

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**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”.

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

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting  
9 through the Special Envoy on North Korean Human  
10 Rights Issues, the Assistant Secretary of State for Con-

1 sular Affairs, or such other individual as the Secretary  
2 may designate, shall—

3           (1) identify Korean American families who wish  
4 to be reunited with family members residing in  
5 North Korea from which such Korean American  
6 families were divided after the signing of the Agree-  
7 ment Concerning a Military Armistice in Korea,  
8 signed at Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (commonly re-  
9 ferred to as the “Korean War Armistice Agree-  
10 ment”), in anticipation of future reunions for such  
11 families and family members, including in-person  
12 and video reunions; and

13           (2) establish a national registry of the names  
14 and other relevant information of such Korean  
15 American families—

16                   (A) to facilitate such future reunions; and

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

22           (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is  
23 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State  
24 \$1,000,000 to carry out this section.

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

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

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

12 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, act-  
14 ing through the Special Envoy on North Korean  
15 Human Rights Issues, shall include in each report  
16 required under section 107(d) of the North Korean  
17 Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)) a  
18 description of the consultations described in sub-  
19 section (b) conducted during the year preceding the  
20 submission of the report.

21 (2) ELEMENTS.—The reporting required under  
22 paragraph (1) should include—

23 (A) the status of the national registry es-  
24 tablished pursuant to section 2(a)(2);

25 (B) the number of individuals included on  
26 the registry who—

1 (i) have met their family members in  
2 North Korea during previous reunions; and

3 (ii) have yet to meet their family  
4 members in North Korea during previous  
5 reunions;

6 (C) a summary of responses by North  
7 Korea to requests to hold reunions of divided  
8 families; and

9 (D) a description of actions taken by  
10 North Korea that prevent the emigration of  
11 family members of Korean American families.

12 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES  
13 DEFINED.—In this Act, the term “appropriate congres-  
14 sional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Re-  
15 lations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Af-  
16 fairs of the House of Representatives.