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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize the Secretary of State to support the establishment of an ASEAN Center in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CASTRO of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of State to support the establishment of an ASEAN Center in the United States, 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 “U.S.–ASEAN Center
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASEAN CENTER.**

2 (a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term
3 “ASEAN” means the Association of Southeast Asian Na-
4 tions.

5 (b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of State is au-
6 thorized to enter into a public-private partnership for the
7 purposes of establishing a US–ASEAN Center in the
8 United States to support United States economic and cul-
9 tural engagement with Southeast Asia.

10 (c) **FUNCTIONS.**—Notwithstanding any other provi-
11 sion of law, Secretary of State and the US–ASEAN Cen-
12 ter established pursuant to subsection (b) may—

13 (1) provide grants for research to support and
14 elevate the importance of the US–ASEAN partner-
15 ship;

16 (2) facilitate activities to strengthen US–
17 ASEAN trade and investment;

18 (3) expand economic and technological relation-
19 ships between ASEAN countries and the United
20 States into new areas of cooperation;

21 (4) provide training to United States citizens
22 and citizens of ASEAN countries that improve peo-
23 ple-to-people ties;

24 (5) develop educational programs to increase
25 awareness for the United States and ASEAN coun-

1 tries on the importance of relations between the
2 United States and ASEAN countries; and

3 (6) carry out other activities the Secretary con-
4 siders necessary to strengthen ties between the
5 United States and ASEAN countries and achieve the
6 objectives of the US–ASEAN Center.

7 (d) AUTHORITY.—This section may be carried out
8 using any amounts authorized to be appropriated to the
9 Secretary of State, including amounts authorized to carry
10 out chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act
11 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.).

12 (e) PARAMETERS.—In carrying out this section, the
13 Secretary shall ensure that the activities of the US-
14 ASEAN Center do not duplicate current lines of effort
15 being conducted by the United States Government or its
16 grantees.