

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 4213
OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Young Southeast Asian
3 Leaders Initiative Act” or the “YSEALI Act”.

4 SEC. 2. YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE.

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
6 Department of State the Young Southeast Asian Leaders
7 Initiative (“YSEALI”) program.

8 (b) GOALS.—The YSEALI program shall seek to
9 build to capacity of young leaders in Southeast Asia to—

10 (1) support young leaders from Southeast Asia
11 by offering professional development and a global
12 network to share expertise, including in the areas of
13 civic engagement, economic empowerment and social
14 entrepreneurship, education and environmental
15 issues; and

16 (2) further strengthen the enduring partnership
17 between the United States and Southeast Asia and

1 connect United States experts with YSEALI partici-
2 pants.

3 (c) YSEALI PROGRAMS.—

4 (1) YSEALI ACADEMIC FELLOWS PROGRAM.—

5 There is established the YSEALI Academic Fellows
6 Program to bring students from YSEALI partner
7 countries to the United States for the purposes of
8 building practical expertise, leadership skills, and
9 professional networks relating to one or more of the
10 YSEALI themes. The Secretary of State may award
11 fellowships under the Academic Fellows Program to
12 eligible individuals based on the following:

13 (A) Citizenship and residency in a
14 YSEALI partner country.

15 (B) Status as a full-time undergraduate
16 student, or recent graduate of college, univer-
17 sity, or other institutions of higher learning.

18 (C) Other criteria determined appropriate
19 by the Secretary.

20 (2) YSEALI PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PRO-

21 GRAM.—There is established the YSEALI Profes-
22 sional Fellows Program to bring professionals from
23 YSEALI partner countries to the United States for
24 the purposes of building practical expertise, leader-
25 ship skills, and professional networks relating to one

1 or more of the YSEALI themes. The Secretary of
2 State may award fellowships under the Professional
3 Fellows Program to eligible individuals based on the
4 following:

5 (A) Citizenship and residency in a
6 YSEALI partner country.

7 (B) Status as an emerging leader in gov-
8 ernment, civil society, or the private sector, and
9 demonstrated expertise relating to one or more
10 of the YSEALI themes.

11 (C) Current employment, and two or more
12 years of professional work experience relevant
13 to one or more YSEALI themes.

14 (D) Other criteria determined appropriate
15 by the Secretary.

16 (3) OTHER INITIATIVES.—The Secretary of
17 State may designate other initiatives as YSEALI
18 initiatives under this section if they advance the
19 goals of the YSEALI program as described in sub-
20 section (b).

21 (d) ACTIVITIES.—

22 (1) UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The
23 Secretary of State shall oversee all United States-
24 based activities carried out under the YSEALI pro-
25 gram, including the participation of YSEALI Aca-

1 demic Fellows in a program at a United States uni-
2 versity or college, and the participation of YSEALI
3 Professional Fellows at United States private and
4 public sector organizations for individually tailored
5 work placements. Both fellowships may include site
6 visits, professional networking opportunities, leader-
7 ship training, community service, and organized cul-
8 tural activities, as appropriate.

9 (2) SOUTHEAST ASIA-BASED ACTIVITIES.—The
10 Secretary of State should continue to support over-
11 seas initiatives of the program, including the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (A) Quality leadership training, profes-
14 sional development, and networking opportuni-
15 ties for YSEALI alumni.

16 (B) Reciprocal exchanges for YSEALI
17 Professional Fellows Program's United States
18 professional hosts and interlocutors to support
19 post-United States exchange action plans and
20 other related public diplomacy goals, as appro-
21 priate.

22 (C) Opportunities for networking with
23 YSEALI alumni and professionals and experts
24 who are American and Southeast Asian.

1 (D) The YSEALI Regional Workshop pro-
2 gram, offering networking, mentoring, hands-on
3 training, and the tools necessary to lead com-
4 munities in addressing economic, environ-
5 mental, educational, and civic engagement
6 issues.

7 (E) The YSEALI Seeds for the Future
8 program, providing small, competitive grants to
9 young leaders in Southeast Asia to improve
10 their communities, countries, and the region to-
11 wards one or more of the themes of civic en-
12 gagement, economic empowerment and social
13 entrepreneurship, education, or environmental
14 issues.

15 (F) The YSEALI Academy at Fulbright
16 University Vietnam, offering executive-level
17 seminars for entry to mid-level professionals
18 around the themes of technology and innova-
19 tion, public policy, and entrepreneurship.

20 (G) The YSEALI Women's Leadership
21 Academy Program, enhancing people-to-people
22 ties and engagement with young and emerging
23 leaders by promoting gender equality and ad-
24 vancing the status of women and girls, such as
25 in the public health sector.

1 (3) ALUMNI PLATFORM.—The Secretary of
2 State is authorized to convene current YSEALI par-
3 ticipants and YSEALI alumni through a platform to
4 promote networking opportunities within the
5 YSEALI community.

6 (4) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out this sub-
7 section, United States diplomatic and consular posts,
8 the Secretary of State, and agency external partners
9 managing and implementing the YSEALI pro-
10 gram—

11 (A) shall promote United States policy
12 goals in Southeast Asia by providing tools and
13 resources to help young Southeast Asian leaders
14 develop important skills and connections, in-
15 cluding through online campaigns and public di-
16 plomacy initiatives;

17 (B) shall establish a system for moni-
18 toring, evaluating, and improving the YSEALI
19 program; and

20 (C) may accept financial contributions
21 from foundations, corporations, private donors,
22 program partners, and implementing agency ex-
23 ternal partners intended to foster the goals of
24 the YSEALI program.

25 (e) REPORTS.—

1 (1) STRATEGY.—The Secretary of State shall
2 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
3 a strategy for implementing the YSEALI program,
4 including the following:

5 (A) YSEALI program goals, targets, and
6 planned outcomes for each year and, separately,
7 for the YSEALI program generally during the
8 duration of its implementation.

9 (B) The continuation of YSEALI program
10 monitoring and evaluation plan, including
11 metrics for measuring YSEALI program
12 progress identification of annual YSEALI pro-
13 gram goals, and targets.

14 (C) Recommendations for improvements or
15 amendments to the YSEALI program and
16 strategy, if any, that would improve their effec-
17 tiveness during subsequent years of YSEALI
18 program implementation.

19 (2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
21 nually thereafter for 2 years, the Secretary of State
22 shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
23 mittees and publish on a publicly available website
24 of the Department a report on YSEALI program
25 progress and an assessment of the metrics, goals,

1 targets, and outcomes described in paragraph
2 (1)(A), including information relating to YSEALI
3 program implementation and outcome activities dur-
4 ing the year covered by each report.

5 (3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than the date of
6 the submission of the last report required under
7 paragraph (2), the Secretary of State shall submit
8 to the appropriate congressional committees a final
9 assessment report that evaluates YSEALI program
10 implementation and outcomes during the entire du-
11 ration of YSEALI program operation, including rec-
12 ommendations regarding whether the YSEALI pro-
13 gram should be reauthorized and any changes that
14 would improve its effectiveness.

15 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
17 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
18 mittees” means—

19 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
20 the House of Representatives; and

21 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
22 the Senate.

23 (2) IMPLEMENTING AGENCY EXTERNAL PART-
24 NERS.—The term “implementing agency external
25 partners” means any external partner that is not a

1 United States Government agency, and may include
2 one or more of the following entities:

3 (A) Local or multinational corporations.

4 (B) Nongovernmental organizations.

5 (C) Universities.

6 (D) Regional institutions.

7 (3) YSEALI THEME.—The term “YSEALI
8 theme” means—

9 (A) civic engagement;

10 (B) economic empowerment and social en-
11 trepreneurship;

12 (C) education;

13 (D) environmental issues; or

14 (E) any other theme included by the Sec-
15 retary of State.

16 (4) YSEALI PARTNER COUNTRIES.—The term
17 “YSEALI partner countries” includes each member
18 country of the Association of Southeast Asian Na-
19 tions and each other country or political entity the
20 Secretary of State determines appropriate to include
21 in the programs established under this section.

1 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 Section 411 of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act
3 of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) is amended by striking
4 “2023” and inserting in its place “2025”.

