



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

WHEREAS, preparing American citizens with global skills and educating international students are crucial investments in United States leadership and security, and

WHEREAS, encouraging international study is an important way to share U.S. values and to create goodwill between the United States and the rest of the world, and

WHEREAS, attracting the world's most talented students and scholars to campuses and research institutions across the United States will contribute significantly to the leadership, competitiveness, and security of the United States, and

WHEREAS, added security measures have had the unintended effect of weakening the United States' position as the leading destination of international students seeking higher educational and other exchange opportunities, and

WHEREAS, 582,948 international students enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities in the 2006/2007 academic year and, along with their dependents, they contributed \$14.5 billion to the U.S. economy, and

WHEREAS, the overall number of international students enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions declined in academic years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 and remained constant in academic year 2005-2006, yet the overall total still remains below the peak level achieved in 2002-2003, and

WHEREAS, in that same time period from 2003-2006, international student enrollments increased significantly in other nations: by more than 80,000 in the United Kingdom, more than 50,000 in Australia and France, and more than 20,000 in Germany and Japan, and

WHEREAS, according to the Institute of International Education, 223,534 U.S. students studied abroad for academic credit, which is less than ten percent of U.S. college graduates overall, and

WHEREAS, research indicates that the United States is failing to generate enough students with expertise in foreign languages and cultures to fill demands of business, government, and universities, and

WHEREAS, heightened cultural awareness is critical to national interests and is a critical component of foreign policy, and U.S. colleges and universities play a key role in developing foreign language and foreign area studies, and

WHEREAS, the economies of the 50 states are inextricably tied to the rest of the world, and state economic development depends upon a deliberate state-level strategic development plan that includes recognition of the role of international education in all its facets, and

WHEREAS, the United States requires a national international education policy to guide efforts to promote U.S. interests through international education and exchange, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Lieutenant Governors Association urges the presidential candidates from both parties to outline their plans for a national policy on international education to foster mutual understanding and respect among nations, further U.S. foreign policy and national security, and enhance U.S. leadership in the world, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLGA calls on state governments to consider establishing or support existing task forces, commissions or other committees dedicated to enhancing international education at the state level via increased study abroad by U.S. students and increased international student enrollment at colleges and universities in each state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent by the NLGA to the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the U.S. Senate, and that NLGA make all state elected officials aware of passage of the resolution through a notice in StateNews magazine, and that NLGA further post the text of the resolution to its web page making the resolution available at all times for all NLGA members, state elected officials, to the presidential candidates from both parties, and other interested parties.

Sponsored by: Lt. Governor Brian Dubie, Vermont

Co-sponsored by: Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton, Wisconsin

Lt. Governor Catherine Baker Knoll, Pennsylvania

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Illinois

Lt. Governor Jack Dalrymple

Lt. Governor Gary Herbert, Utah

Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, CNMI

Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson, Kansas

Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, Montana

Lt. Governor Brian Krolikci, Nevada