

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6480

To authorize grants for nongovernmental organizations that use independently produced documentary films to promote better understanding of the United States abroad and better understanding of global perspectives and other countries in the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2008

Ms. WATSON (for herself and Mr. BERMAN) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize grants for nongovernmental organizations that use independently produced documentary films to promote better understanding of the United States abroad and better understanding of global perspectives and other countries in the United States.

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 “International Docu-  
5       mentary Exchange Act of 2008”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Since September 11, 2001, a distorted per-  
2           ception of the United States has grown abroad, even  
3           as many Americans struggle to understand the in-  
4           creasingly complex world beyond the borders of the  
5           United States.

6           (2) This public diplomacy crisis poses an ongo-  
7           ing threat to United States security, diplomatic rela-  
8           tions, commerce, and citizen-to-citizen relationships  
9           between the United States and other countries.

10          (3) Independently produced documentary films  
11          have proven to be an effective means of commu-  
12          nicating United States ideas and values to popu-  
13          lations of other countries.

14          (4) It is in the interest of the United States to  
15          provide assistance to United States nongovernmental  
16          organizations that produce and distribute independ-  
17          ently produced documentary films.

18 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY EX-**  
19 **CHANGE PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE BETTER**  
20 **UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED STATES**  
21 **ABROAD AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF**  
22 **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES AND OTHER COUN-**  
23 **TRIES IN THE UNITED STATES.**

24          (a) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State is author-  
25          ized to make grants, on such terms and conditions as the

1 Secretary may determine, to United States nongovern-  
2 mental organizations that use independently produced  
3 documentary films to promote better understanding of the  
4 United States abroad and better understanding of global  
5 perspectives and other countries in the United States.

6 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Grants provided under  
7 subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent practicable,  
8 be used to carry out the following activities:

9 (1) Fund, distribute, and promote accessible,  
10 compelling, and credible documentary films that con-  
11 vey a diversity of views about life in the United  
12 States to foreign audiences and bring insightful for-  
13 eign perspectives to United States audiences.

14 (2) Support documentaries described in para-  
15 graph (1) that are made by independent foreign and  
16 domestic producers, selected through a peer review  
17 process.

18 (3) Develop a network of overseas partners to  
19 produce, distribute, and broadcast such documen-  
20 taries.

21 (c) SPECIAL FACTORS.—In making the grants de-  
22 scribed in subsection (a), the Secretary shall give pref-  
23 erence to nongovernmental organizations that—

1           (1) provide at least 35 percent of the total  
2 project cost in matching funds from non-Federal  
3 sources; and

4           (2) have prior experience supporting independ-  
5 ently produced documentary films that have been  
6 broadcast on public television in the United States.

7           (d) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date  
8 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
9 to Congress a report that contains a detailed description  
10 of the implementation of this section for the prior year.

11           (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
13 appropriated to the Secretary of State \$5,000,000  
14 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 to carry  
15 out this section.

16           (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-  
17 suant to the authorization of appropriations under  
18 paragraph (1) are authorized to remain available  
19 until expended.

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