

Union Calendar No. 160

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3169

[Report No. 107-265]

To authorize assistance for individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and warfare, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 2001

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. GILMAN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FORD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. LEE, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. QUINN, Ms. SOLIS, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. PITTS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

NOVEMBER 5, 2001

Additional sponsors: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. McINNIS, and Mr. BILIRAKIS

NOVEMBER 5, 2001

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]
[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on October 25, 2001]

A BILL

To authorize assistance for individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and warfare, 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 “International Disability*
5 *and Victims of Landmines, Civil Strife and Warfare Assist-*
6 *ance Act of 2001”.*

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

8 *(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:*

9 *(1) According to the World Health Organization*
10 *(WHO), between 7 percent and 10 percent of the*
11 *world’s population, or almost 500,000,000 people, live*
12 *with disabilities. About 80 percent of these individ-*
13 *uals live in developing countries, where only 1 percent*
14 *to 2 percent have access to the necessary rehabilita-*
15 *tion services, and many face numerous physical and*
16 *social barriers that inhibit their full participation in*
17 *their communities.*

1 (2) *Factors contributing to the number of indi-*
2 *viduals with disabilities include war and other forms*
3 *of violence, inadequate medical care, and natural and*
4 *other disasters.*

5 (3)(A) *According to the International Committee*
6 *of the Red Cross, there are tens of millions of land-*
7 *mines in over 60 countries around the world, and it*
8 *has estimated that as many as 24,000 people are*
9 *maimed or killed each year by landmines, mostly ci-*
10 *vilians, resulting in amputations and disabilities of*
11 *various kinds.*

12 (B) *While the United States Government invests*
13 *more than \$100,000,000 in mine action programs an-*
14 *nually, including funding for mine awareness and*
15 *demining training programs, only about ten percent*
16 *of these funds go to directly aid landmine victims.*

17 (C) *The Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund, ad-*
18 *ministered by the United States Agency for Inter-*
19 *national Development, has provided essential pros-*
20 *thetics and rehabilitation for landmine and other war*
21 *victims in developing countries who are disabled and*
22 *has provided long-term sustainable improvements in*
23 *quality of life for victims of civil strife and warfare,*
24 *addressing such issues as barrier-free accessibility, re-*

1 *duction of social stigmatization, and increasing eco-*
2 *nom ic opportunities.*

3 *(D) Enhanced coordination is needed among*
4 *Federal agencies that carry out assistance programs*
5 *in foreign countries for victims of landmines and*
6 *other victims of civil strife and warfare to make better*
7 *use of interagency expertise and resources.*

8 *(4) According to a review of Poverty and Dis-*
9 *ability commissioned by the World Bank, “disabled*
10 *people have lower education and income levels than*
11 *the rest of the population. They are more likely to*
12 *have incomes below poverty level than the non-dis-*
13 *abled population, and they are less likely to have sav-*
14 *ings and other assets . . . [t]he links between poverty*
15 *and disability go two ways—not only does disability*
16 *add to the risk of poverty, but conditions of poverty*
17 *add to the risk of disability.”*

18 *(5) Numerous international human rights con-*
19 *ventions and declarations recognize the need to pro-*
20 *tect the rights of individuals regardless of their status,*
21 *including those individuals with disabilities, through*
22 *the principles of equality and non-discrimination.*

23 *(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to authorize*
24 *assistance for individuals with disabilities, including vic-*

1 *tims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and war-*
2 *fare.*

3 **SEC. 3. INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES AND WAR VICTIMS**
4 **ASSISTANCE.**

5 *The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151*
6 *et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 134 the fol-*
7 *lowing:*

8 **“SEC. 135. INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES AND WAR VIC-**
9 **TIMS ASSISTANCE.**

10 *“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President, acting through*
11 *the Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-*
12 *national Development, is authorized to furnish assistance*
13 *to individuals with disabilities, including victims of civil*
14 *strife and warfare, in foreign countries.*

15 *“(b) ACTIVITIES.—The programs established pursuant*
16 *to subsection (a) may include activities such as the fol-*
17 *lowing:*

18 *“(1) Development of local capacity to provide*
19 *medical and rehabilitation services for individuals*
20 *with disabilities, including victims of civil strife and*
21 *warfare, in foreign countries, such as—*

22 *“(A) support for and training of medical*
23 *professionals, including surgeons, nurses, and*
24 *physical therapists, to provide effective emer-*
25 *gency and other medical care and for the devel-*

1 *opment of training manuals relating to first aid*
2 *and other medical treatment;*

3 *“(B) support for sustainable prosthetic and*
4 *orthotic services; and*

5 *“(C) psychological and social rehabilitation*
6 *of such individuals, together with their families*
7 *as appropriate, for the reintegration of such in-*
8 *dividuals into local communities.*

9 *“(2) Support for policy reform and advocacy ef-*
10 *forts related to the needs and abilities of individuals*
11 *with disabilities, including victims of civil strife and*
12 *warfare.*

13 *“(3) Coordination of programs established pur-*
14 *suant to subsection (a) with existing programs for in-*
15 *dividuals with disabilities, including victims of civil*
16 *strife and warfare.*

17 *“(4) Support for establishment of appropriate*
18 *entities in foreign countries to coordinate programs,*
19 *projects, and activities related to assistance for indi-*
20 *viduals with disabilities, including victims of civil*
21 *strife and warfare.*

22 *“(5) Support for primary, secondary, and voca-*
23 *tional education, public awareness and training pro-*
24 *grams and other activities that help prevent war-re-*
25 *lated injuries and assist individuals with disabilities,*

1 *including victims of civil strife and warfare, with*
2 *their reintegration into society and their ability to*
3 *make sustained social and economic contributions to*
4 *society.*

5 “(c) *PRIORITY.—To the maximum extent feasible, as-*
6 *sistance under this section shall be provided through non-*
7 *governmental organizations, and, as appropriate, through*
8 *governments to establish appropriate norms, standards, and*
9 *policies related to rehabilitation and issues affecting indi-*
10 *viduals with disabilities, including victims of civil strife*
11 *and warfare.*

12 “(d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There*
13 *are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section*
14 *\$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2002 and 2003.*
15 *Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of ap-*
16 *propriations under the preceding sentence are authorized*
17 *to be provided notwithstanding any other provision of*
18 *law.”.*

19 **SEC. 4. RESEARCH, PREVENTION, AND ASSISTANCE RE-**
20 **LATED TO INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES**
21 **AND LANDMINE AND OTHER WAR VICTIMS.**

22 (a) *AUTHORIZATION.—*

23 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and*
24 *Human Services, acting through the Director of the*

1 *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is*
2 *authorized—*

3 *(A) to conduct programs in foreign coun-*
4 *tries related to individuals with disabilities, in-*
5 *cluding victims of landmines and other victims*
6 *of civil strife and warfare; and*

7 *(B) to provide grants to nongovernmental*
8 *organizations for the purpose of carrying out re-*
9 *search, prevention, public awareness and assist-*
10 *ance programs in foreign countries related to in-*
11 *dividuals with disabilities, including victims of*
12 *landmines and other victims of civil strife and*
13 *warfare.*

14 *(2) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY OF STATE.—Ac-*
15 *tivities under programs established pursuant to para-*
16 *graph (1) may be carried out in foreign countries*
17 *only after consultation with the Administrator of the*
18 *United States Agency for International Development,*
19 *and upon approval for such activities in such coun-*
20 *tries by the Secretary of State.*

21 *(b) ACTIVITIES.—Programs established pursuant to*
22 *subsection (a) may include the following activities:*

23 *(1) Research on trauma, physical, psychological,*
24 *and social rehabilitation, and continuing medical*
25 *care related to individuals with disabilities, including*

1 *victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife*
2 *and warfare, including—*

3 *(A) conducting research on psychological*
4 *and social factors that lead to successful recov-*
5 *ery;*

6 *(B) developing, testing, and evaluating*
7 *model interventions that reduce post-traumatic*
8 *stress and promote health and well-being;*

9 *(C) developing basic instruction tools for*
10 *initial medical response to traumatic injuries;*
11 *and*

12 *(D) developing basic instruction manuals*
13 *for patients and healthcare providers, including*
14 *for emergency and follow-up care, proper ampu-*
15 *tation procedures, and reconstructive surgery.*

16 *(2) Facilitation of peer support networks for in-*
17 *dividuals with disabilities, including victims of land-*
18 *mines and other victims of civil strife and warfare,*
19 *in foreign countries, including—*

20 *(A) establishment of organizations at the*
21 *local level, administered by such individuals, to*
22 *assess and address the physical, psychological,*
23 *economic and social rehabilitation and other*
24 *needs of such individuals, together with their*
25 *families as appropriate, for the purpose of eco-*

1 *conomic and social reintegration into local com-*
2 *munities; and*

3 *(B) training related to the implementation*
4 *of such peer support networks, including train-*
5 *ing of outreach workers to assist in the establish-*
6 *ment of organizations such as those described in*
7 *subparagraph (A) and assistance to facilitate the*
8 *use of the networks by such individuals.*

9 *(3) Sharing of expertise from limb-loss and dis-*
10 *ability research centers in the United States with*
11 *similar centers and facilities in war-affected coun-*
12 *tries, including promoting increased health for indi-*
13 *viduals with limb loss and limb deficiency and epide-*
14 *miological research on secondary medical conditions*
15 *related to limb loss and limb deficiency.*

16 *(4) Developing a database of best practices to ad-*
17 *dress the needs of the war-related disabled through*
18 *comprehensive examination of support activities re-*
19 *lated to such disability and access to medical care*
20 *and supplies.*

21 *(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are*
22 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Health*
23 *and Human Services to carry out this section such sums*
24 *as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2002 through*
25 *2004.*

1 **SEC. 5. EXPERTISE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
2 **FAIRS.**

3 *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized—*

4 *(1) to provide advice and expertise on pros-*
5 *thetics, orthotics, physical and psychological rehabili-*
6 *tation and treatment, and disability assistance to*
7 *other Federal departments and agencies, including*
8 *providing for temporary assignment on a non-reim-*
9 *bursable basis of appropriate Department of Veterans*
10 *Affairs personnel, with respect to the implementation*
11 *of programs to provide assistance to victims of land-*
12 *mines and other victims of civil strife and warfare in*
13 *foreign countries and landmine research and health-*
14 *related programs, including programs established*
15 *pursuant to section 135 of the Foreign Assistance Act*
16 *of 1961 (as added by section 3 of this Act) and pro-*
17 *grams established pursuant to section 4 of this Act;*
18 *and*

19 *(2) to provide technical assistance to private vol-*
20 *untary organizations on a reimbursable basis with re-*
21 *spect to the planning, development, operation, and*
22 *evaluation of such landmine assistance, research, and*
23 *prevention programs.*

24 **SEC. 6. INTERAGENCY GROUP.**

25 *(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall es-*
26 *tablish and chair an interagency group to ensure coordina-*

1 *tion of all Federal programs that furnish assistance to vic-*
2 *tims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and war-*
3 *fare, and conduct landmine research, demining and preven-*
4 *tion programs.*

5 (b) *OTHER MEMBERS.*—*Members of the interagency*
6 *group shall include, but not be limited to, representatives*
7 *from—*

8 (1) *the United States Agency for International*
9 *Development;*

10 (2) *the Department of Health and Human Serv-*
11 *ices;*

12 (3) *the Department of Education;*

13 (4) *the Department of Defense; and*

14 (5) *the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

15 (c) *PUBLIC MEETINGS.*—*At least once each calendar*
16 *year, the interagency group should hold a public meeting*
17 *in order to afford an opportunity for any person to present*
18 *views regarding the activities of the United States Govern-*
19 *ment with respect to assistance to victims of landmines and*
20 *other victims of civil strife and warfare and related pro-*
21 *grams. The Secretary of State shall maintain a record of*
22 *each meeting and shall make the record available to the*
23 *public.*

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