



Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

May 29, 2009

Warmest greetings to all attendees at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Program in Berlin.

The CBYX Program was founded jointly in 1983 by the United States Congress and the German Bundestag in recognition of the first German immigration to North America in 1683. This transatlantic exchange program enjoys an outstanding reputation and has produced impressive results over the past quarter of a century. It has enabled some 18,500 German and American high school students and young professionals to spend a year in each other's country.

Youth exchanges are a vital pillar of transatlantic relations. Living in a foreign culture has a tremendous impact on the individual and beyond. It promotes intercultural understanding, tolerance, and friendship, and also contributes to a more peaceful world.

Thank you to everyone who has made this program so successful: the German Bundestag; the U.S. State Department, which manages the program in the United States; and the German and American exchange organizations, which care for the high school and vocational students during their stays. My thanks also go to the alumni who help to share their experiences with possible future participants, and to host families and schools for their readiness to take in exchange students. This program would not be possible without their generous support.

As Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, I join Bundestag President Norbert Lammert in expressing support and best wishes for a bright future for this important German-American exchange program. Again, congratulations on this historic 25th anniversary, and may the program continue to provide this enriching experience for young people from our two countries for many more years.

best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI
Speaker