

4011, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998.

S. 4364

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 4364, a bill to provide for the refund of duties imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

S. 4392

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4392, a bill to promote United States and allied energy and mineral security, and for other purposes.

S. 4429

At the request of Mr. MORENO, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4429, a bill to prohibit the importation, manufacture, sale, resale, or introduction into interstate commerce in the United States of connected vehicles and related software and hardware associated with foreign adversaries.

S. 4485

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4485, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax holiday for gasoline and diesel fuel.

S. RES. 683

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 683, a resolution raising awareness of lake sturgeon.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4541. A bill to ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of State; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4541

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act of 2026".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) To prepare students for success in the modern global economy, opportunities for study abroad should be included as part of a well-rounded education.

(2) Study abroad programs provide students with unparalleled access to international knowledge, an unmatched opportunity to learn world languages, and a unique environment for developing cultural understanding, all of which are knowledge and skills needed in today's global economy.

(3) Only 10 percent of United States college students study abroad before they graduate, leaving 90 percent of graduates entering the workforce without the global skills, knowledge, and experiences afforded by study abroad programs that will position them for success in the global economy. Minority students, first-generation college students, community college students, and students with disabilities are also significantly underrepresented in study abroad participation.

(4) Congress authorized the establishment of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program (referred to in this section as the "Lincoln Commission") under section 104 of the Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets Act, 2004 (division H of Public Law 108-199). Pursuant to its mandate, the Lincoln Commission submitted a report to Congress and to the President containing its recommendations for greatly expanding the opportunity for students at institutions of higher education in the United States to study abroad, with special emphasis on studying in developing nations.

(5) According to the Lincoln Commission, "[e]xperience shows that leadership from administrators and faculty will drive the number of study abroad participants higher and improve the quality of programs. Such leadership is the only way that study abroad will become an integral part of the undergraduate experience." A competitive grant program is necessary to encourage and support such leadership.

(6) Student health, safety, and security while studying abroad is, and must continue to be, a priority for institutions of higher education and study abroad programs.

(7) According to *Open Doors 2022*, published by the Institute of International Education in partnership with the Department of State, study abroad participation at colleges and universities in the United States plummeted by 91 percent during the 2020-2021 academic year. While study abroad numbers have rebounded, according to *Open Doors 2025*, participation remains 14 percent below pre-pandemic levels. In today's global society, increasing access to study abroad for students at institutions of higher education across the United States is critical to ensuring that those students gain the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary to maintain the leadership and security of the United States in tackling global challenges that affect the people of the United States and succeeding in a global economy.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to ensure that significantly more students have access to quality study abroad opportunities, especially among low-income students and students of color;

(2) to ensure that the diversity of students studying abroad reflects the diversity of students and institutions of higher education in the United States;

(3) to encourage greater diversity in study abroad destinations by increasing the portion of study abroad that takes place in nontraditional study abroad destinations, especially in developing countries; and

(4) to encourage a greater commitment by United States institutions of higher education to expand study abroad opportunities.

SEC. 4. SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONSORTIUM.—The term "consortium" means a group that—

(A) includes at least 1 institution of higher education; and

(B) may include nongovernmental organizations that provide and promote study abroad opportunities for students.

(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(3) NONTRADITIONAL STUDY ABROAD DESTINATION.—The term "nontraditional study abroad destination" means a location that is determined by the Secretary of State to be a less common destination for students who study abroad.

(4) PROGRAM.—The term "Program" means the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program, as renamed pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A).

(5) STUDENT.—The term "student" means—

(A) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States or a national of the United States or (as such terms are defined in paragraphs (20) and (22) of section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (8 U.S.C. 1101(a))) who is enrolled at an institution of higher education located within the United States; or

(B) an individual who is an eligible noncitizen for Federal student aid, as determined by the Secretary of Education for purposes of the Federal student loan program under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

(6) STUDY ABROAD.—The term "study abroad" means an educational program of study, work, service learning, research, internship, or combination of such activities that—

(A) is conducted outside of the United States; and

(B) carries academic credit.

(7) WORLD LANGUAGE.—The term "world language" means any natural language other than English, including—

(A) languages determined by the Secretary of State to be critical to the national security interests of the United States;

(B) classical languages;

(C) American sign language; and

(D) Native American languages.

(b) SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and under the authority of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.), the Secretary of State shall—

(A) rename the IDEAS Program, or any successor program, as the "Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program"; and

(B) enhance the Program in accordance with this section.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Program are that not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) not fewer than 1,000,000 undergraduate students from the United States will study abroad annually;

(B) the demographics of study abroad participation will reflect the demographics of the United States undergraduate population by increasing the participation rate of underrepresented groups; and

(C) an increasing portion of study abroad will take place in nontraditional study abroad destinations, with a substantial portion of such increases in developing countries.

(3) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In order to accomplish the objectives described in paragraph (2), the Secretary of State shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education, either individually or as part of a consortium, based on applications by such institutions that—

(i) set forth detailed plans for using grant funds to further such objectives;

(ii) include an institutional commitment to expanding access to study abroad;

(iii) include plans for evaluating progress made in increasing access to study abroad;

(iv) describe how increases in study abroad participation achieved through the grant will be sustained in subsequent years; and

(v) demonstrate that the study abroad programs have established health, safety, and security guidelines and procedures, informed by Department of State travel advisories and other appropriate Federal agencies and resources, including the Overseas Security Advisory Council and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may give priority to—

(i) minority-serving institutions listed under section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a));

(ii) eligible institutions (as defined in section 312(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(b)) that qualify for the Strengthening Institutions Program of the Department of Education; and

(iii) institutions that offer study abroad programs with a significant world language learning component, as applicable.

(4) IMPLEMENTATION OF LINCOLN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS.—In administering the Program, the Secretary of State shall take fully into account the recommendations of the Lincoln Commission, including—

(A) institutions of higher education applying for grants described in paragraph (3) shall use Program funds to support direct student costs;

(B) diversity shall be a defining characteristic of the Program; and

(C) quality control shall be a defining characteristic of the Program.

(5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary of State shall consult with representatives of diverse institutions of higher education and educational policy organizations and other individuals with appropriate expertise.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary of State shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that details the implementation of the Program during the most recently concluded fiscal year.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated, for fiscal year 2027 and for each subsequent fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the Program.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 729—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING MERIWETHER LEWIS AND WILLIAM CLARK, AND THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY, FOR THEIR EXPEDITION TO EXPLORE THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

Mr. SCHMITT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 729

Whereas, on May 14, 1804, Captain Meriwether Lewis, Captain William Clark, and the Corps of Discovery departed from St. Louis, Missouri, embarking on a journey that would span more than 8,000 miles across the American continent;

Whereas May 14, 2026, marks the 222nd anniversary of the departure of the Corps of Discovery from the St. Louis region to explore the vast territory acquired through the Louisiana Purchase;

Whereas the expedition endured extreme hardship, including harsh weather, dangerous terrain, disease, hunger, and isolation, while displaying extraordinary resilience and determination;

Whereas the Corps of Discovery produced invaluable maps, scientific observations, and geographic records that deepened the country's understanding of the American frontier and laid the groundwork for future settlement, commerce, and development;

Whereas the expedition strengthened the sovereignty and strategic position of the United States in North America during a pivotal period in the early history of the United States;

Whereas the Lewis and Clark Expedition stands as a lasting symbol of the American spirit of exploration, courage, and national ambition;

Whereas generations of Americans have continued to draw inspiration from the perseverance and vision demonstrated by the Corps of Discovery;

Whereas, as the United States commemorates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Lewis and Clark Expedition reminds Americans that the Founding generation passed to posterity not only a set of principles, but a country to be explored, strengthened, defended, and passed on; and

Whereas the 222nd anniversary of the expedition's departure provides an opportunity to reflect upon the character, sacrifice, faith, courage, and determination that helped build the United States into a great nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the enduring legacy of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and recognizes its profound importance to the history, development, and identity of the United States;

(2) honors the extraordinary courage, endurance, and patriotism of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and the Corps of Discovery on the anniversary of the launch of their historic expedition from St. Louis, Missouri;

(3) recognizes the Lewis and Clark Expedition as one of the greatest feats of exploration and national achievement in the history of the United States;

(4) commemorates the vision of President Thomas Jefferson in commissioning the expedition following the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the size of the United States and helped secure the continental future of the United States by executing the principles of “manifest destiny”;

(5) acknowledges the indispensable contributions of every member of the Corps of Discovery, including the assistance provided by Sacagawea, York, and other members, which aided the expedition along its journey;

(6) recognizes that the expedition helped establish the geographic, commercial, and strategic foundations for the expansion of the United States from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean;

(7) celebrates the enduring connection between the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the State of Missouri, the State from which the Corps of Discovery embarked into the western frontier;

(8) recognizes that the spirit, self-reliance, perseverance, faith, courage, scientific curiosity, and confidence in the promise of the United States displayed through the expedition remains central to the character, heritage, and soul of the country; and

(9) encourages all Americans to study and reflect upon the legacy of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and its lasting significance in the history of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 730—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2026 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 730

Whereas the 2026 University of Hawaii men's volleyball team (referred to in this preamble as the “Rainbow Warriors”), under the direction of coach Charlie Wade, won the program's third National Collegiate Athletic Association championship title with a final score of 3 to 1, defeating the University of California, Irvine; and

Whereas the Rainbow Warriors set a program record for victories in a season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 2026 University of Hawaii men's volleyball team for their hard work and dedication to the sport and for the excitement they bring to the State of Hawaii; and

(2) congratulates the 2026 University of Hawaii men's volleyball team on a successful season.

SENATE RESOLUTION 731—RECOGNIZING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ALPHA DELTA PI SORORITY

Mrs. MOODY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 731

Whereas Alpha Delta Pi Sorority was founded as the Adelphean Society on May 15, 1851, at Wesleyan Female College in Macon, Georgia;

Whereas Alpha Delta Pi Sorority was the first secret society for college women, founded at the first college chartered to grant degrees to women;

Whereas the recognized founders of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority include Eugenia Tucker Fitzgerald, Mary Evans Glass, Octavia Andrew Rush, Ella Pierce Turner, Sophronia Woodruff Dews, and Elizabeth Williams Mitchell;

Whereas membership of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority stands at over 290,000 lifetime initiates as of the date of introduction of this resolution;

Whereas Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, has established chapters at over 220 colleges and universities across the United States and Canada and has 165 active alumnae associations;

Whereas Alpha Delta Pi Sorority is a private membership organization whose mission is to provide women with a meaningful lifelong experience that empowers them to reach their full potential through leadership,