

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 430

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas citizen-to-citizen exchanges offer unique opportunities for learning from one another about commonly-shared solutions to problems, as well as different perspectives on forms of government and the aspirations other nations have for their citizens;

Whereas the American Council of Young Political Leaders (hereinafter referred to as the “ACYPL”) was incor-

porated on September 1, 1966, by young leaders to open lines of communication and increase cross cultural understanding among future generations of political leadership;

Whereas ACYPL prepares in-depth study tours for young leaders, aged between 25 and 40 years old, to give them much-needed international exposure early in their political careers;

Whereas ACYPL targets young politicians likely to assume future positions of responsibility and leadership as Federal and State legislators, mayors, city council members and other State and local elected officials, many of whom may not have previously traveled outside the United States;

Whereas ACYPL programs are strictly bipartisan: American delegates are drawn equally from both major political parties and from all 50 States; ACYPL's overseas delegations are chosen to represent the political and cultural diversity of their home countries;

Whereas every dollar ACYPL receives in Federal funding becomes about another dollar and fifty cents through cost-share, in-kind contributions and outside fundraising, making this program one of the most cost effective public diplomacy programs supported by the United States Department of State;

Whereas the ACYPL's operations have evolved from its initial focus on Western Europe where there was limited interaction between the emerging leadership in the post-World War II nations and the United States to meet the challenges and to embrace public diplomacy opportunities in a changing world;

Whereas in the ensuing decades, the ACYPL's programs have extended to 90 nations in all regions of the world, including the Middle East, sub-Sahara Africa, the Western Hemisphere, East Asia, and the Pacific Rim;

Whereas ACYPL became one of the very few organizations with which the Soviet Union agreed to conduct political exchanges during the height of the Cold War, and ACYPL launched an exchange relationship between young political leaders in the United States and China following normalization of relations in 1979;

Whereas ACYPL exchange programs have endured during times of government-to-government strain, such as with China during the hostilities in Tiananmen Square and the Hainan Island incident, with the Soviets during their war in Afghanistan, and with Venezuela today;

Whereas ACYPL maintains its legacy of exchanging with recent post-conflict nations and assembling young leaders from places that have experienced bitter conflict, including Vietnam, Northern Ireland, Pakistan and India, Israel and the West Bank, and Greece and Turkey;

Whereas since 1966, the ACYPL has produced a global network of more than six thousand alumni, a large number of whom have risen to positions of great influence in the United States and in nations around the world;

Whereas prominent American ACYPL alumni include members of the United States Congress, cabinet members, governors, United States ambassadors, and many senior level national, State, and local executive and legislative branch officials;

Whereas distinguished international ACYPL alumni include prime ministers, cabinet members, ambassadors and parliamentarians; and

Whereas ACYPL looks to the future in an increasingly uncertain world, and remains steadfast in its mission to promote understanding and cultivate lasting political, economic and cultural relationships among young political leaders and policy-makers worldwide through the regular exchange of delegations, educational forums, leadership training and ongoing dialogue: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) Congress commends the American Council
4 of Young Political Leaders for working for forty
5 years to prepare young political leaders to play a
6 leadership role in international relations and world
7 affairs;

8 (2) Congress congratulates the American Coun-
9 cil of Young Political Leaders for exemplifying a
10 stellar example of public diplomacy that works; and

11 (3) Congress salutes the American Council of
12 Young Political Leaders for being a preeminent cat-

1 alyst for introducing rising political leaders and pol-
2 icy makers to international affairs and to each other.

Passed the House of Representatives September 25,
2006.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Recognizing the accomplishments of the American Council of Young Political Leaders for providing 40 years of international exchange programs, increasing international dialogue, and enhancing global understanding, and commemorating its 40th anniversary.