

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 8139

To establish a new charter for the Congressional Office for International Leadership.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2026

Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself and Mrs. BICE) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To establish a new charter for the Congressional Office for International Leadership.

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 “Congressional Office  
5 for International Leadership Accountability and Reform  
6 Act of 2026”.

7 **SEC. 2. REFORM OF CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTER-**  
8 **NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CHARTER.**

9 Section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations  
10 Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 313 CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL**  
2 **LEADERSHIP.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
4 legislative branch of the Government an office known as  
5 the ‘Congressional Office for International Leadership’ (in  
6 this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

7 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Office is to sup-  
8 port the Congress in a nonpartisan manner with core mis-  
9 sions—

10 “(1) to foster connections between the Congress  
11 and emerging political, civic, and professional lead-  
12 ers of eligible foreign states by administering ex-  
13 change programs to help the leaders build lasting re-  
14 lationships with the Congress and American commu-  
15 nities; and

16 “(2) to serve as a bridge between the Congress  
17 and emerging political, civic, and professional lead-  
18 ers of eligible foreign states by facilitating direct  
19 dialogue on American foreign policy, legislative de-  
20 velopments, and key policy issues through grassroots  
21 diplomacy.

22 “(c) BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—

23 “(1) COMPOSITION.—The Office shall be sub-  
24 ject to the supervision and direction of a Board of  
25 Trustees (in this section referred to as the ‘Board’)  
26 composed of the following 12 members:

1           “(A) Two Members of the House of Rep-  
2           resentatives appointed by the Speaker, one of  
3           whom shall be designated by the Majority Lead-  
4           er of the House of Representatives and one of  
5           whom shall be designated by the Minority Lead-  
6           er of the House of Representatives.

7           “(B) Two Senators appointed by the Presi-  
8           dent pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom  
9           shall be designated by the Majority Leader of  
10          the Senate and one of whom shall be designated  
11          by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

12          “(C) The chairman and ranking minority  
13          member of the Committee on House Adminis-  
14          tration of the House of Representatives.

15          “(D) The chairman and ranking minority  
16          member of the Committee on Rules and Admin-  
17          istration of the Senate.

18          “(E) Four private individuals, with inter-  
19          ests in improving relations between the United  
20          States and eligible foreign states, who shall be  
21          appointed by the Executive Director of the Of-  
22          fice, with the approval of the chairman of the  
23          Committee on House Administration of the  
24          House of Representatives and the chairman of  
25          the Committee on Rules and Administration of

1           the Senate, without regard to civil service laws  
2           and political affiliation.

3           “(2) TERM.—Each member appointed under  
4           subparagraph (A), (B), or (E) of paragraph (1)  
5           shall serve a renewable term of 3 years.

6           “(3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members ap-  
7           pointed to the Board shall constitute a quorum.

8           “(4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy with respect to a  
9           member, other than a member appointed under sub-  
10          paragraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (1), shall be  
11          filled in the same manner as the original appoint-  
12          ment, and the individual so appointed shall serve for  
13          the remainder of the term.

14          “(5) EXPENSES.—The members of the Board  
15          shall serve without pay, but each member shall be  
16          entitled to reimbursement for travel, subsistence,  
17          and other necessary expenses incurred in the per-  
18          formance of the duties of the Board, in accordance  
19          with chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

20          “(d) ELIGIBLE FOREIGN STATES.—

21                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall decide  
22                 from time to time on the designation of a country  
23                 as an ‘eligible foreign state’ or the removal of such  
24                 designation.

1           “(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2           TEES.—The Board shall provide written notice to  
3           the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch of the  
4           Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
5           resentatives and the Subcommittee on Legislative  
6           Branch of the Committee on Appropriations of the  
7           Senate of a decision under paragraph (1) not later  
8           than 90 days before the decision takes effect.

9           “(e) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be an Execu-  
11           tive Director of the Office who shall be the chief ex-  
12           ecutive officer of the Office and who shall carry out  
13           the functions of the Office, subject to the supervision  
14           and direction of the Board, without political or par-  
15           tisan bias.

16           “(2) APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL.—The House  
17           and Senate leadership shall appoint, and may re-  
18           move, the Executive Director of the Office, without  
19           regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis  
20           of fitness to perform the duties of the Executive Di-  
21           rector, only on the recommendation of the appoint-  
22           ment or removal by the members of the Board de-  
23           scribed in subparagraphs (C) and (D) of subsection  
24           (c)(1).

1           “(3) TERM.—The Executive Director of the Of-  
2           fice shall serve a renewable term of 6 years, to begin  
3           from the date of the appointment of the Executive  
4           Director.

5           “(4) PAY.—The Executive Director of the Of-  
6           fice shall receive compensation at the annual rate  
7           specified by the Board, which may not exceed level  
8           III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of  
9           title 5, United States Code.

10          “(5) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—The Executive Di-  
11          rector of the Office shall appoint a Deputy Director,  
12          without regard to political affiliation and solely on  
13          the basis of fitness to perform the duties of the of-  
14          fice, who shall act as the Executive Director during  
15          the absence or incapacity of the Executive Director  
16          or a vacancy in the office of the Executive Director  
17          and perform such other duties assigned to the Dep-  
18          uty Director by the Executive Director, but the  
19          House and Senate leadership may appoint the Dep-  
20          uty Director, on the recommendation of the appoint-  
21          ment by members of the Board described in sub-  
22          paragraphs (C) and (D) of subsection (c)(1), if a va-  
23          cancy arises with respect to the office of the Deputy  
24          Director and more than 120 days have elapsed  
25          since—

1           “(A) the initial appointment of the Execu-  
2           tive Director of the Office; and

3           “(B) the creation of the vacancy.

4           “(6) HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERSHIP DE-  
5           FINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘House and  
6           Senate leadership’ means the following:

7           “(A) The Speaker of the House of Rep-  
8           resentatives.

9           “(B) The Minority Leader of the House of  
10          Representatives.

11          “(C) The Majority Leader of the Senate.

12          “(D) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

13          “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

14          “(1) PERSONNEL.—The Executive Director of  
15          the Office may appoint and fix the compensation of  
16          such personnel as may be necessary to carry out the  
17          functions of the Office, except that in no case shall  
18          employees other than the Executive Director be com-  
19          pensated at a rate to exceed the maximum rate for  
20          employees in grade GS–15 of the General Schedule  
21          under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code.

22          “(2) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Exec-  
23          utive Director of the Office may procure temporary  
24          and intermittent services of experts and consultants  
25          as are necessary to the extent authorized by section

1 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not  
2 to exceed the rate specified at the time of such serv-  
3 ice for level IV of the Executive Schedule under sec-  
4 tion 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

5 “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Executive Director  
6 of the Office may prescribe such regulations as the  
7 Executive Director considers necessary governing the  
8 manner in which the functions of the Office shall be  
9 carried out.

10 “(4) RECEIVING AND USING GIFTS.—The Exec-  
11 utive Director of the Office may solicit and receive  
12 money and other property donated, bequeathed, or  
13 devised to the Office, without condition or restriction  
14 other than the money or other property to be used  
15 for the purposes of the Office, and to use, sell, or  
16 otherwise dispose of such property for the purpose  
17 of carrying out the functions of the Office.

18 “(5) NONCOMPENSATED PERSONNEL.—The Ex-  
19 ecutive Director of the Office may accept and utilize  
20 the services of voluntary and noncompensated per-  
21 sonnel and reimburse such personnel for expenses in  
22 accordance with chapter 57 of title 5, United States  
23 Code.

24 “(6) CONTRACTS.—The Executive Director of  
25 the Office may enter into contracts, grants, or other

1 arrangements to carry out the provisions of this sec-  
2 tion, and the Executive Director may enter into such  
3 contracts, grants, or other arrangements without  
4 performance or other bonds or without regard to  
5 section 6101 of title 41, United States Code, with  
6 the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the  
7 Board.

8 “(7) OFFICIAL EXPENSES.—The Executive Di-  
9 rector of the Office may make expenditures for—

10 “(A) official reception and representation  
11 expenses; and

12 “(B) expenditures for meals, entertain-  
13 ment, and refreshments in connection with offi-  
14 cial training sessions or other programs or ac-  
15 tivities conducted by the Office.

16 “(8) ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES.—The  
17 Executive Director of the Office may apply for, re-  
18 ceive, and use for the purposes of the Office grants  
19 or other assistance from Federal sources.

20 “(9) NECESSARY EXPENDITURES.—The Execu-  
21 tive Director of the Office may make other necessary  
22 expenditures.

23 “(10) NONPARTISAN SERVICE.—The personnel  
24 of the Office shall carry out the duties and respon-

1 sibilities with respect to the Office without partisan  
2 bias.

3 “(11) REPORTING OF FINANCES.—For each fis-  
4 cal year, the Executive Director of the Office shall—

5 “(A) prepare an audited financial state-  
6 ment for the preceding fiscal year, which  
7 shall—

8 “(i) cover all accounts and associated  
9 activities of the Office; and

10 “(ii) reflect the overall financial posi-  
11 tion of the Office, including assets and li-  
12 abilities of the Office, and the results of  
13 the operations of the Office;

14 “(B) appoint an independent external  
15 auditor who shall, in accordance with applicable  
16 generally accepted government auditing stand-  
17 ards—

18 “(i) carry out an audit of the financial  
19 statement described in subparagraph (A);  
20 and

21 “(ii) submit a report of the audit to  
22 the Executive Director of the Office and  
23 the Comptroller General; and

24 “(C) submit to the Committee on House  
25 Administration of the House of Representatives

1 and the Committee on Rules and Administra-  
2 tion of the Senate the audited financial state-  
3 ment and the report.

4 “(12) AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year,  
6 the Executive Director of the Office shall pre-  
7 pare and submit to the Committee on House  
8 Administration of the House of Representatives  
9 and the Committee on Rules and Administra-  
10 tion of the Senate an audited financial state-  
11 ment for the preceding fiscal year, covering all  
12 accounts and associated activities of the Office.

13 “(B) CONTENTS OF FINANCIAL STATE-  
14 MENT.—An audited financial statement under  
15 this paragraph shall reflect—

16 “(i) the overall financial position of  
17 the activities covered by the statement, in-  
18 cluding assets and liabilities thereof; and

19 “(ii) results of operations of those ac-  
20 tivities.

21 “(C) AUDIT BY INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL  
22 AUDITOR.—A financial statement under this  
23 paragraph shall be audited in accordance with  
24 applicable generally accepted government audit-  
25 ing standards by an independent external audi-

1           tor appointed by the Executive Director of the  
2           Office.

3           “(D) SUBMISSION OF AUDIT REPORT BY  
4           AUDITOR.—The auditor appointed under sub-  
5           paragraph (C) to audit a financial statement  
6           under this paragraph shall submit a report on  
7           the audit, which shall be prepared in accord-  
8           ance with generally accepted government audit-  
9           ing standards, to the Executive Director of the  
10          Office and the Comptroller General.

11          “(E) GAO REVIEW.—The Comptroller  
12          General of the United States—

13                 “(i) may review any audit of a finan-  
14                 cial statement conducted under this sub-  
15                 section;

16                 “(ii) shall report to the Executive Di-  
17                 rector of the Office, the Committee on  
18                 House Administration of the House of  
19                 Representatives, and the Committee on  
20                 Rules and Administration of the Senate,  
21                 regarding the results of the review and  
22                 make any recommendation that the Comp-  
23                 troller General considers appropriate; and

24                 “(iii) may audit a financial statement  
25                 prepared under this paragraph at the dis-

1           cretion of the Comptroller General or at  
2           the request of the Committee on House  
3           Administration of the House of Represent-  
4           atives or the Committee on Rules and Ad-  
5           ministration of the Senate.

6           “(F) REGULATIONS.—The Comptroller  
7           General may prescribe regulations to carry out  
8           this paragraph and include in such regulations  
9           any requirement in chapter 35 of title 31,  
10          United States Code, that the Comptroller Gen-  
11          eral considers appropriate.

12          “(g) GRANT PROGRAM.—

13           “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purpose  
14          described in subsection (b), the Office shall award  
15          grants to government or community organizations in  
16          the United States to host emerging political or civic  
17          leaders at any level of government who are nationals  
18          of eligible foreign states (in this subsection referred  
19          to as ‘program participants’) in the United States.

20           “(2) DURATION OF STAY IN THE UNITED  
21          STATES.—A recipient of a grant under this sub-  
22          section may not host a program participant in the  
23          United States for not more than 30 days for each  
24          calendar year.

1           “(3) LIMITATION.—The Office shall ensure that  
2           grant funds under this subsection shall support not  
3           more than 3,500 program participants in any cal-  
4           endar year.

5           “(4) PERMISSIBLE USES OF GRANT FUNDS.—  
6           Grant funds under this subsection may be used to  
7           pay—

8                   “(A) the costs and expenses incurred by a  
9                   program participant for travel in the United  
10                  States and between an eligible foreign state and  
11                  the United States;

12                   “(B) the costs for the lodging of a pro-  
13                   gram participant in the United States, whether  
14                   such lodging is provided through public accom-  
15                   modations or private homes; and

16                   “(C) administrative expenses incurred by a  
17                   recipient of a grant under this subsection to  
18                   host a program participant.

19           “(5) APPLICATIONS.—An organization in the  
20           United States may submit to the Office, at such  
21           time and in such manner as the Office may reason-  
22           ably require, an application for a grant under this  
23           subsection that includes the following information,  
24           for each funding period for which the organization  
25           requests grant funds in the application:

1           “(A) A calendar of proposed events or ac-  
2           tivities sponsored by the organization for the  
3           benefit of program participants for the funding  
4           period that includes the location and a descrip-  
5           tion of each such proposed event or activity.

6           “(B) The number and proposed qualifica-  
7           tions of program participants hosted using the  
8           grant funds.

9           “(C) Assurances that the organization will  
10          address any concern raised by the Office or the  
11          Board to support the Congress without partisan  
12          bias.

13          “(D) Any such other assurances and other  
14          information as the Office may reasonably re-  
15          quire.

16          “(6) BOARD REVIEW.—The Board may review  
17          the decision of the Executive Director of the Office  
18          to approve or deny the disbursement of grant funds with  
19          respect to a funding period based on an application  
20          submitted pursuant to paragraph (5) and direct the  
21          Executive Director of the Office to reconsider the  
22          decision.

23          “(7) CHANGES TO APPLICATION INFORMA-  
24          TION.—An organization that submits an application  
25          pursuant to paragraph (5) shall submit to the Office

1 any changes to the information in the application at  
2 such time and in such manner as the Office may  
3 reasonably require, and the Board may review the  
4 decision of the Executive Director of the Office with  
5 respect to the application in light of such changes.

6 “(8) FUNDING PERIOD.—The funding period  
7 referred to in this subsection shall be a quarter of  
8 a calendar year, unless the Executive Director of the  
9 Office specifies another period with the approval of  
10 the Board.

11 “(9) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—The Executive  
12 Director of the Office shall take reasonable measures  
13 to provide written notice to each Member of the  
14 House of Representatives and Senator of each event  
15 or activity funded under this subsection located in  
16 the congressional district of the Member and the  
17 State of the Senator, not later than 30 days before  
18 the event or activity.

19 “(10) REPORTS.—

20 “(A) BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Not later  
21 than 30 days after the end of a calendar year,  
22 a recipient of a grant under this subsection for  
23 the calendar year shall submit to the Office, at  
24 such time and in such manner as the Office

1           may reasonably require, a report containing a  
2           description of—

3                   “(i) the events or activities sponsored  
4                   by the recipient;

5                   “(ii) the use of the grant funds; and

6                   “(iii) such other information as re-  
7                   quired by the Office.

8                   “(B) BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—Not  
9                   later than 90 days after the end of a calendar  
10                  year, the Executive Director of the Office shall  
11                  submit to the Committee on House Administra-  
12                  tion of the House of Representatives and the  
13                  Committee on Rules and Administration of the  
14                  Senate a report containing a summary of the  
15                  reports submitted pursuant to subparagraph  
16                  (A) with respect to the calendar year.

17                  “(h) CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
18                  LEADERSHIP FUND.—

19                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the  
20                   Treasury of the United States a trust fund known  
21                   as the ‘Congressional Office for International Lead-  
22                   ership Fund’ (in this section referred to as the  
23                   ‘Fund’), which shall consist of amounts which may  
24                   be appropriated, credited, or transferred to the Fund  
25                   under this section.

1           “(2) DONATIONS.—Any money or other prop-  
2           erty donated, bequeathed, or devised to the Office  
3           shall be credited to the Fund.

4           “(3) MANAGEMENT.—

5                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of sub-  
6                   sections (b), (c), and (d) of section 116 of the  
7                   Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2  
8                   U.S.C. 1105(b), (c), and (d)), and the provi-  
9                   sions of section 117(b) of such Act (2 U.S.C.  
10                  1106(b)), shall apply to the Fund and the Of-  
11                  fice.

12                   “(B) EXPENDITURES.—The Secretary of  
13                  the Treasury is authorized to pay to the Office  
14                  from amounts in the Fund such sums as the  
15                  Board determines are necessary and appro-  
16                  priate to enable the Office to carry out the pro-  
17                  visions of this section.

18           “(i) SUPPORT FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—  
19           The Librarian of Congress shall provide to the Office such  
20           office and meeting space and such administrative, legal,  
21           financial management, and other services required for the  
22           operation of the Office, including the disbursement of  
23           funds appropriated to the Office, and collect from the  
24           Fund the full costs of providing the services under this  
25           paragraph, as provided under an agreement for services

1 ordered under sections 1535 and 1536 of title 31, United  
2 States Code.”.

3 **SEC. 3. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.**

4 (a) **TERMS OF TRUSTEES.**—The members of the  
5 Board of Trustees of the Congressional Office for Inter-  
6 national Leadership under subparagraphs (A), (B), and  
7 (D) of section 313(c)(1) of the Legislative Branch Appro-  
8 priations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151(c)(1)), immediately  
9 prior to the effective date of this Act, shall continue to  
10 be members on the effective date of this Act until the expi-  
11 ration of their respective terms as specified under such  
12 section immediately prior to the effective date of this Act.

13 (b) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—The Executive Director  
14 of the Congressional Office for International Leadership  
15 as of the effective date of this Act may continue to serve  
16 as Executive Director until not later than 6 months after  
17 the effective date, and the Executive Director may be ap-  
18 pointed to a new term in accordance with section 313(e)  
19 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001, as  
20 amended by this Act.

21 (c) **ELIGIBLE FOREIGN STATES.**—The countries that  
22 are eligible foreign states under section 313(j) of the Leg-  
23 islative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C.  
24 1151(j)), immediately prior to the effective date of this  
25 Act, shall be eligible foreign states subject to section

1 313(d) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act,  
2 2001, as amended by this Act.

3 (d) OTHER PERSONNEL.—The amendments made by  
4 this Act shall not affect the continued employment or  
5 other appointment of the personnel of the Congressional  
6 Office for International Leadership as of the effective date  
7 of this Act, other than the members of the Board of Trust-  
8 ees and the Executive Director.

9 (e) OTHER MATTERS.—The amendments made by  
10 this Act shall not affect the validity of the contracts, liabil-  
11 ities, records, property, appropriations, and other assets  
12 and interests of the Congressional Office for International  
13 Leadership as of the effective date of this Act.

14 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15 This Act shall take effect on the date of the enact-  
16 ment of this Act.

○