

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 257

To provide for United States participation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2015

Ms. LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for United States participation in the Inter-
Parliamentary Union, 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. UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE INTER-**

4 **PARLIAMENTARY UNION.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),
7 founded in 1889, is the world organization of na-
8 tional parliaments comprising over 160 parliaments
9 (including all the major allies of the United States)

1 and working closely with the regional parliamentary
2 organizations on all continents.

3 (2) The core mission of the IPU is the pro-
4 motion of parliamentary democracy, the elaboration
5 of standards and criteria for democratic parliamen-
6 tary practice, the protection of human rights, the
7 political empowerment of women, and greater trans-
8 parency and accountability at the global level, which
9 are in line with United States interests and prior-
10 ities.

11 (3) Congress was a founding member of the
12 IPU, and played an active and prominent role for
13 many decades.

14 (4) The main concerns of Congress, including
15 the scheduling of main Assembly and arrears, have
16 been fully addressed by the IPU.

17 (5) Through the activities of the IPU, the
18 United States can usefully promote its core values of
19 freedom, democracy, and human rights, and help
20 build stronger parliaments around the world.

21 (b) UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE INTER-
22 PARLIAMENTARY UNION.—Notwithstanding section 2503
23 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of
24 1998 (division G of Public Law 105–277)—

25 (1) the Secretary of State is authorized——

1 (A) to facilitate the readmission and par-
2 ticipation of the United States in the Inter-Par-
3 liamentary Union; and

4 (B) to pay expenses to meet the annual ob-
5 ligations of membership in the Inter-Parliamen-
6 tary Union, in accordance with the assessments
7 determined by the Governing Council; and

8 (2) the majority leader of the Senate, in con-
9 sultation with the minority leader of the Senate, and
10 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in con-
11 sultation with the minority leader of the House of
12 Representatives, are authorized to designate Mem-
13 bers of Congress to serve as delegates to the Assem-
14 bly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

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