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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States
and Mexico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CUELLAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To promote economic partnership and cooperation between
the United States and Mexico.

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 “United States-Mexico
5 Economic Partnership Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States and Mexico have bene-
9 fitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partner-

1 ship focused on advancing the economic interests of
2 both countries.

3 (2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy re-
4 forms that opened its energy sector to private invest-
5 ment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico
6 and the United States and opening new opportuni-
7 ties for United States energy engagement.

8 (3) On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy
9 Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Af-
10 fairs at the Department of State stated, “Our ex-
11 change programs build enduring relationships and
12 networks to advance U.S. national interests and for-
13 eign policy goals. . . The role of our exchanges. . .
14 in advancing U.S. national security and economic in-
15 terests enjoys broad bipartisan support from Con-
16 gress and other stakeholders, and provides a strong
17 return on investment.”.

18 (4) According to the Institute of International
19 Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more
20 than 56,000 United States students studied in other
21 countries in the Western Hemisphere region while
22 more than 84,000 non-United States students from
23 the region studied in the United States, but only
24 5,000 of those United States students studied in

1 Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States
2 students were from Mexico.

3 (5) In March 2011, the United States launched
4 the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, which
5 seeks to increase educational exchanges between the
6 United States and other countries in the Western
7 Hemisphere region so that 100,000 United States
8 students are studying in other countries in the West-
9 ern Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United
10 States students from the region are studying in the
11 United States per year by 2020.

12 (6) In January 2014, the United States estab-
13 lished the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innova-
14 tion Fund, which seeks to realize the goals of the
15 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facili-
16 tating a public-private partnership between the De-
17 partment of State and nongovernmental organiza-
18 tions, corporations, and universities in the United
19 States and other countries of the Western Hemi-
20 sphere region.

21 (7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Amer-
22 icas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100
23 grants to more than 250 higher education institu-
24 tions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere
25 region, and has raised \$9,000,000 in investments,

1 75 percent of which was from corporations, founda-
2 tions, and regional governments.

3 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4 It is the policy of the United States—

5 (1) to continue deepening economic cooperation
6 between the United States and Mexico; and

7 (2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational
8 and professional exchange programs with Mexico, in-
9 cluding through the framework of the 100,000
10 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

11 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDU-**
12 **CATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE**
13 **PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.**

14 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall de-
15 velop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section
16 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and
17 professional exchange programs with Mexico through the
18 framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initia-
19 tive.

20 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required under sub-
21 section (a) shall—

22 (1) encourage more academic exchanges be-
23 tween the United States and Mexico at the sec-
24 ondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, es-
25 pecially with communities and through academic in-

1 stitutions in the covered United States-Mexico bor-
2 der region;

3 (2) encourage United States and Mexican aca-
4 ademic institutions and businesses to collaborate to
5 assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in
6 strengthening their business skills and promoting co-
7 operation and joint business initiatives across the
8 United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives
9 in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

10 (3) promote energy infrastructure coordination
11 and cooperation through support of vocational-level
12 education, internships, and exchanges between the
13 United States and Mexico, particularly in the region
14 in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in
15 proximity to such region; and

16 (4) assess the feasibility of fostering partner-
17 ships between universities in the United States and
18 medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to
19 ensure that medical school and nursing programs in
20 Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as
21 medical school and nursing programs in the United
22 States by the Accreditation and Standards in For-
23 eign Medical Education, in addition to the Accredi-
24 tation Commission For Education in Nursing, so
25 that medical students can pass medical licensing

1 board exams, and nursing students can pass nursing
2 licensing exams, in the United States.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
5 submit to Congress a report on the strategy required
6 under subsection (a).

7 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIA-
10 TIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas
11 Initiative” means the initiative established in March
12 2011 by the United States Government to increase
13 educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

14 (2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER
15 REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico
16 border region” means those portions of the United
17 States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of
18 the international boundary between those countries.