

(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with family members  
in North Korea.

---

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MENG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

---

**A BILL**

To require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with  
family members in North Korea.

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. CONSULTATIONS ON REUNITING KOREAN**  
4               **AMERICANS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN**  
5               **NORTH KOREA.**

6       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
7       ings:

1           (1) The division of the Korean Peninsula into  
2       South Korea and North Korea separated thousands  
3       of Koreans from family members.

4           (2) Since the signing of the Agreement Con-  
5       cerning a Military Armistice in Korea, signed at  
6       Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as  
7       the "Korean War Armistice Agreement"), there has  
8       been little to no contact between Korean Americans  
9       and family members who remain in North Korea.

10          (3) North Korea and South Korea first agreed  
11       to reunions of divided families in 1985 and have  
12       since held 20 face to face reunions and 7 video link  
13       reunions.

14          (4) Those reunions have subsequently given ap-  
15       proximately 22,000 Koreans the opportunity to  
16       briefly reunite with loved ones.

17          (5) The most recent family reunions between  
18       North Korea and South Korea took place in August  
19       2018 and did not include any Korean Americans.

20          (6) The United States and North Korea do not  
21       maintain diplomatic relations and certain limitations  
22       exist on Korean Americans participating in face to  
23       face reunions.

1           (7) According to the most recent census, more  
2           than 1,700,000 people living in the United States  
3           are of Korean descent.

4           (8) The number of first generation Korean and  
5           Korean American family members divided from fam-  
6           ily members in North Korea is rapidly diminishing  
7           given the advanced age of those family members.  
8           More than 3,000 elderly South Koreans die each  
9           year without having been reunited with their family  
10          members.

11          (9) Many Korean Americans with family mem-  
12          bers in North Korea have not seen or communicated  
13          with those family members in more than 60 years.

14          (10) The inclusion of Korean American families  
15          in the reunion process would constitute a positive  
16          humanitarian gesture by the Government of North  
17          Korea.

18          (11) Section 1265 of the National Defense Au-  
19          thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law  
20          110-181; 122 Stat. 407) required the President to  
21          submit to Congress a report on “efforts, if any, of  
22          the United States Government to facilitate family re-  
23          unions between United States citizens and their rel-  
24          atives in North Korea”.

1           (12) The position of Special Envoy on North  
2           Korean Human Rights Issues has been vacant since  
3           January 2017, although the President is required to  
4           appoint a Senate-confirmed Special Envoy to fill this  
5           position in accordance with section 107 of the North  
6           Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C.  
7           7817).

8           (13) In the report of the Committee on Appro-  
9           priations of the House of Representatives accom-  
10          panying H.R. 3081, 111th Congress (House Report  
11          111-187), the Committee urged “the Special Rep-  
12          resentative on North Korea Policy, as the senior of-  
13          ficial handling North Korea issues, to prioritize the  
14          issues involving Korean divided families and to, if  
15          necessary, appoint a coordinator for such families”.

16          (b) CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED.—

17          (1) CONSULTATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA.—  
18          The Secretary of State, or a designee of the Sec-  
19          retary, shall consult with officials of South Korea, as  
20          appropriate, on potential opportunities to reunite  
21          Korean American families with family members in  
22          North Korea from which such Korean American  
23          families were divided after the signing of the Korean  
24          War Armistice Agreement.

1           (2) CONSULTATIONS WITH KOREAN AMERI-  
2           CANS.—Not less frequently than once every 180  
3           days, the Special Envoy on North Korean Human  
4           Rights Issues of the Department of State shall con-  
5           sult with representatives of Korean Americans with  
6           family members in North Korea with respect to ef-  
7           forts to reunite families divided after the signing of  
8           the Korean War Armistice Agreement.

9           (3) NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF AP-  
10          PROPRIATIONS.—No additional amounts are author-  
11          ized to be appropriated to the Department of State  
12          to carry out consultations under this subsection.

13         (c) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

14                 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, act-  
15                 ing through the Special Envoy on North Korean  
16                 Human Rights Issues, shall submit to Congress, as  
17                 part of each report required under section 107(d) of  
18                 the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22  
19                 U.S.C. 7817(d)), a report on consultations described  
20                 in subsection (b) conducted during the year pre-  
21                 ceding the submission of each report required under  
22                 such section 107(d).

23                 (2) INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY INTO FAM-  
24                 ILY REUNIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the  
25                 date of the enactment of this Act, the Special Envoy

1       on North Korean Human Rights Issues of the De-  
2       partment of State shall submit to the Committee on  
3       Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and  
4       the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate  
5       a report on the opportunities for video reunions be-  
6       tween Korean Americans with family members in  
7       North Korea.

8           (3) FORM.—The reports required by para-  
9       graphs (1) and (2) shall be submitted in unclassified  
10      form to the maximum extent possible, but may in-  
11      clude classified annexes.