



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 22, 2010

S. 3688 **International Professional Exchange Act of 2010**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on December 14, 2010*

S. 3688 would authorize the Secretary of State to conduct a pilot program for three years that would extend international fellowships to professionals between 21 and 40 years of age. The fellowship program would provide for a two-way exchange of individuals from the United States and individuals from a member state of the Organization of the Islamic Conference or the Republic of Kosovo. The bill would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for 2011 through 2014 to carry out the program.

Individuals selected to serve as fellows would complete a three to six-month program to live, work, and participate in community service in a host country. The program would provide a stipend and cover all relevant travel, administrative, and health care costs for each fellow. The State Department also would be required to provide each fellow with cultural and professional training, including language training. In addition, the Secretary would be encouraged to accept in-kind contributions and financial and recruitment assistance from private entities, foreign governments, and other parties to defray the cost of the program.

CBO expects that the State Department would begin developing the program in 2011 and that the program would be in full operation from 2012 through 2014. Based on historical spending patterns for similar activities and on information from the State Department, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$17 million over the 2011-2015 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. If the Secretary receives financial assistance to defray the costs of the program, S. 3688 would increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending); therefore, pay-as-you-go rules apply. However, CBO estimates that such effects would not be significant. Enacting the legislation would not affect revenues.

S. 3688 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lisa Ramirez-Branum. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.