AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2583

OFFERED BY MS. SCHWARTZ OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of title VIII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 8___. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE BUREAU OF EDU-**
2 **CATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS.**
3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
4 (1) The Bureau of Educational and Cultural
5 Affairs of the Department of State engages stu-
6 dents, educators and rising leaders in more than 160
7 countries through academic, cultural, sports, and
8 professional exchanges.
9 (2) These robust and effective international
10 education, cultural exchange and leadership develop-
11 ment programs strengthen our relationships with
12 foreign partners that in turn benefit our economy
13 and our national security.
14 (3) The Department of State's Competitive
15 Grants Program within the Bureau of Educational
16 and Cultural Affairs' Exchange critically supports
17 academic, cultural and professional exchange and
18 training programs that seek mutual understanding
19 and the free exchange of ideas between the people of
20 the United States and the people of other countries.

1 (4) Broadening our understanding of other cul-
2 tures, languages, foreign governments, and econo-
3 mies makes us stronger as a country.
4 (5) As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton noted
5 in February 2011, "There is nothing that is more
6 effective than having people break down barriers
7 [through exchange]."
8 (6) The Bureau of Educational and Cultural
9 Affairs' focus on global education, women, youth,
10 underserved audiences and the formation of critical
11 global communities, as well as its concentration on
12 countries of strategic importance, such as Afghani-
13 stan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Indonesia, serve the inter-
14 ests of the United States around the world.
15 (7) Alumni outreach engages thousands of Bu-
16 reau Educational and Cultural Affairs alumni
17 around the world and assures a strong return on in-
18 vestment.
19 (8) The Bureau of Educational and Cultural
20 Affairs alumni encompass over one million people
21 around the world, including more than 50 Nobel
22 Laureates and over 350 current and former heads of
23 state and government.
24 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
25 gress that the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

of the Department of State fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries to promote friendly and peaceful relations as mandated by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.