

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1567
OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

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

1 networks to advance U.S. national interests and for-
2 eign policy goals. . . The role of our exchanges. . .
3 in advancing U.S. national security and economic in-
4 terests enjoys broad bipartisan support from Con-
5 gress and other stakeholders, and provides a strong
6 return on investment.”.

7 (4) According to the Institute of International
8 Education, in the 2015-2016 academic year, more
9 than 56,000 United States students studied in other
10 countries in the Western Hemisphere region while
11 more than 84,000 non-United States students from
12 the region studied in the United States, but only
13 5,000 of those United States students studied in
14 Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States
15 students were from Mexico.

16 (5) In March 2011, the United States launched
17 the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, which
18 seeks to increase educational exchanges between the
19 United States and other countries in the Western
20 Hemisphere region so that 100,000 United States
21 students are studying in other countries in the West-
22 ern Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United
23 States students from the region are studying in the
24 United States per year by 2020.

1 (6) In January 2014, the United States estab-
2 lished the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innova-
3 tion Fund, which seeks to realize the goals of the
4 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facili-
5 tating a public-private partnership between the De-
6 partment of State and nongovernmental organiza-
7 tions, corporations, and universities in the United
8 States and other countries of the Western Hemi-
9 sphere region.

10 (7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Amer-
11 icas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100
12 grants to more than 250 higher education institu-
13 tions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere
14 region, and has raised \$9,000,000 in investments,
15 75 percent of which was from corporations, founda-
16 tions, and regional governments.

17 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

18 It is the policy of the United States—

19 (1) to continue deepening economic cooperation
20 between the United States and Mexico; and

21 (2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational
22 and professional exchange programs with Mexico, in-
23 cluding through the framework of the 100,000
24 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

1 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDU-**
2 **CATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE**
3 **PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall de-
5 velop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section
6 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and
7 professional exchange programs with Mexico through the
8 framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initia-
9 tive.

10 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-
11 section (a) shall—

12 (1) encourage more academic exchanges be-
13 tween the United States and Mexico at the sec-
14 ondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, es-
15 pecially with communities and through academic in-
16 stitutions in the covered United States-Mexico bor-
17 der region;

18 (2) encourage United States and Mexican aca-
19 demic institutions and businesses to collaborate to
20 assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in
21 strengthening their business skills and promoting co-
22 operation and joint business initiatives across the
23 United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives
24 in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

25 (3) promote energy infrastructure coordination
26 and cooperation through support of vocational-level

1 education, internships, and exchanges between the
2 United States and Mexico, particularly in the region
3 in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in
4 proximity to such region; and

5 (4) assess the feasibility of fostering partner-
6 ships between universities in the United States and
7 medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to
8 ensure that medical school and nursing programs in
9 Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as
10 medical school and nursing programs in the United
11 States by the Accreditation and Standards in For-
12 eign Medical Education, in addition to the Accredi-
13 tation Commission For Education in Nursing, so
14 that medical students can pass medical licensing
15 board exams, and nursing students can pass nursing
16 licensing exams, in the United States.

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

21 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIA-
24 TIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas
25 Initiative” means the initiative established in March

1 2011 by the United States Government to increase
2 educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

3 (2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER
4 REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico
5 border region” means those portions of the United
6 States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of
7 the international boundary between those countries.

