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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

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

Ms. WEXTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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 “Divided Families Na-
5 tional Registry Act”.

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

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

7 (1) identify Korean American families who wish
8 to be reunited with family members in North Korea
9 from which such Korean American families were di-
10 vided after the signing of the Agreement Concerning
11 a Military Armistice in Korea, signed at Panmunjom
12 July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as the “Ko-
13 rean War Armistice Agreement”), in anticipation of
14 future reunions for such families and family mem-
15 bers, including in-person and video reunions; and

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

19 (A) to facilitate such future reunions; and

20 (B) to provide for a repository of informa-
21 tion about such Korean American families and
22 family members in North Korea, including in-
23 formation about individuals who may be de-
24 ceased.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State
3 \$1,000,000 to carry out this section.

4 **SEC. 3. ACTIONS TO FACILITATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE**
5 **UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA.**

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

12 (b) CONSULTATIONS.—The Secretary of State shall
13 consult with the Government of the Republic of Korea in
14 carrying out this section.

15 (c) REPORT.—No later than one year after enact-
16 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary
17 of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional
18 committees a report on—

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

21 (2) the number of individuals included on the
22 registry who—

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

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

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

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

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