

(c) STANDING COUNCIL OF ADVISORS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Division a Standing Council of Advisors composed of 12 highly qualified scientists who are not employed by the Federal Government and 12 stakeholders.

(B) SCIENTISTS.—

(i) APPOINTMENT.—The 12 scientist members of the Council shall be appointed to 4-year staggered terms by the Director of the National Science Foundation, with the consent of the Director of Food and Agricultural Science.

(ii) QUALIFICATIONS.—The persons nominated for appointment as scientist members of the Council shall be—

(I) eminent in the fields of agricultural research, nutrition, science, or related appropriate fields; and

(II) selected for appointment solely on the basis of established records of distinguished service and to provide representation of the views of agricultural research and scientific leaders in all areas of the Nation.

(C) STAKEHOLDERS.—

(i) APPOINTMENT.—The 12 stakeholder members of the Council shall be appointed to 4-year staggered terms by the Secretary, with the consent of the Director.

(ii) QUALIFICATIONS.—The persons nominated for appointment as stakeholder members of the Council shall—

(I) include distinguished members of the public of the United States, including representatives of farm organizations and industry, and persons knowledgeable about the environment, subsistence agriculture, energy, and human health and disease; and

(II) be selected for appointment so as to provide representation of the views of stakeholder leaders in all areas of the Nation.

(2) DUTIES.—The Council shall assist the Director in establishing the Division's research priorities, and in reviewing, judging, and maintaining the relevance of the programs funded by the Division. The Council shall review all proposals approved by the scientific committees of the Division to ensure that the purposes of this Act and the needs of the Nation are being met.

(3) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall hold periodic meetings in order to—

(i) provide an interface between scientists and stakeholders; and

(ii) ensure that the Division is linking national goals with realistic scientific opportunities.

(B) TIMING.—The meetings shall be held at the call of the Director, or at the call of the Secretary, but not less frequently than annually.

SEC. 5. FUNCTIONS OF DIVISION.

(a) COMPETITIVE RESEARCH.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall carry out the purposes of this Act by awarding competitive peer-reviewed grants to support and promote the very highest quality of fundamental agricultural research.

(2) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—The Director shall make grants to fund research proposals submitted by—

(A) individual scientists;

(B) single and multi-institutional research centers; and

(C) entities from the private and public sectors, including researchers in the Department of Agriculture, the Foundation, or other Federal agencies.

(b) COMPLEMENTARY RESEARCH.—The research funded by the Division shall—

(1) supplement and enhance, not supplant, the existing research programs of, or funded by, the Department of Agriculture, the Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health; and

(2) seek to make existing research programs more relevant to the United States food and agriculture system, consistent with the purposes of this Act.

(c) GRANT-AWARDING ONLY.—The Division's sole duty shall be to award grants. The Division may not conduct fundamental agricultural research or fundamental science, or operate any laboratories or pilot plants.

(d) PROCEDURES.—The Director shall establish procedures for the peer review, awarding, and administration of grants under this Act, consistent with sound management and the findings and purposes described in section 3.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 104—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ENCOURAGING THE ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF AMERICANS IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND URGING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO TAKE THE LEAD AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CREATING AN ONLINE DATABASE OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 104

Whereas the United States needs to do a better job of building personal and institutional relationships with peoples and Nations around the world in order to combat the rise in anti-American sentiment that many polls and studies have reported;

Whereas a broad bipartisan consensus in favor of strengthening United States public diplomacy emerged during 2003 in Congress and was expressed in various reports, including reports of the Council on Foreign Relations, the General Accounting Office, the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, the Heritage Foundation, and the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World;

Whereas, in July 2004, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States released its final report on United States intelligence, which determined that “[j]ust as we did in the Cold War, we need to defend our ideals abroad vigorously. America does stand up for its values . . . If the United States does not act aggressively to define itself in the Islamic World, the extremists will gladly do the job for us.”;

Whereas the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 declares the sense of Congress that the United States should commit to a long-term and significant investment in promoting people-to-people engagement with all levels of society in other countries;

Whereas international exchange programs, which have assisted in extending American influence around the world by educating the world's leaders, have suffered from a decline in funding and policy priority;

Whereas, when students are instructed in their civic and community responsibilities during secondary education, the importance of their participation in global affairs should be underscored as well;

Whereas the number of United States university-level students studying abroad in 2002-2003 was 174,629, representing just over 1 percent of United States students;

Whereas ¾ of United States students studying abroad study in Western Europe (18.2 percent in the United Kingdom alone), although 95 percent of the world population growth in the next 50 years is expected to occur outside of Western Europe;

Whereas there are 29,953,000 retired workers in the United States as of December 2004, meaning that there are many older Americans who have the talent, maturity, and time to volunteer their services abroad;

Whereas the average United States college graduate who has studied 1 of the less commonly taught languages reaches no more than an intermediate level of proficiency in the language, which is insufficient to meet national security requirements; and

Whereas there are hundreds of well-established organizations in the United States that implement educational and professional exchanges, international volunteering, and related programs, and the efforts of those organizations could readily be expanded to reach out to more Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the “People-to-People Engagement in World Affairs Resolution”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Secretary of State should coordinate with implementing partners in creating an online database that provides information on how Americans can take advantage of—

(A) international exchange programs of the Department of State, the Department of Education, and other Federal Government and non-government entities;

(B) volunteer opportunities with organizations that assist refugees and immigrants in the United States;

(C) opportunities to host international students and professionals in the United States;

(D) sister-city organizations in the United States;

(E) international fairs and cultural events in the United States; and

(F) foreign language learning opportunities;

(2) Americans should strive to become more engaged in international affairs and more aware of peoples and developments outside the United States;

(3) Americans should seize 1 or more opportunities toward this end, by such means as—

(A) participating in a professional or cultural exchange;

(B) studying abroad;

(C) volunteering abroad;

(D) working with an immigrant or refugee group;

(E) hosting a foreign student or professional;

(F) participating in a sister-city program; and

(G) learning a foreign language; and

(4) Members of Congress should raise the importance of international engagement in the districts and States the Members represent.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit the People-to-People Engagement in World Affairs resolution with my colleague from Nebraska, Senator HAGEL.

In July 2004, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States released its final report, which determined that “just as we did in the Cold War, we need to defend our ideals abroad vigorously. . . . If the United States does not act aggressively to define itself in the Islamic world,

the extremists will gladly do the job for us." The 9/11 Commission report clearly states that in the interests of national security, the U.S. must commit to a long-term, global strategy, which includes, among other things, effective public diplomacy.

Public diplomacy is an essential component of our efforts to define and defend America's interests and ideals abroad. But a successful, long-term approach to building solid relationships with the rest of the world is not just the mission of the State Department. It also requires the engagement of the American people.

This People-to-People Engagement in World Affairs resolution is a call to Americans to reach beyond our borders to engage with the world at an individual level. It encourages Americans to seize opportunities to engage in the global arena—through participating in a professional or cultural exchange; studying or volunteering abroad; working with an immigrant or refugee group in the United States; hosting a foreign student or professional; participating in a sister-city program; or learning a foreign language. This resolution also urges the State Department to coordinate between government agencies and non-governmental organizations to create a database where Americans can learn of opportunities to become involved in world affairs. Furthermore, it encourages all Members of Congress to work to raise the importance of citizen diplomacy in their states and districts.

Americans must make a serious investment in reaching across borders and reversing the tide of increasing anti-American sentiments abroad. According to a 2003 Pew Research Center survey, during 1999–2000, more than 50 percent of the people in surveyed countries held a favorable view of the U.S., and in at least one country, favorable views of the U.S. were held by over 80 percent of those surveyed. More recent surveys reveal a stark contrast with those figures and growing anti-American sentiment. Pew found that, by 2003, favorable views of the United States in these countries plummeted. Additionally, whereas negative public opinion of the U.S. among Muslims was once limited to the Middle East, now it has spread to populations in places like Nigeria and Indonesia. Pew found that "the bottom has fallen out of Arab and Muslim support for the United States."

While these sentiments are most notable in the Muslim world, they extend even farther, coloring the views of many others.

Growing anti-American sentiment abroad is dangerous and breeds misperceptions in future generations. Our ability to work with allies to foster democratic societies and tackle global problems relates directly to our image abroad. Building an international coalition with our allies requires their trust that our efforts are genuine. Success in combating terrorism, the greatest global threat, is

contingent upon a unified, global participation. Members of the international community must collaborate to eliminate loopholes that terrorist networks manipulate when intelligence and communication break down between borders.

Anti-Americanism can feed a steady supply of recruits and supporters for terrorist networks, intent on our destruction. Terrorist networks capitalize on misperceptions about the U.S. to advance their own agenda and scapegoat the U.S. as the reason for the poverty, weak and corrupt states, and powerlessness that many experience on a daily basis.

International cooperation is also essential for effective progress in other important, trans-border issues, such as the proliferation of WMD, human trafficking, poverty, environmental degradation, and diseases from HIV/AIDS to polio. We cannot solve these problems alone—we need allies to help find and achieve meaningful solutions.

Combating anti-American sentiments requires that we engage in a conversation with people in all levels of society beyond our borders. And as Secretary Rice has noted, our dialogue cannot be a monologue. Talking at people about what the U.S. image abroad should be is not sustainable or effective. Talking with people, and listening to them, however, can be the start of real understanding and even trust. That conversation needs to happen at a governmental level, through public and private diplomacy, but it also needs to happen at an individual person-to-person level, through citizen diplomacy.

I have met with a number of groups from my State of Wisconsin that tell me they are concerned about misperceptions of America abroad, which they believe discourage people from coming to the U.S. to visit, study, learn about our wonderful country, and share their knowledge. I am so proud of the work people back in Wisconsin have done to overcome barriers to engaging outside our borders, whether by continuing Wisconsin's strong history of support for the Peace Corps, or by taking part in farmer to farmer initiatives and education exchange programs, building sister communities, or tirelessly working to ensure that Wisconsin maintains its success in attracting foreign visitors to our remarkable state. In 2004, Wisconsin was awarded the Goldman Sachs Foundation Prizes for Excellence in International Education in honor of its work to bring international education and skills into its curriculum. In fact, earlier this year, Wisconsin welcomed a group of teachers from Azerbaijan to study the workings of our education system to create a model for a new curriculum in their country.

Wisconsin also works to improve communities abroad. A non-profit organization based in Wisconsin helps abused children in Latvia and is working to create the first family shelter there for these children and their

mothers. Another Wisconsinite who is an expert in dairy prices participated in a farmer to farmer program to assist in building a pricing system in Armenia's dairy industry. He was able to share his experiences from this program with myself and people back in the state.

Citizen diplomacy not only helps the rest of the world to understand us, it strengthens this country internally as well. Americans with insight into and understanding of the world beyond our borders become energized constituents who demand wise foreign policy and help all of us to understand global events.

President Kennedy acknowledged the importance of public diplomacy in 1960 and challenged Americans to serve their country through building stronger communities abroad. His vision is even more relevant today. It is our responsibility to connect with people outside our borders. This duty can be fulfilled by teachers, students, retirees, and anyone who can share the best of the American people. We are a generous nation. Many of our fellow Americans have dedicated their lives to bringing about change for a better world. It is in our hands to carry this mission forward.

SENATE RESOLUTION 105—DESIGNATING APRIL 15, 2005, AS NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. REED, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BUNNING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 105

Whereas National Youth Service Day is an annual public awareness and education campaign that highlights the valuable contributions that young people make to their communities throughout the year;

Whereas the goals of National Youth Service Day are to mobilize youth as leaders in identifying and addressing the needs of their communities through service and service-learning, to support youth on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement, and to educate the public, the media, and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders;

Whereas young people in the United States, and in many other countries, are volunteering more than in any generation in history;

Whereas young people should be viewed as the hope not only of the future, but also of today, and should be valued for the idealism,