

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1273

To direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself, Mrs. KIM, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, 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 “Korean American Di-
5 vided Families National Registry Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL REGISTRY OF KOREAN AMERICAN DI-**
2 **VIDED FAMILIES.**

3 The Secretary of State, acting through the Special
4 Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues or such
5 other individual as the Secretary may designate, shall—

6 (1) collate information on Korean American
7 families who wish to be reunited with family mem-
8 bers in North Korea from which such Korean Amer-
9 ican families were divided after the signing of the
10 Agreement Concerning a Military Armistice in
11 Korea, signed at Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (com-
12 monly referred to as the “Korean War Armistice
13 Agreement”), in anticipation of future reunions for
14 such families and family members, including in-per-
15 son and video reunions; and

16 (2) establish a private internal national registry
17 of the names and other relevant information of such
18 Korean American families—

19 (A) to host such future reunions in South
20 Korea, the United States, or third countries;
21 and

22 (B) to provide for a private internal reposi-
23 tory of information about such Korean Amer-
24 ican families and family members in North
25 Korea, including information about individuals
26 who may be deceased.

1 **SEC. 3. ACTIONS TO FACILITATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE**
2 **UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall take
4 such actions as may be necessary to ensure that any direct
5 dialogue between the United States and North Korea in-
6 cludes progress towards holding future reunions for Ko-
7 rean American families and their family members in North
8 Korea as described in section 2.

9 (b) CONSULTATIONS.—The Secretary of State shall
10 consult with the Government of the Republic of Korea in
11 carrying out this section.

12 (c) REPORT.—No later than one year after enact-
13 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the
14 Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congres-
15 sional committees a report on—

16 (1) the status of the national registry estab-
17 lished pursuant to section 2(a)(2);

18 (2) the number of individuals included on the
19 registry who—

20 (A) have met their family members in
21 North Korea during previous reunions; and

22 (B) have yet to meet their family members
23 in North Korea during previous reunions;

24 (3) a summary of responses by North Korea to
25 requests to hold reunions of divided families; and

1 (4) a description of regulations in North Korea
2 and actions taken by North Korea in the year pre-
3 vious to submission of each report that prevent the
4 emigration of family members of Korean American
5 families.

6 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
7 DEFINED.—In this Act, “appropriate congressional com-
8 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
9 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
10 Relations of the Senate.

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