



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 18, 2009

S. 838

A bill to provide for the appointment of United States Science Envoys

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on May 5, 2009*

S. 838 would authorize the Secretary of State to establish new educational or cultural exchange programs or expand existing programs for individuals in the fields of science, medicine, research, and academia. The bill also would require the Secretary to appoint envoys to collaborate with other countries and promote science and technology.

In 2008, the Department of State spent about \$40 million for almost 1,000 participants (in the fields of science, mathematics, and information technology) in such programs. The department also appoints sports and cultural envoys (such as Cal Ripken and Fran Drescher) who travel to countries to promote the United States and their professions, at an annual cost of about \$25,000 per envoy.

Under S. 838, based on information from the State Department, CBO estimates that the department would expand participation in existing exchange programs by about 100 people (at an annual cost of \$40,000 per participant) and would appoint one or two science envoys (at an annual cost of \$25,000 per envoy). Thus, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$4 million a year over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 838 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.