

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7152

To direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2024

Ms. WEXTON (for herself and Mrs. STEEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and for other purposes.

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 “Divided Families Na-
5 tional Registry Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL REGISTRY OF KOREAN AMERICAN DI-**
7 **VIDED FAMILIES.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, acting
9 through the Special Envoy on North Korean Human

1 Rights Issues or such other individual as the Secretary
2 may designate, shall—

3 (1) identify Korean American families who wish
4 to be reunited with family members in North Korea
5 from which such Korean American families were di-
6 vided after the signing of the Agreement Concerning
7 a Military Armistice in Korea, signed at Panmunjom
8 July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as the “Ko-
9 rean War Armistice Agreement”), in anticipation of
10 future reunions for such families and family mem-
11 bers, including in-person and video reunions; and

12 (2) establish a national registry of the names
13 and other relevant information of such Korean
14 American families—

15 (A) to facilitate such future reunions; and

16 (B) to provide for a repository of informa-
17 tion about such Korean American families and
18 family members in North Korea, including in-
19 formation about individuals who may be de-
20 ceased.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State
23 \$1,000,000 to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 3. ACTIONS TO FACILITATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE**
2 **UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall take
4 such actions as may be necessary to ensure that any direct
5 dialogue between the United States and North Korea in-
6 cludes progress towards holding future reunions for Ko-
7 rean American families and their family members in North
8 Korea as described in section 2.

9 (b) **CONSULTATIONS.**—The Secretary of State shall
10 consult with the Government of the Republic of Korea in
11 carrying out this section.

12 (c) **REPORT.**—No later than one year after enact-
13 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary
14 of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional
15 committees a report on—

16 (1) the status of the national registry estab-
17 lished pursuant to section 2(a)(2);

18 (2) the number of individuals included on the
19 registry who—

20 (A) have met their family members in
21 North Korea during previous reunions; and

22 (B) have yet to meet their family members
23 in North Korea during previous reunions;

24 (3) a summary of responses by North Korea to
25 requests to hold reunions of divided families; and

1 (4) a description of regulations in North Korea
2 and actions taken by North Korea in the year pre-
3 vious to submission of each report that prevent the
4 emigration of family members of Korean American
5 families.

6 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
7 DEFINED.—In this Act, “appropriate congressional com-
8 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
9 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
10 Relations of the Senate.

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