House Approves Study Abroad Legislation

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act, named for the late Illinois Democrat who was a champion of overseas study, as part of a broader measure dealing with foreign policy - the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 (H.R. 2410). The legislation is intended to expand the number of American students studying overseas to one million within a decade.

The bill would create an independent government entity and would authorize $80 million in grants to individual students, colleges, and nongovernmental institutions that provide study abroad opportunities.

The measure will now be taken up by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for a vote. The Senate version of the Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act (S.473) was introduced by Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) earlier this year.

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