

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 502

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize assistance to improve security and promote economic development in Mexico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR (for himself and Mr. REYES) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize assistance to improve security and promote economic development in Mexico.

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 “Prosperous and Secure
5 Neighbor Alliance Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) An alarming increase in illicit drugs and
9 drug-related violence in Mexico and on the United

1 States–Mexico border has made life gradually more
2 difficult for Americans living in border communities.

3 (2) The precarious security situation on the
4 United States–Mexico border has also had a broader
5 negative impact in the United States with illicit
6 drugs continuing to get into the hands of our Na-
7 tion’s children.

8 (3) United States Director of National Intel-
9 ligence John Negroponte named Mexico in the An-
10 nual Threat Assessment of the Director of National
11 Intelligence for the Senate Select Committee on In-
12 telligence (February 2, 2006) as a country of con-
13 cern regarding the capacity of drug trafficking orga-
14 nizations to undermine already weak state authority.

15 (4) As a neighbor and as the second largest
16 trading partner of the United States, Mexico de-
17 serves the support of the United States in taking
18 steps to improve security and promote economic de-
19 velopment in Mexico.

20 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is, therefore, the
21 policy of the United States to increase United States for-
22 eign assistance to improve security and promote economic
23 development in Mexico, both of which are crucial to more
24 effectively combat illicit drugs and drug-related violence

1 and other criminal activities in Mexico and the United
2 States.

3 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF**
4 **1961.**

5 Part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
6 U.S.C. 2151 et seq) is amended by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 **“CHAPTER 13—ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE**
9 **SECURITY AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC**
10 **DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO**

11 **“SEC. 499H. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through
13 the Director of Foreign Assistance, shall provide assist-
14 ance to improve security and promote economic develop-
15 ment in Mexico by—

16 “(1) professionalizing Mexican law enforcement
17 personnel to prepare such law enforcement personnel
18 to more effectively combat illicit drugs and drug-re-
19 lated violence and other criminal activities, including
20 by providing funding to coordinate United States
21 and Mexican efforts to find missing United States
22 citizens and to carry out DNA testing and forensic
23 examinations;

1 “(2) providing technology to assist Mexican law
2 enforcement personnel to more effectively combat il-
3 licit drugs and drug-related violence;

4 “(3) strengthening the Mexican judicial branch
5 through the training of judges and prosecutors;

6 “(4) supporting anti-corruption programs in
7 Mexico, including the vetting of Mexican law en-
8 forcement personnel who are working with United
9 States Government personnel; and

10 “(5) reducing poverty through targeted funding
11 to enhance social development in Mexico, including
12 micro-lending and trade capacity building.

13 “(b) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—Assistance under
14 this chapter may be provided on such terms and conditions
15 as the President may determine.

16 **“SEC. 499I. EVALUATION.**

17 “The President shall conduct an annual evaluation
18 of the results of the specific programs, projects, and activi-
19 ties carried out under this chapter during the preceding
20 year in order to ensure transparency and accountability,
21 including transparency and accountability of recipients of
22 assistance provided under this chapter.

23 **“SEC. 499J. REPORT.**

24 “The President shall prepare and transmit to the
25 Committee on International Relations of the House of

1 Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of
2 the Senate, and other appropriate congressional commit-
3 tees an annual report on the specific programs, projects,
4 and activities carried out under this chapter during the
5 preceding year, including the evaluation conducted under
6 section 499I.

7 **“SEC. 499K. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
9 propriated to the President to carry out this chapter
10 \$170,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through
11 2012.

12 “(b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—Amounts appro-
13 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
14 under subsection (a)—

15 “(1) are authorized to remain available until ex-
16 pended; and

17 “(2) are in addition to amounts otherwise avail-
18 able for such purposes.

19 “(c) FUNDING LIMITATION.—Not more than 5 per-
20 cent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the author-
21 ization of appropriations under subsection (a) for a fiscal
22 year may be used for administrative expenses.

23 “(d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that, of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the

1 authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) for
2 a fiscal year—

3 “(1) \$40,000,000 should be made available to
4 carry out section 499H(a)(1);

5 “(2) \$50,000,000 should be made available to
6 carry out section 499H(a)(2);

7 “(3) \$20,000,000 should be made available to
8 carry out section 499H(a)(3);

9 “(4) \$10,000,000 should be made available to
10 carry out section 499H(a)(4); and

11 “(5) \$50,000,000 should be made available to
12 carry out section 499H(a)(5).”.

13 **SEC. 4. REPORT BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OF-**
14 **FICE.**

15 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
17 States shall submit to Congress a report that contains a
18 description and analysis of the most effective strategies
19 to reduce the demand for illicit drugs in the United States,
20 specifically (but not limited to) strategies that reduce the
21 demand for illicit drugs produced in or transported
22 through Mexico.

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