109TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

S. 3775

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the effort to achieve internationally recognized goals in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and the reduction of maternal and child mortality by improving human health care capacity and improving retention of medical health professionals in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

August 2, 2006

Mr. Durbin (for himself, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Dewine, Mr. Feingold, and Mr. Leahy) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the effort to achieve internationally recognized goals in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and the reduction of maternal and child mortality by improving human health care capacity and improving retention of medical health professionals in sub-Saharan Africa, 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,

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

- 2 This Act may be cited as the "African Health Capac-
- 3 ity Investment Act of 2006".
- 4 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
- 5 In this Act, the term "HIV/AIDS" has the meaning
- 6 given such term in section 104A(g) of the Foreign Assist-
- 7 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b–2(g)).
- 8 SEC. 3. FINDINGS.
- 9 Congress makes the following findings:
- 10 (1) The World Health Report, 2003, Shaping
- the Future, states, "The most critical issue facing
- health care systems is the shortage of people who
- make them work.".
- 14 (2) The World Health Report, 2006, Working
- Together for Health, states, "The unmistakable im-
- perative is to strengthen the workforce so that
- 17 health systems can tackle crippling diseases and
- achieve national and global health goals. A strong
- human infrastructure is fundamental to closing to-
- day's gap between health promise and health reality
- and anticipating the health challenges of the 21st
- century.".
- 23 (3) The shortage of health personnel, including
- doctors, nurses, pharmacists, counselors, paraprofes-
- sionals, and trained lay workers is one of the leading

- obstacles to fighting HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 3 (4) The HIV/AIDS pandemic aggravates the 4 shortage of health workers through loss of life and 5 illness among medical staff, unsafe working condi-6 tions for medical personnel, and increased workloads 7 for diminished staff, while the shortage of health 8 personnel undermines efforts to prevent and provide 9 care and treatment for those with HIV/AIDS.
 - (5) Workforce constraints and inefficient management are limiting factors in the treatment of tuberculosis, which infects over ½ of the global population.
 - (6) Over 1,200,000 people die of malaria each year. More than 75 percent of these deaths occur among African children under the age of 5 years old and the vast majority of these deaths are preventable. The Malaria Initiative of President George W. Bush seeks to reduce dramatically the disease burden of malaria through both prevention and treatment. Paraprofessionals can be instrumental in reducing mortality and economic losses associated with malaria and other health problems.
 - (7) For a woman in sub-Saharan Africa, the lifetime risk of maternal death is 1 out of 16. In

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- highly developed countries, that risk is 1 out of 2,800. Increasing access to skilled birth attendants is essential to reducing maternal and newborn mortality in sub-Saharan Africa.
- (8) The Second Annual Report to Congress on the progress of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief identifies the strengthening of essential health care systems through health care networks and infrastructure development as critical to the sustainability of funded assistance by the United States Government and states that "outside resources for HIV/AIDS and other development efforts must be focused on transformational initiatives that are owned by host nations". This report further states, "Alongside efforts to support community capacity-building, enhancing the capacity of health care and other systems is also crucial for sustainability. Among the obstacles to these efforts in many nations are inadequate human resources and capacity, limited institutional capacity, and systemic weaknesses in areas such as: quality assurance; financial management and accounting; health networks and infrastructure; and commodity distribution and control.".

- 1 (9) Vertical disease control programs represent 2 vital components of United States foreign assistance 3 policy, but human resources for health planning and 4 management often demands a more systematic ap-5 proach.
 - (10) Implementation of capacity-building initiatives to promote more effective human resources management and development may require an extended horizon to produce measurable results, but such efforts are critical to fulfillment of many internationally recognized objectives in global health.
 - (11) The November 2005 report of the Working Group on Global Health Partnerships for the High Level Forum on the Health Millennium Development Goals entitled "Best Practice Principles for Global Health Partnership Activities at Country Level", raises the concern that the collective impact of various global health programs now risks "undermining the sustainability of national development plans, distorting national priorities, diverting scarce human resources and/or establishing uncoordinated service delivery structures" in developing countries. This risk underscores the need to coordinate international donor efforts for these vital programs with one another and with recipient countries.

- (12) The emigration of significant numbers of trained health care professionals from sub-Saharan African countries to the United States and other wealthier countries exacerbates often severe shortages of health care workers, undermines economic development efforts, and undercuts national and international efforts to improve access to essential health services in the region.
 - (13) Addressing this problem, commonly referred to as "brain drain", will require increased investments in the health sector by sub-Saharan African governments and by international partners seeking to promote economic development and improve health care and mortality outcomes in the region.
 - (14) Virtually every country in the world, including the United States, is experiencing a shortage of health workers. The Joint Learning Initiative on Human Resources for Health and Development estimates that the global shortage exceeds 4,000,000 workers. Shortages in sub-Saharan Africa, however, are far more acute than in any other region of the world. The World Health Report, 2006, states that "[t]he exodus of skilled professionals in the midst of so much unmet health need places Africa at the epicentre of the global health workforce crisis.".

- 1 (15) Ambassador Randall Tobias, now the Di2 rector of United States Foreign Assistance and Ad3 ministrator of the United States Agency for Inter4 national Development, has stated that there are
 5 more Ethiopian trained doctors practicing in Chi6 cago than in Ethiopia.
 - (16) According to the United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2003, approximately 3 out of 4 countries in sub-Saharan Africa have fewer than 20 physicians per 100,000 people, the minimum ratio recommended by the World Health Organization, and 13 countries have 5 or fewer physicians per 100,000 people.
 - (17) Nurses play particularly important roles in sub-Saharan African health care systems, but approximately ½ of sub-Saharan African countries have fewer than 50 nurses per 100,000 people or less than ½ the staffing levels recommended by the World Health Organization.
 - (18) Paraprofessionals can be trained more quickly than nurses or doctors and are critically needed in sub-Saharan Africa to meet immediate health care needs.
- 24 (19) Imbalances in the distribution of countries' 25 health workforces represents a global problem, but

- the impact is particularly acute in sub-Saharan Africa.
- (20) In Malawi, for example, more than 95 percent of clinical officers are in urban health facilities, and about 25 percent of nurses and 50 percent of physicians are in the 4 central hospitals of Malawi. Yet the population of Malawi is estimated to be 87 percent rural.
 - (21) In parts of sub-Saharan Africa, such as Kenya, thousands of qualified health professionals are employed outside the health care field or are unemployed despite job openings in the health sector in rural areas because poor working and living conditions, including poor educational opportunities for children, transportation, and salaries, make such openings unattractive to candidates.
 - (22) The 2002 National Security Strategy of the United States stated, "The scale of the public health crisis in poor countries is enormous. In countries afflicted by epidemics and pandemics like HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, growth and development will be threatened until these scourges can be contained. Resources from the developed world are necessary but will be effective only with honest

- governance, which supports prevention programs and
 provides effective local infrastructure.".
- 3 (23) Public health deficiencies in sub-Saharan 4 Africa and other parts of the developing world re-5 duce global capacities to detect and respond to po-6 tential crises, such as an avian flu pandemic.
 - (24) On September 28, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice declared that "HIV/AIDS is not only a human tragedy of enormous magnitude; it is also a threat to the stability of entire countries and to the entire regions of the world.".
 - (25) Foreign assistance by the United States that expands local capacities, provides commodities or training, or builds on and enhances community-based and national programs and leadership can increase the impact, efficiency, and sustainability of funded efforts by the United States.
 - (26) African health care professionals immigrate to the United States for the same set of reasons that have led millions of people to come to this country, including the desire for freedom, for economic opportunity, and for a better life for themselves and their children, and the rights and motivations of these individuals must be respected.

- increase salaries and benefits of health care professionals, improve working conditions, including the adoption of universal precautions against workplace infection, improve management of health care systems and institutions, increase the capacity of health training institutions, and expand education opportunities will alleviate some of the pressures driving the migration of health care personnel from sub-Saharan Africa.
 - (28) While the scope of the problem of dire shortfalls of personnel and inadequacies of infrastructure in the sub-Saharan African health systems is immense, effective and targeted interventions to improve working conditions, management, and productivity would yield significant dividends in improved health care.
 - (29) Failure to address the shortage of health care professionals and paraprofessionals, and the factors pushing individuals to leave sub-Saharan Africa will undermine the objectives of United States development policy and will subvert opportunities to achieve internationally recognized goals for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, in the reduction of child and maternal mor-

tality, and for economic growth and development in
sub-Saharan Africa.

3 SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

- 4 It is the sense of Congress that—
 - (1) the United States should help sub-Saharan African countries that have not already done so to develop national human resource plans within the context of comprehensive country health plans involving a wide range of stakeholders;
 - (2) comprehensive, rather than piecemeal approaches to advance multiple sustainable interventions will better enable countries to plan for the number of health care workers they need, determine whether they need to reorganize their health workforce, integrate workforce planning into an overall strategy to improve health system performance and impact, better budget for health care spending, and improve the delivery of health services in rural and other underserved areas;
 - (3) in order to promote systemic, sustainable change, the United States should seek, where possible, to strengthen existing national systems in sub-Saharan African countries to improve national capacities in areas including fiscal management, training, recruiting and retention of health workers, dis-

- tribution of resources, attention to rural areas, and education;
- (4) because foreign-funded efforts to fight HIV/ AIDS and other diseases may also draw health per-sonnel away from the public sector in sub-Saharan African countries, the policies and programs of the United States should, where practicable, seek to work with national and community-based health structures and seek to promote the general welfare and enhance infrastructures beyond the scope of a single disease or condition;
 - (5) paraprofessionals and community-level health workers can play a key role in prevention, care, and treatment services, and in the more equitable and effective distribution of health resources, and should be integrated into national health systems;
 - (6) given the current personnel shortages in sub-Saharan Africa, paraprofessionals represent a critical potential workforce in efforts to reduce the burdens of malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and other deadly and debilitating diseases;
 - (7) it is critically important that the governments of sub-Saharan African countries increase their own investments in education and health care;

- 1 (8) international financial institutions have an
 2 important role to play in the achievement of inter3 nationally agreed upon health goals, and in helping
 4 countries strike the appropriate balance in encour5 aging effective public investments in the health and
 6 education sectors, particularly as foreign assistance
 7 in these areas scales up, and promoting macro8 economic stability;
 - (9) public-private partnerships are needed to promote creative contracts, investments in sub-Saharan African educational systems, codes of conduct related to recruiting, and other mechanisms to alleviate the adverse impacts on sub-Saharan African countries caused by the migration of health professionals;
 - (10) colleges and universities of the United States, as well as other members of the private sector, can play a significant role in promoting training in medicine and public health in sub-Saharan Africa by establishing or supporting in-country programs in sub-Saharan Africa through twinning programs with educational institutions in sub-Saharan Africa or through other in-country mechanisms;
 - (11) given the substantial numbers of African immigrants to the United States working in the

1	health sector, the United States should enact and
2	implement measures to permit qualified aliens and
3	their family members that are legally present in the
4	United States to work temporarily as health care
5	professionals in developing countries or in other
6	emergency situations, as in S. 2611, of the 109th
7	Congress, as passed by the Senate on May 25, 2006;
8	(12) the President, acting through the United
9	States Permanent Representative to the United Na-
10	tions, should exercise the voice and vote of the
11	United States—
12	(A) to ameliorate the adverse impact on
13	less developed countries of the migration of
14	health personnel;
15	(B) to promote voluntary codes of conduct
16	for recruiters of health personnel; and
17	(C) to promote respect for voluntary agree-
18	ments in which individuals, in exchange for in-
19	dividual educational assistance, have agreed ei-
20	ther to work in the health field in their home
21	countries for a given period of time or to repay
22	such assistance;
23	(13) the United States, like countries in other
24	parts of the world, is experiencing a shortage of
25	medical personnel in many occupational specialties,

1	and the shortage is particularly acute in rural and
2	other underserved areas of the country; and
3	(14) the United States should expand training
4	opportunities for health personnel, expand incentive
5	programs such as student loan forgiveness for Amer-
6	icans willing to work in underserved areas, and take
7	other steps to increase the number of health per-
8	sonnel in the United States.
9	SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO INCREASE HUMAN CAPACITY IN
10	THE HEALTH SECTOR IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRI-
11	CA.
12	Chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act
13	of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by adding
14	at the end the following new section:
15	"SEC. 135. ASSISTANCE TO INCREASE HUMAN CAPACITY IN
16	THE HEALTH SECTOR IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRI-
17	CA.
18	"(a) Assistance.—
19	"(1) Authority.—The President is authorized
20	to provide assistance, including providing assistance
21	through international or nongovernmental organiza-
22	tions, for programs in sub-Saharan Africa to im-
23	prove human health care capacity.
24	"(2) Types of assistance.—Such programs
25	should include assistance—

1	"(A) to provide financial and technical as-
2	sistance to sub-Saharan African countries in de-
3	veloping and implementing new or strengthened
4	comprehensive national health workforce plans;
5	"(B) to build and improve national and
6	local capacities and sustainable health systems
7	management in sub-Saharan African countries,
8	including financial, strategic, and technical as-
9	sistance for—
10	"(i) fiscal and health personnel man-
11	agement;
12	"(ii) health worker recruitment sys-
13	tems;
14	"(iii) the creation or improvement of
15	computerized health workforce databases
16	and other human resource information sys-
17	tems;
18	"(iv) implementation of measures to
19	reduce corruption in the health sector; and
20	"(v) monitoring, evaluation, and qual-
21	ity assurance in the health field, including
22	the utilization of national and district-level
23	mapping of health care systems to deter-
24	mine capacity to deliver health services;

1	"(C) to train and retain sufficient numbers
2	of health workers, including paraprofessionals,
3	to provide essential health services in sub-Saha-
4	ran African countries, including financing, stra-
5	tegic technical assistance for—
6	"(i) health worker safety and health
7	care, including HIV/AIDS prevention and
8	off-site testing and treatment programs for
9	health workers;
10	"(ii) increased capacity for training
11	health professionals and paraprofessionals
12	in such subjects as human resources plan-
13	ning and management, health program
14	management, and quality improvement;
15	"(iii) expanded access to secondary
16	level math and science education;
17	"(iv) expanded capacity for nursing
18	and medical schools in sub-Saharan Africa,
19	with particular attention to incentives or
20	mechanisms to encourage graduates to
21	work in the health sector in their country
22	of residence;
23	"(v) incentives and policies to increase
24	retention, including salary incentives;

1	"(vi) modern quality improvement
2	processes and practices;
3	"(vii) continuing education, distance
4	education, and career development oppor-
5	tunities for health workers;
6	"(viii) mechanisms to promote produc-
7	tivity within existing and expanding health
8	workforces; and
9	"(ix) achievement of minimum infra-
10	structure requirements for health facilities,
11	such as access to clean water;
12	"(D) to support sub-Saharan African
13	countries with financing, technical support, and
14	personnel, including paraprofessionals and com-
15	munity-based caregivers, to better meet the
16	health needs of rural and other underserved
17	populations by providing incentives to serve in
18	these areas, and to more equitably distribute
19	health professionals and paraprofessionals;
20	"(E) to support efforts to improve public
21	health capacities in sub-Saharan Africa through
22	education, leadership development, and other
23	mechanisms;
24	"(F) to provide technical assistance, equip-
25	ment, training, and supplies to assist in the im-

1	provement of health infrastructure in sub-Saha-
2	ran Africa;
3	"(G) to promote efforts to improve system-
4	atically human resource management and devel-
5	opment as a critical health and development
6	issue in coordination with specific disease con-
7	trol programs for sub-Saharan Africa; and
8	"(H) to establish a global clearinghouse or
9	similar mechanism for knowledge sharing re-
10	garding human resources for health, in con-
11	sultation, if helpful, with the Global Health
12	Workforce Alliance.
13	"(3) Monitoring and evaluation.—
14	"(A) In General.—The President shall
15	establish a monitoring and evaluation system to
16	measure the effectiveness of assistance by the
17	United States to improve human health care ca-
18	pacity in sub-Saharan Africa in order to maxi-
19	mize the sustainable development impact of as-
20	sistance authorized under this section and pur-
21	suant to the strategy required under subsection
22	(b).
23	"(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The monitoring
24	and evaluation system shall—

1	"(i) establish performance goals for
2	assistance provided under this section;
3	"(ii) establish performance indicators
4	to be used in measuring or assessing the
5	achievement of performance goals;
6	"(iii) provide a basis for recommenda-
7	tions for adjustments to the assistance to
8	enhance the impact of the assistance; and
9	"(iv) to the extent feasible, utilize and
10	support national monitoring and evaluation
11	systems, with the objective of improved
12	data collection without the imposition of
13	unnecessary new burdens.
14	"(b) Strategy of the United States.—
15	"(1) REQUIREMENT FOR STRATEGY.—Not later
16	than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
17	Act, the President shall develop and transmit to the
18	appropriate congressional committees a strategy for
19	coordinating, implementing, and monitoring assist-
20	ance programs for human health care capacity in
21	sub-Saharan Africa.
22	"(2) Content.—The strategy required by
23	paragraph (1) shall include—
24	"(A) a description of a coordinated strat-
25	egy, including coordination among agencies and

departments of the Federal Government with other bilateral and multilateral donors, to provide the assistance authorized in subsection (a);

> "(B) a description of a coordinated strategy to consult with sub-Saharan African countries and the African Union on how best to advance the goals of this Act; and

> "(C) an analysis of how international financial institutions can most effectively assist countries in their efforts to expand and better direct public spending in the health and education sectors in tandem with the anticipated scale up of international assistance to combat HIV/AIDS and other health challenges, while simultaneously helping these countries maintain prudent fiscal balance.

"(3) Focus of analysis.—It is suggested that the analysis described in paragraph (2)(C) focus on 2 or 3 selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including, if practical, 1 focus country as designated under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (authorized by the United States Leadership Against Global HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–25)) and 1 country without such a designation.

"(4) Consultation.—The President is encour-1 2 aged to develop the strategy required under para-3 graph (1) in consultation with the Secretary of 4 State, the Administrator for the United States 5 Agency for International Development, including em-6 ployees of its field missions, the Global HIV/AIDS 7 Coordinator, the Chief Executive Officer of the Mil-8 lennium Challenge Corporation, the Secretary of the 9 Treasury, the Director of the Bureau of Citizenship 10 and Immigration Services, the Director of the Cen-11 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, and other 12 relevant agencies to ensure coordination within the 13 Federal Government. 14 "(5) Coordination.— 15 "(A) DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY.—To 16 ensure coordination with national strategies and 17 objectives and other international efforts, the 18 President should develop the strategy described 19 in paragraph (1) by consulting appropriate offi-20 cials of the United States Government and by 21 coordinating with the following: 22 "(i) Other donors. "(ii) Implementers. 23

"(iii) International agencies.

1	"(iv) Nongovernmental organizations
2	working to increase human health capacity
3	in sub-Saharan Africa.
4	"(v) The World Bank.
5	"(vi) The International Monetary
6	Fund.
7	"(vii) The Global Fund to Fight
8	AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.
9	"(viii) The World Health Organiza-
10	tion.
11	"(ix) The International Labour Orga-
12	nization.
13	"(x) The United Nations Development
14	Programme.
15	"(xi) The United Nations Programme
16	on HIV/AIDS.
17	"(xii) The European Union.
18	"(xiii) The African Union.
19	"(B) Assessment and compilation.—
20	The President should make the assessments
21	and compilations required by subsection
22	(a)(3)(B)(v), in coordination with the entities
23	listed in subparagraph (A).
24	"(c) Report.—

- 1 "(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after 2 the date on which the President submits the strategy 3 required in subsection (b), the President shall sub-4 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a 5 report on the implementation of this section.
 - "(2) Assessment of Mechanisms for Knowledge sharing about human resources for health and capacity building efforts to be shared with governments of developing countries and others seeking to promote improvements in human resources for health and capacity building.

"(d) Definitions.—In this section:

- "(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.
- "(2) Brain Drain.—The term 'brain drain' means the emigration of a significant proportion of a country's professionals working in the health field

1	to wealthier countries, with a resulting loss of per-
2	sonnel and often a loss in investment in education
3	and training for the countries experiencing the emi-
4	gration.
5	"(3) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.—The term
6	'health professional' means a person whose occupa-
7	tion or training helps to identify, prevent, or treat
8	illness or disability.
9	``(4) HIV/AIDS.—The term 'HIV/AIDS' has
10	the meaning given such term in section 104A(g) of
11	the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
12	2151b-2(g)).
13	"(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—
14	"(1) In general.—There are authorized to be
15	appropriated to the President to carry out the provi-
16	sions of this section—
17	"(A) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
18	"(B) $$150,000,000$ for fiscal year 2008;
19	and
20	"(C) $$200,000,000$ for fiscal year 2009.
21	"(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts made
22	available under paragraph (1) are authorized to re-
23	main available until expended and are in addition to

- 1 amounts otherwise made available for the purpose of
- 2 carrying out this section.".

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