of all backgrounds, ages, and geographical
4 locations.

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

9 (9) The United States Agency for International
10 Development has taken important steps towards en-
11 couraging this kind of a program through the cre-
12 ation of Volunteers for Prosperity, which promotes
13 international volunteer service by skilled profes-
14 sionals from the United States but has never been
15 formally authorized.

16 **SEC. 3. VOLUNTEERS FOR PROSPERITY.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Consistent with Executive
18 Order 13317 (68 Fed. Reg. 56515), the Administrator of
19 the United States Agency for International Development
20 shall establish the Office of Volunteers for Prosperity.

21 (b) PURPOSE.—The Office of Volunteers for Pros-
22 perity shall pursue the objectives described in section
23 4(d)(2), including by—

24 (1) implementing the Global Service Fellowship
25 Program established under section 4;

1 (2) promoting other short and long-term inter-
2 national volunteering opportunities;

3 (3) promoting the efforts of Global Service Fel-
4 lows as part of the public diplomacy efforts of the
5 United States Government;

6 (4) helping eligible United States sponsoring or-
7 ganizations, as described in section 4(e)(3)(A), to re-
8 cruit and effectively manage skilled United States
9 professionals for volunteer assignments overseas;
10 and

11 (5) providing recognition for volunteers from
12 the United States who serve internationally, and the
13 organizations sponsoring them.

14 **SEC. 4. GLOBAL SERVICE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the
16 United States Agency for International Development shall
17 establish and administer a program to be known as the
18 Global Service Fellowship Program (in this section re-
19 ferred to as the “Program”).

20 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Program is to
21 fund fellowships to promote international volunteering op-
22 portunities as a means of building bridges across cultures,
23 addressing critical human needs, and promoting mutual
24 understanding.

1 (c) FELLOWSHIPS.—Grants awarded under the Pro-
2 gram shall be used to fund fellowships as follows:

3 (1) Fellowships lasting 90 days or less in dura-
4 tion may be funded at levels of up to \$2,500.

5 (2) Fellowships lasting between 91 days and
6 180 days may be funded at levels up to \$5,000.

7 (3) Fellowships lasting between 181 days and
8 one year may be funded at levels up to \$7,500.

9 (d) COORDINATION WITH SPONSORING ORGANIZA-
10 TIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Fellows shall undertake
12 their volunteer opportunity in coordination with an
13 eligible volunteer sponsoring organization. Such or-
14 ganizations shall be registered with the Adminis-
15 trator and shall collaborate with host country orga-
16 nizations in developing, as appropriate, fellowships
17 that appropriately address local needs, maximize the
18 transfer of skills, and build local capacity.

19 (2) PRIORITIZATION OF PROJECTS.—Decisions
20 to award fellowships shall be prioritized according to
21 humanitarian and development goals of the United
22 States Government, including the following:

23 (A) Eradication of extreme poverty in con-
24 junction with the United Nations Millennium
25 Development Goals.

1 (B) Achievement of universal primary edu-
 2 cation.

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

5 (D) Reducing child mortality and improv-
 6 ing maternal health.

7 (E) Providing medical and dental health
 8 care and prevention.

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

11 (G) Promoting environmental sustain-
 12 ability.

13 (H) Providing economic and social oppor-
 14 tunities for young people in countries with sig-
 15 nificant youth populations, including promoting
 16 youth service by building related volunteer-sec-
 17 tor capacity in host countries.

18 (I) Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and
 19 other infectious diseases.

20 (J) Helping to build or provide decent
 21 housing.

22 (K) Providing disaster and humanitarian
 23 response, preparedness, and reconstruction.

1 (L) Promoting cross-cultural exchange,
 2 language education, conflict resolution, and
 3 peace.

4 (M) Developing global partnerships for de-
 5 velopment in the areas of economic growth, mi-
 6 croenterprise, asset development, and agricul-
 7 tural and rural development.

8 (N) Advancing access to information tech-
 9 nology and strengthening civil society.

10 (e) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

11 (1) SUBMISSION AND REVIEW OF APPLICA-
 12 TIONS.—Applicants shall submit applications for fel-
 13 lowships under the Program to the Administrator of
 14 the United States Agency for International Develop-
 15 ment.

16 (2) SELECTION.—The Administrator of the
 17 United States Agency for International Development
 18 shall determine the eligibility of candidates and, in
 19 coordination with sponsoring organizations, award
 20 and administer fellowships under the Program.

21 (3) CRITERIA.—The Administrator of the
 22 United States Agency for International Development
 23 shall develop and publish criteria for fellowships in
 24 accordance with the following guidelines:

1 (A) SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS.—Appli-
2 cants for Global Service Fellowships must be
3 registered with qualified sponsoring organiza-
4 tions such as—

5 (i) nongovernmental organizations
6 based in the United States that sponsor
7 international volunteer service;

8 (ii) faith-based organizations engaged
9 in the delivery of nonsectarian services;

10 (iii) universities and colleges operating
11 international service learning and volunteer
12 service programs; and

13 (iv) nongovernmental organizations
14 based in the United States that collaborate
15 with local or national host government
16 agencies or nongovernmental organizations
17 in promoting volunteer capacity and na-
18 tional and community service activities
19 consistent with the prioritized humani-
20 tarian and development goals set forth in
21 subsection (d)(2).

22 (B) APPLICANTS.—Applicants shall be se-
23 lected for Global Service Fellowships as follows:

24 (i) Applicants shall have clearly de-
25 fined and structured goals for their pro-

1 posed fellowships, including a plan for as-
2 sessing and monitoring progress toward
3 such goals with sponsoring organizations
4 and a basis for follow-up and review by the
5 Administrator of the United States Agency
6 for International Development.

7 (ii) Priority should be given to—

8 (I) applicants from households
9 with an income that is less than 200
10 percent of the poverty level estab-
11 lished pursuant to current census fig-
12 ures;

13 (II) applicants who have dem-
14 onstrated prior community service ex-
15 perience;

16 (III) applicants with skills and
17 experience suited to the specific needs
18 of host organizations;

19 (IV) applicants who demonstrate
20 a clear plan to communicate their vol-
21 unteer experiences to their community
22 upon their return; and

23 (V) applicants whose physical
24 residence would ensure a diverse geo-

1 graphical distribution of awardees
2 from across the United States.

3 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

4 (1) NOTIFICATION OF AWARDS.—The Adminis-
5 trator of the United States Agency for International
6 Development shall notify Members of Congress of
7 the decision to award a fellowship to their constitu-
8 ents at least 2 business days prior to notification to
9 the awardee and shall provide intended travel dates
10 and project summaries of the fellows. Members of
11 Congress may then elect to notify the constituent of
12 the award.

13 (2) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after re-
14 turning from service abroad under the Program, fel-
15 lows shall submit such reports as the Administrator
16 of the United States Agency for International Devel-
17 opment may require, including post-fellowship re-
18 ports prepared for their home communities, to the
19 Administrator of the United States Agency for
20 International Development and their congressional
21 representatives.

22 (g) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds awarded under this
24 section may be used by the sponsoring organization

1 to cover the following costs associated with Global
2 Service Fellowships:

3 (A) Airfare, accommodations, and trans-
4 portation within the host country.

5 (B) Fees assessed by sponsoring organiza-
6 tions to defray international service program
7 costs and administrative costs.

8 (C) Subsistence allowance in accordance
9 with local market conditions.

10 (D) Program materials and tools used for
11 service-related purposes.

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

15 (2) TUITION NOT COVERED.—Funds awarded
16 under this section may not be used for tuition costs.

17 (h) NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENTS.—

18 (1) SELECTION OF APPLICANTS.—The selection
19 of applicants under subsection (e) shall be without
20 regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex,
21 age, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or dis-
22 ability.

23 (2) SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—A sponsoring organiza-
25 tion shall not discriminate against a Global

1 Service Fellowship Program participant or ap-
2 plicant, a beneficiary of any project in which a
3 Global Service Fellow participates, or, except as
4 provided in subparagraph (B), an employee of
5 the organization who is paid with assistance
6 provided under the Program on the basis of
7 race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age,
8 political affiliation, sexual orientation, or dis-
9 ability.

10 (B) LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR EMPLOYEES
11 OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS EMPLOYED AT
12 TIME OF AWARDING OF FUNDS.—The prohibi-
13 tion under subparagraph (A) on discrimination
14 on the basis of religion shall not apply to the
15 employment, with assistance provided under
16 this Program, of any employee who was em-
17 ployed with the sponsoring organization on the
18 date that the funds were awarded.

19 **SEC. 5. EVALUATION AND REPORT.**

20 (a) EVALUATION OF GLOBAL SERVICE FELLOWSHIP
21 PROGRAM.—The Administrator of the United States
22 Agency for International Development shall establish and
23 implement an evaluation process for determining the effec-
24 tiveness of the Global Service Fellowship Program.

1 (b) REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2011, the
2 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
3 national Development shall submit to the Committee on
4 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on
5 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
6 on the Global Service Fellowships Program established
7 under section 4. The report shall describe—

8 (1) the identity and location of sponsoring orga-
9 nizations;

10 (2) for each humanitarian or development goal
11 identified by sponsoring organizations, the number
12 of volunteer opportunities and the number of related
13 Global Service Fellowships that have been funded;

14 (3) the number of volunteers recruited or en-
15 gaged with Global Service Fellows and their spon-
16 soring organizations or local host organizations;

17 (4) the locations of volunteer services;

18 (5) the effectiveness of such services based upon
19 findings of the evaluation process; and

20 (6) the total numbers of applications for Global
21 Service Fellowships that have been received and ac-
22 cepted to the Program.

1 **SEC. 6. REGULATIONS.**

2 The Administrator of the United States Agency for
3 International Development shall prescribe regulations to
4 carry out the provisions of this Act.

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

6 (a) **FUNDING.**—There is authorized to be appro-
7 priated to the Secretary of State \$15,000,000 for each of
8 fiscal years 2010 through 2012 for the Office of Volun-
9 teers for Prosperity and the Global Service Fellowship
10 Program.

11 (b) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**—Of the amounts appro-
12 priated pursuant to subsection (a)—

13 (1) not less than 90 percent of expended
14 amounts shall be used to fund Global Service Fel-
15 lowships; and

16 (2) not more than 10 percent of expended
17 amounts may be used for administrative expenses of
18 the Office of Volunteers for Prosperity and the Glob-
19 al Service Fellowship Program.

20 (c) **OFFSET.**—In order to provide an offset for
21 amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a), the In-
22 ternal Revenue Service shall deposit in the Treasury as
23 miscellaneous receipts all of the fees it receives for serv-
24 ices.

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