

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3744

To establish the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2006

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To establish the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Program.

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 “Abraham Lincoln
5 Study Abroad Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

9 (1) According to President George W. Bush,
10 “America’s leadership and national security rest on
11 our commitment to educate and prepare our youth

1 for active engagement in the international commu-
2 nity.”.

3 (2) According to former President William J.
4 Clinton, “Today, the defense of United States inter-
5 ests, the effective management of global issues, and
6 even an understanding of our Nation’s diversity re-
7 quire ever-greater contact with, and understanding
8 of, people and cultures beyond our borders.”.

9 (3) Congress created the Commission on the
10 Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program
11 in section 104(a) of Division H of the Consolidated
12 Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108–199).
13 Pursuant to its mandate, the Commission has sub-
14 mitted to Congress and the President a report of its
15 recommendations for greatly expanding the oppor-
16 tunity for students at institutions of higher edu-
17 cation in the United States to study abroad, with
18 special emphasis on studying in developing nations
19 and nontraditional study abroad destinations.

20 (4) Studies consistently show that United
21 States students score below their counterparts in
22 other advanced countries on indicators of inter-
23 national knowledge. This lack of global literacy is a
24 national liability in an age of global trade and busi-
25 ness, global interdependence, and global terror.

1 (5) By numbers ranging from 77 to more than
2 90 percent, Americans believe that it is important
3 for their children to learn other languages, study
4 abroad, attend a college where they can interact with
5 international students, learn about other countries
6 and cultures, and generally be prepared for the glob-
7 al age, according to a December 2005 national sur-
8 vey conducted by Lake Research Partners and the
9 Tarrance Group.

10 (6) In today's world, it is more important than
11 ever for the United States to be a responsible, con-
12 structive leader that other countries are willing to
13 follow. Such leadership cannot be sustained without
14 an informed citizenry with much more knowledge
15 and awareness of the world than most Americans
16 tend to possess.

17 (7) Study abroad has proven to be a very effec-
18 tive means of imparting international and foreign-
19 language competency to students.

20 (8) In the 2003–2004 academic year, an esti-
21 mated 16,910,000 students were enrolled in United
22 States postsecondary institutions, yet only 191,321,
23 representing approximately 1 percent of those stu-
24 dents, studied abroad for academic credit, according
25 to the National Center for Education Statistics and

1 the Institute of International Education, respec-
2 tively.

3 (9) Less than 10 percent of the students who
4 graduate from United States institutions of higher
5 education with bachelors degrees have studied
6 abroad.

7 (10) Far more study abroad must take place in
8 the developing countries. Ninety-five percent of the
9 world's population growth is anticipated to occur
10 outside of Europe in the future. Yet in the academic
11 year 2003–2004, 61 percent of United States stu-
12 dents studying abroad studied in Europe, and 46
13 percent studied in the 4 countries of the United
14 Kingdom, Italy, Spain, and France, according to the
15 Institute of International Education.

16 (11) Study abroad helps to build mutual under-
17 standing among nations and serves to promote na-
18 tional leadership in the United States, international
19 effectiveness, and economic competitiveness by help-
20 ing to create a globally literate citizenry.

21 (12) The Senate designated 2006 as the Year
22 of Study Abroad, raising awareness of the impor-
23 tance of study abroad.

24 (13) To complement such worthwhile Federal
25 programs as the Benjamin A. Gilman International

1 Scholarship Program and the National Security
2 Education Program, a broad-based undergraduate
3 study abroad program is needed that will democ-
4 ratize study abroad and make opportunities of study
5 abroad accessible to all undergraduate students, re-
6 gardless of their field of study, ethnicity, socio-eco-
7 nomic status, or gender.

8 (14) A majority of barriers to study abroad are
9 due to institutional policies at the campus level, ac-
10 cording to a report of the Strategic Task Force on
11 Education Abroad issued by NAFSA: Association of
12 International Educators.

13 (15) To make study abroad an integral part of
14 undergraduate students' education, regardless of
15 field of study, ethnicity, socio-economic status, or
16 gender, institutions of higher education should ad-
17 dress institutional barriers that stand in the way of
18 study abroad.

19 (16) According to the Institute of International
20 Education, the percentages of African-American,
21 Asian-American, and Hispanic-American students
22 among individuals studying abroad are extremely low
23 and underrepresentative of the numbers of those
24 students in the general student population.

1 (17) The majority of students who study
2 abroad are students in the social sciences, human-
3 ities, and foreign languages, while students who
4 major in engineering, mathematics, computer
5 science, or education are underrepresented in study
6 abroad programs. Within the total enrolled United
7 States undergraduate population, approximately
8 10.7 percent of United States students majoring in
9 business have studied abroad, 8 percent of United
10 States students majoring in engineering have studied
11 abroad, and 5.9 percent of United States students
12 majoring in education have studied abroad.

13 (18) Recognizing that the international scope of
14 scientific research in United States institutions of
15 higher education and government facilities is often
16 conducted by foreign-born scientists, the effective-
17 ness of their work will be greatly enhanced by
18 United States researchers who have similarly spent
19 time studying abroad.

20 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act—

21 (1) to encourage not less than 1,000,000 under-
22 graduate students in United States institutions of
23 higher education to study abroad for academic credit
24 within 10 years of the date of enactment of this Act;
25 and

1 (2) to establish an Abraham Lincoln Study
2 Abroad Program that—

3 (A) reflects the demographics of the
4 United States undergraduate population, in-
5 cluding undergraduate students in technical and
6 scientific fields of study;

7 (B) ensures an increasing portion of study
8 abroad takes place in nontraditional study
9 abroad destinations, with a substantial portion
10 of such increases taking place in developing
11 countries; and

12 (C) is accessible by students at diverse
13 types of institutions of higher education, includ-
14 ing 2-year institutions, minority-serving institu-
15 tions, and institutions that serve nontraditional
16 students.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
20 term “institution of higher education” has the
21 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
22 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

23 (2) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
24 term “minority-serving institution” means—

1 (A) a part B institution, as defined in sec-
2 tion 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
3 (20 U.S.C. 1061);

4 (B) a Hispanic-serving institution, as de-
5 fined in section 502(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C.
6 1101a(a)); or

7 (C) another school that traditionally serves
8 a racial or ethnic minority, as determined by
9 the Secretary after consultation with the Sec-
10 retary of Education.

11 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of State.

13 **SEC. 4. ABRAHAM LINCOLN STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to es-
15 tablish and carry out an Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad
16 Program to facilitate the participation of undergraduate
17 students in study abroad for academic credit. The pro-
18 gram shall consist of the following:

19 (1) FELLOWSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STU-
20 DENTS.—

21 (A) FELLOWSHIPS.—From amounts made
22 available under section 5(1), the Secretary shall
23 award fellowships to undergraduate students to
24 enable the students to study abroad for aca-
25 demic credit.

1 (B) DESIGNATION.—Fellowships awarded
2 under this paragraph shall be known as “Lin-
3 coln Fellowships”.

4 (2) GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-
5 CATION.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made
7 available under section 5(2), the Secretary shall
8 award grants to institutions of higher edu-
9 cation—

10 (i) to enable the institutions of higher
11 education to award fellowships to under-
12 graduate students to enable the students
13 to study abroad for academic credit; and

14 (ii) for the reform of academic pro-
15 grams and institutional policies that inhibit
16 participation by students in study abroad.

17 (B) DESIGNATION.—Grants awarded
18 under this paragraph shall be known as “Lin-
19 coln Institutional Leverage Grants”.

20 (C) LIMITATION.—Each institution of
21 higher education that receives a grant under
22 this paragraph shall use not less than 85 per-
23 cent of the grant funds to award fellowships to
24 students under subparagraph (A)(i).

1 (b) FELLOWSHIP AWARD RULES.—The Secretary
2 shall ensure that—

3 (1) fellowships awarded under subsections
4 (a)(1)(A) and (a)(2)(A)(i) reflect the demographics
5 of the United States undergraduate population; and

6 (2) there is an annual increase in the number
7 or percentage of fellowships awarded under sub-
8 sections (a)(1)(A) and (a)(2)(A)(i) for study abroad
9 taking place in nontraditional study abroad destina-
10 tions, with a substantial portion of such increase
11 taking place in developing countries.

12 (c) PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTA-
13 TION.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, con-
14 sult with nonprofit and private organizations with experi-
15 ence in programs involving study abroad for academic
16 credit, in establishing and carrying out the Abraham Lin-
17 coln Study Abroad Program.

18 (d) COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL STUDY
19 ABROAD ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary may integrate the
20 activities assisted under this section with other under-
21 graduate study abroad activities supported by the Depart-
22 ment of State, the Department of Education, and the De-
23 partment of Defense.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
4 2008 and for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years, of
5 which—

6 (1) 25 percent of such sums shall be available
7 to carry out section 4(a)(1) for each fiscal year; and

8 (2) 75 percent of such sums shall be available
9 to carry out section 4(a)(2) for each fiscal year.

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