

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1198

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 Education.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 11, 2019

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## 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 Education.

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 “Senator Paul Simon  
5 Study Abroad Program Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) To prepare students for success in the mod-  
2       ern global economy, opportunities for study abroad  
3       should be included as part of a well-rounded edu-  
4       cation.

5           (2) Study abroad programs provide students  
6       with unparalleled access to international knowledge,  
7       an unmatched opportunity to learn foreign lan-  
8       guages, and a unique environment for developing  
9       cultural understanding, all of which are knowledge  
10      and skills needed in today's global economy.

11          (3) Less than 2 percent of all enrolled postsec-  
12      ondary students in the United States study abroad  
13      for credit in any given year, and minority students,  
14      first generation college students, community college  
15      students, and students with disabilities are signifi-  
16      cantly underrepresented in study abroad participa-  
17      tion.

18          (4) Congress authorized the establishment of  
19      the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study  
20      Abroad Fellowship Program pursuant to section 104  
21      of the Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets Act,  
22      2004 (division H of Public Law 108–199). Pursuant  
23      to its mandate, the Lincoln Commission submitted  
24      to Congress and the President a report of its rec-  
25      ommendations for greatly expanding the opportunity

1 for students at institutions of higher education in  
2 the United States to study abroad, with special em-  
3 phasis on studying in developing nations.

4 (5) According to the Lincoln Commission,  
5 “[e]xperience shows that leadership from adminis-  
6 trators and faculty will drive the number of study  
7 abroad participants higher and improve the quality  
8 of programs. Such leadership is the only way that  
9 study abroad will become an integral part of the un-  
10 dergraduate experience.”. A competitive grant pro-  
11 gram is necessary to encourage and support such  
12 leadership.

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

16 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

17 The purposes of this Act are—

18 (1) to ensure that significantly more students  
19 have access to quality study abroad opportunities;

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

24 (3) to encourage greater diversity in study  
25 abroad destinations by increasing the portion of

1 study abroad that takes place in nontraditional  
 2 study abroad destinations, especially in developing  
 3 countries; and

4 (4) to encourage a greater commitment by in-  
 5 stitutions of higher education to expand study  
 6 abroad opportunities.

7 **SEC. 4. SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.**

8 Section 741 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 9 U.S.C. 1138) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (12) and  
 12 (13) as paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively;  
 13 and

14 (B) by inserting after paragraph (11) the  
 15 following:

16 “(12) awarding grants under the Senator Paul  
 17 Simon Study Abroad Program described in sub-  
 18 section (g);”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(g) SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PRO-  
 21 GRAM.—

22 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

23 “(A) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-  
 24 CATION.—The term ‘institution of higher edu-

1 cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-  
2 tion 101(a).

3 “(B) NATIONAL OF THE UNITED  
4 STATES.—The term ‘national of the United  
5 States’ means a national of the United States  
6 or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent res-  
7 idence (as those terms are defined in section  
8 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
9 U.S.C. 1101)).

10 “(C) NONTRADITIONAL STUDY ABROAD  
11 DESTINATION.—The term ‘nontraditional study  
12 abroad destination’ means a location that is de-  
13 termined by the Secretary to be a less common  
14 destination for students who study abroad.

15 “(D) STUDENT.—The term ‘student’  
16 means a national of the United States who is  
17 enrolled at an institution of higher education lo-  
18 cated within the United States.

19 “(E) STUDY ABROAD.—The term ‘study  
20 abroad’ means an educational program of  
21 study, work, research, internship, or combina-  
22 tion thereof that is conducted outside the  
23 United States and that carries academic credit.

24 “(2) SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD  
25 PROGRAM.—

1           “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-  
2           lished in the Department a program to be  
3           called the ‘Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad  
4           Program’.

5           “(B) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the  
6           program established under subparagraph (A)  
7           are, that not later than 10 years after the date  
8           of enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Study  
9           Abroad Program Act of 2019—

10           “(i) not less than 1,000,000 under-  
11           graduate students will study abroad annu-  
12           ally;

13           “(ii) the demographics of study  
14           abroad participation will reflect the demo-  
15           graphics of the United States under-  
16           graduate population by increasing the par-  
17           ticipation of underrepresented groups; and

18           “(iii) an increasing portion of study  
19           abroad will take place in nontraditional  
20           study abroad destinations, with a substan-  
21           tial portion of such increases in developing  
22           countries.

23           “(C) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO INSTITU-  
24           TIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—In order to ac-  
25           complish the objectives set forth in subpara-

graph (B), the Secretary shall award grants on a competitive basis to institutions of higher education, individually or in a consortium, based on applications by the 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 programs have established health and safety guidelines and procedures, informed by Department of State travel advisories and other appropriate Federal agencies and resources, including the Overseas Security Advisory Council, the USA Study Abroad Office of the Department of State, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

1           “(D)     NONGOVERNMENTAL     INSTITU-  
2           TIONS.—Consortia of institutions of higher edu-  
3           cation applying for grants described in subpara-  
4           graph (C) may include nongovernmental institu-  
5           tions that provide and promote study abroad  
6           opportunities for students.

7           “(E) COMMISSION ON THE ABRAHAM LIN-  
8           COLN   STUDY   ABROAD   FELLOWSHIP   PRO-  
9           GRAM.—In administering the program, the Sec-  
10          retary shall take fully into account the rec-  
11          ommendations of the Commission on the Abra-  
12          ham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Pro-  
13          gram, established pursuant to section 104 of  
14          the Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets  
15          Act, 2004 (division H of Public Law 108–199).

16          “(F) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out  
17          this paragraph, the Secretary shall consult with  
18          representatives of diverse institutions of higher  
19          education, educational policy organizations, and  
20          others with appropriate expertise.

21          “(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than Decem-  
22          ber 31 of each year following the date of enactment  
23          of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program  
24          Act of 2019, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-  
25          mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

1 of the Senate and the Committee on Education and  
2 Labor of the House of Representatives a report on  
3 the implementation of this subsection during the  
4 prior fiscal year.

5 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
6 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
7 this subsection such sums as may be necessary for  
8 fiscal year 2020 and each subsequent fiscal year.”.

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