

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4039

To authorize microfinance and food assistance for communities affected by the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2000

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To authorize microfinance and food assistance for communities affected by the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), 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 “AIDS Orphans Relief  
5       Act of 2000”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) By the end of 2000, 10,400,000 children in  
2           Sub-Saharan Africa will have lost their mother, or  
3           both parents, to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syn-  
4           drome (AIDS).

5           (2) In the next decade, 40,000,000 children will  
6           become orphans as a result of the AIDS pandemic,  
7           most of them located in Sub-Saharan Africa.

8           (3) Over the next 20 years, AIDS threatens to  
9           reduce substantially economic progress in the na-  
10          tions of Sub-Saharan Africa.

11          (4) Success or failure in fighting the AIDS pan-  
12          demic will effect the spread of the disease to India,  
13          Asia, and the states of the former Soviet Union.

14          (5) By 2005, more than 100,000,000 people  
15          worldwide will have been infected with Human Im-  
16          munodeficiency Virus (HIV), the precursor to AIDS.

17          (6) Effective assistance for children orphaned  
18          by AIDS, and for those caring for such children,  
19          must strengthen the surviving families.

20          (7) The development and expansion of sustain-  
21          able microfinance institutions that provide access to  
22          credit, savings, and other financial services to the  
23          very poor, especially women, are critical components  
24          in a global strategy to address the devastating eco-  
25          nomic and social effects of AIDS.

1           (8) Microfinance programs are particularly  
2 effective in helping those left to care for AIDS  
3 orphans by providing the caregivers the means of  
4 pursuing a livelihood.

5           (9) Microfinance programs have been shown to  
6 be particularly effective in permitting individuals  
7 with AIDS to have access to services and credit not  
8 otherwise available to such individuals, including  
9 health insurance, life insurance, counseling, and  
10 group support.

11           (10) Food aid can be a critical component in  
12 mitigating the impact of AIDS on communities by  
13 addressing the nutritional needs of individuals with  
14 AIDS and assisting households left destitute by  
15 AIDS, and as a part of a larger, comprehensive ef-  
16 fort to strengthen and restore sustainable livelihood  
17 strategies for households and communities affected  
18 by AIDS.

19 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

20 The purposes of this Act are—

21           (1) to make microfinance programs an impor-  
22 tant component of United States policy in fighting  
23 the effects of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syn-  
24 drome (AIDS) pandemic worldwide; and

1           (2) to encourage targeted use of food and food-  
2           related assistance for humanitarian purposes and for  
3           sustainable development in communities affected by  
4           AIDS.

5 **SEC. 4. MICROCREDIT PROGRAMS.**

6           Chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act  
7 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by adding  
8 at the end the following new section:

9 **“SEC. 131. ASSISTANCE FOR MICROCREDIT PROGRAMS FOR**  
10 **COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY AIDS.**

11           “(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other funds  
12 authorized to be appropriated by this chapter for micro-  
13 enterprise activities or activities relating to Human Im-  
14 munodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Acquired Immune Defi-  
15 ciency Syndrome (AIDS), there is authorized to be appro-  
16 priated each fiscal year, \$50,000,000 for purposes of as-  
17 sisting microcredit programs that serve the very poor, es-  
18 pecially women, in communities heavily affected by AIDS.

19           “(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—(1) The maximum  
20 amount of credit provided an individual under a micro-  
21 credit program under subsection (a) may not exceed \$600  
22 and (b) the average loan size for a program receiving re-  
23 sources under this section may not exceed \$300.

1       “(2) To the maximum extent practicable, amounts  
2 shall be provided under subsection (a) for programs  
3 that—

4               “(A) provide HIV prevention or AIDS care and  
5 support, whether directly or through linkages with  
6 other programs;

7               “(B) employ best practices for assisting the  
8 very poor; and

9               “(C) operate in a sustainable manner.”.

10 **SEC. 5. FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.**

11       Title IV of the Agricultural Trade and Development  
12 Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1731 et seq.) is amended  
13 by adding at the end the following new section:

14 **“SEC. 416. ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY**  
15 **AIDS.**

16       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide food  
17 assistance under this Act to developing countries in order  
18 to assist such countries in mitigating the effects of Ac-  
19 quired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) on commu-  
20 nities in such countries, including—

21               “(1) assistance to address the nutritional needs  
22 of individuals in such communities who have AIDS;

23               “(2) assistance for households affected by  
24 AIDS; and

1           “(3) assistance as part of other aid or assist-  
2           ance designed to create or restore sustainable liveli-  
3           hood strategies in communities affected by AIDS.

4           “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

5           “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to  
6           be appropriated each fiscal year, \$50,000,000 for  
7           purposes of providing assistance under this section.

8           “(2) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AUTHORIZA-  
9           TIONS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated for  
10          a fiscal year by paragraph (1) are in addition to any  
11          other amounts authorized to be appropriated by this  
12          Act for such fiscal year.”.

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