

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 133

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “United States-Mexico  
3 Economic Partnership Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       Congress finds the following:

6           (1) The United States and Mexico have bene-  
7 fitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partner-  
8 ship focused on advancing the economic interests of  
9 both countries.

10          (2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy re-  
11 forms that opened its energy sector to private invest-  
12 ment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico  
13 and the United States and opening new opportuni-  
14 ties for United States energy engagement.

15          (3) On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy  
16 Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Af-  
17 fairs at the Department of State stated, “Our ex-  
18 change programs build enduring relationships and  
19 networks to advance U.S. national interests and for-  
20 eign policy goals . . . The role of our exchanges  
21 . . . in advancing U.S. national security and eco-  
22 nomic interests enjoys broad bipartisan support from  
23 Congress and other stakeholders, and provides a  
24 strong return on investment.”.

25          (4) According to the Institute of International  
26 Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more

1       than 56,000 United States students studied in other  
2       countries in the Western Hemisphere region while  
3       more than 84,000 non-United States students from  
4       the region studied in the United States, but only  
5       5,000 of those United States students studied in  
6       Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States  
7       students were from Mexico.

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

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

1           (7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Amer-  
2       icas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100  
3       grants to more than 250 higher education institu-  
4       tions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere  
5       region, and has raised \$9,000,000 in investments,  
6       75 percent of which was from corporations, founda-  
7       tions, and regional governments.

8   **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

9       It is the policy of the United States—

10           (1) to continue deepening economic cooperation  
11       between the United States and Mexico; and

12           (2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational  
13       and professional exchange programs with Mexico, in-  
14       cluding through the framework of the 100,000  
15       Strong in the Americas Initiative.

16   **SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDU-**  
17                   **CATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE**  
18                   **PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.**

19       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall de-  
20       velop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section  
21       3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and  
22       professional exchange programs with Mexico through the  
23       framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initia-  
24       tive.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-  
2 section (a) shall—

3 (1) encourage more academic exchanges be-  
4 tween the United States and Mexico at the sec-  
5 ondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, es-  
6 pecially with communities and through academic in-  
7 stitutions in the covered United States-Mexico bor-  
8 der region;

9 (2) encourage United States and Mexican aca-  
10 demic institutions and businesses to collaborate to  
11 assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in  
12 strengthening their business skills and promoting co-  
13 operation and joint business initiatives across the  
14 United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives  
15 in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

16 (3) promote energy infrastructure coordination  
17 and cooperation through support of vocational-level  
18 education, internships, and exchanges between the  
19 United States and Mexico, particularly in the region  
20 in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in  
21 proximity to such region; and

22 (4) assess the feasibility of fostering partner-  
23 ships between universities in the United States and  
24 medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to  
25 ensure that medical school and nursing programs in

1 Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as  
2 medical school and nursing programs in the United  
3 States by the Accreditation and Standards in For-  
4 eign Medical Education, in addition to the Accredi-  
5 tation Commission For Education in Nursing, so  
6 that medical students can pass medical licensing  
7 board exams, and nursing students can pass nursing  
8 licensing exams, in the United States.

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

13 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIA-  
16 TIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas  
17 Initiative” means the initiative established in March  
18 2011 by the United States Government to increase  
19 educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

20 (2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER  
21 REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico  
22 border region” means those portions of the United

- 1 States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of
- 2 the international boundary between those countries.

Passed the House of Representatives January 10,  
2019.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session

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