

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 3909

To authorize the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative focusing on peace and nonviolence in global conflict resolution, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 2, 2017

Mr. Lewis of Georgia introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative focusing on peace and nonviolence in global conflict resolution, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Gandhi-King Scholarly
- 5 Exchange Initiative Act of 2017".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds the following:
- 8 (1) Mohandas (Mahatma) Karamchand Gandhi
- 9 and Martin Luther King, Jr., were dedicated leaders
- of peace, civil rights, social justice, and social change

- in their respective communities and countries and in the world.
- 3 (2) Mahatma Gandhi, who was born on October 4 2, 1869, was murdered on January 30, 1948, after 5 dedicating his life to the peaceful empowerment of 6 the people of India and to their liberation from Brit-7 ish occupation.
 - (3) Martin Luther King, Jr., who was born on January 15, 1929, was murdered on April 4, 1968, after a life dedicated to peaceful movements against segregation, discrimination, racial injustice, and poverty.
 - (4) On August 22, 2011, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial opened to the public in Washington, DC. This newest memorial on the National Mall pays tribute to Dr. King's national and international contributions to world peace through nonviolent social change.
 - (5) Mahatma Gandhi, who employed the principle of satyagraha, or nonviolent resistance, has come to represent the moral force inspiring many civil and social rights movements around the world.
 - (6) King's effective use of Gandhian principles was instrumental to the American civil rights movement.

- 1 (7) In February 2009, a congressional delega2 tion traveled to India to commemorate the 50th an3 niversary of the pilgrimage of Martin Luther King,
 4 Jr., and his wife, Coretta Scott King, to that coun5 try in 1959, and to study Gandhi's life and work,
 6 highlighting the need for further progress in peace7 ful conflict resolution and combating poverty.
- 8 (8) According to the 2017 Global Peace Index 9 prepared by the Institute for Economics and Peace, 10 the economic impact of violence on the global econ-11 omy in 2016 was \$14.3 trillion, which equals 12.6 12 percent of the world's gross domestic product.

13 SEC. 3. GANDHI-KING SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE INITIATIVE.

- (a) Initiative Established.—The Secretary of State is authorized to carry out, in cooperation with the appropriate representatives of the Government of India, an initiative to be known as the "Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative". The initiative shall be comprised of educational, scholarly, and professional exchange programs, including the following:
- 21 (1) An annual public diplomacy forum for 22 scholars from the United States and India that fo-23 cuses on the legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Mar-24 tin Luther King, Jr., which shall—

1	(A) be held alternately in the United
2	States and in India;
3	(B) include representatives from govern-
4	ments, nongovernmental organizations, edu-
5	cational institutions, cultural organizations, and
6	civic organizations; and
7	(C) focus on studying the work of Gandhi
8	and King, and applying their philosophies to
9	current issues, including the status of poverty,
10	conflict, human rights, civil rights, peace, non-
11	violence, and democracy in the United States
12	and India.
13	(2) A professional development training initia-
14	tive for government employees to develop inter-
15	national conflict solutions based on the principles of
16	nonviolence developed in consultation with the presi-
17	dent and chief executive officer of the United States
18	Institute of Peace, the Under Secretary for Public
19	Diplomacy and Public Affairs of the Department of
20	State, and United States cooperating partners,
21	which shall—
22	(A) target Federal, State, and local gov-
23	ernment employees in countries with ongoing
24	political, social, ethnic, or violent conflict;

1	(B) include a specific focus on the success
2	of nonviolent movements in conflict resolution;
3	(C) develop a curriculum for teaching con-
4	flict resolution and make such curriculum avail-
5	able to participating government employees; and
6	(D) be made publically available through a
7	variety of media.
8	(3) An undergraduate, graduate, and post-grad-
9	uate student exchange for students to—
10	(A) study the history and legacies of Mar-
11	tin Luther King, Jr., and Mahatma Gandhi;
12	(B) visit historic sites in India and the
13	United States that were integral to the Amer-
14	ican civil rights movement and the Indian inde-
15	pendence movement; and
16	(C) research and develop papers on the im-
17	portance of peace, nonviolence, and reconcili-
18	ation in current conflict regions.
19	(b) United States Cooperating Partners De-
20	FINED.—The term "United States cooperating partners"
21	means—
22	(1) an institution of higher education (as such
23	term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Edu-
24	cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))), including,
25	to the maximum extent practicable, a historically

- 1 Black college or university that is a part B institu-
- 2 tion (as such term is defined in section 322(2) of
- 3 such Act (20 U.S.C. 1061(2))) or a Hispanic-serving
- 4 institution (as such term is defined in section
- 5 502(a)(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5)));
- 6 (2) a combination of institutions of higher edu-
- 7 cation (as such term is defined in section 103(2) of
- 8 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
- 9 1003(2));
- 10 (3) a nongovernmental organization incor-
- porated in the United States; or
- 12 (4) a consortium consisting of two or more such
- institutions of higher education, higher education as-
- sociations, or nongovernmental organizations.

15 SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

- 16 (a) Initial Report.—Not later than 120 days after
- 17 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
- 18 State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs
- 19 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of
- 20 Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations
- 21 and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a re-
- 22 port on the Secretary's plan to carry out the initiative au-
- 23 thorized under section 3.
- 24 (b) Periodic Updates.—Upon the request of the
- 25 committees referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of

- 1 State shall submit to such committees an update on the
- 2 Secretary's progress in implementing the plan referred to
- 3 in such subsection.

4 SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- 5 To carry out this Act, there are authorized to be ap-
- 6 propriated to the Secretary of State such sums as may
- 7 be necessary for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2023.
- 8 Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of
- 9 appropriations under this section are in addition to
- 10 amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

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