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Study-Abroad Bill Reintroduced in Congress

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The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act, which would expand the number of American students studying overseas to one million within a decade, a nearly fivefold increase, was reintroduced last week in Congress.

The legislation would create an independent government entity and would authorize \$80-million in grants to individual students, colleges, and nongovernmental institutions that provide study-abroad opportunities.

The legislation failed to get through Congress in 2007. Some supporters hope it will have an easier time this year because President Obama, who previously co-sponsored the measure, has advocated strong international engagement.

But others worry that the legislation could be overlooked among all the urgent measures stemming from the financial crisis. Money for the new foundation and for the grants would have to be approved separately through the appropriations process.