

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 1st Sess.

H. R. 133

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

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Mr. MENENDEZ

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

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-
10 ship focused on advancing the economic interests of
11 both countries.

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

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

16 (4) According to the Institute of International
17 Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more
18 than 56,000 United States students studied in other
19 countries in the Western Hemisphere region while
20 more than 84,000 non-United States students from
21 the region studied in the United States, but only
22 5,000 of those United States students studied in
23 Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States
24 students were from Mexico.

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

2 It is the policy of the United States—

3 (1) to continue deepening economic cooperation
4 between the United States and Mexico;

5 (2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational
6 and professional exchange programs with Mexico, in-
7 cluding through frameworks such as the 100,000
8 Strong in the Americas Initiative, the Young Lead-
9 ers of the Americas Initiative, Jóvenes en Acción
10 (Youth in Action), the Fulbright Foreign Student
11 Program, and the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Pro-
12 gram; and

13 (3) to promote positive cross-border relations as
14 a priority for advancing United States foreign policy
15 and programs.

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
23 frameworks such as those referred to in section 3(2).

24 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-
25 section (a) shall—

1 (1) encourage more academic exchanges be-
2 tween the United States and Mexico at the sec-
3 ondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels;

4 (2) encourage United States and Mexican aca-
5 demic institutions and businesses to collaborate to
6 assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in
7 strengthening their business skills and promoting co-
8 operation and joint business initiatives across the
9 United States and Mexico;

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; and

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

1 (c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
3 shall brief the appropriate congressional committees re-
4 garding the strategy required under subsection (a).

5 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means—

8 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
9 Senate; and

10 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
11 House of Representatives.

12 **SEC. 6. SUNSET PROVISION.**

13 This Act shall remain in effect until December 31,
14 2023.