

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3151

To establish the Office for Global Women’s Issues and the Women’s Development Advisor to facilitate interagency coordination and the integration of gender considerations into the strategies, programming, and associated outcomes of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22 (legislative day, MARCH 19), 2010

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. LUGAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To establish the Office for Global Women’s Issues and the Women’s Development Advisor to facilitate interagency coordination and the integration of gender considerations into the strategies, programming, and associated outcomes of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, 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 “Enhancing Quality As-
3 sistance and Leadership and Improving Transparency for
4 Women Act” or the “EQUALITY Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

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

7 (1) Women are vital to successful development.

8 On January 6, 2010, Secretary of State Clinton
9 stated, “Women and girls are one of the world’s
10 greatest untapped resources. Investing in the poten-
11 tial of women to lift and lead their societies is one
12 of the best investments we can make. . . . (S)tudies
13 have shown when a woman receives even just one
14 year of schooling, her children are less likely to die
15 in infancy or suffer from illness or hunger, and more
16 likely to go to school themselves.”.

17 (2) According to the World Bank—

18 (A) investing in women and girls yields
19 large social and economic returns, including
20 breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty;
21 and

22 (B) societies that treat males and females
23 more equally experience more rapid economic
24 growth and poverty reduction than societies
25 that discriminate based on gender.

(3) United Nations Millennium Development Goal 3 (MDG3) calls for redressing gender disparities and empowering women. According to the United Nations, women have more access to employment now than ever before; but they still earn $\frac{1}{3}$ less than men. According to the World Bank, MDG3 is the critical avenue through which several other goals are achievable, including—

(A) universal primary education (MDG2);

(B) a $\frac{2}{3}$ reduction in the mortality rate among children younger than 5 years of age (MDG4);

(C) improvements in maternal health (MDG5); and

(D) a reduction in the likelihood of contracting HIV/AIDS and other major diseases (MDG6).

(4) Properly investing in women requires a cross-cutting, multi-sectoral approach. On October 8, 2009, Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, stated "The major economic, security, governance, and environmental challenges of our time cannot be solved without the participation of women at all levels of society. Empowering women is one of the most effective and positive

1 forces for improving conditions around the globe. In-
2 deed, no country can prosper if half its people are
3 left behind.”.

4 (5) The Department of State and the United
5 States Agency for International Development need
6 stronger tools to create a comprehensive plan and
7 approach to mainstreaming women in development.
8 As of 2010, these efforts are only nascent. In his
9 December 2, 2009, confirmation hearing before the
10 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate,
11 USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah stated “I be-
12 lieve effective gender integration is often the dif-
13 ference between success and failure of a broad vari-
14 ety of development investments.”.

15 **SEC. 3. OFFICE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN’S ISSUES.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established, in the
18 Office of the Secretary of State, the Office for Glob-
19 al Women’s Issues (referred to in this section as the
20 “Office”).

21 (2) PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of State may
22 assign appropriate staff with relevant technical and
23 operational expertise to the Office to carry out the
24 purposes of this section.

1 (b) AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN’S
 2 ISSUES.—The Office shall be headed by an Ambassador-
 3 at-Large for Global Women’s Issues (referred to in this
 4 section as the “Ambassador”), who—

5 (1) shall be appointed by the President, by and
 6 with the advice and consent of the Senate;

7 (2) shall report directly to the Secretary of
 8 State; and

9 (3) shall have the rank and status of Amba-
 10 sador-at-Large.

11 (c) DUTIES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Ambassador is author-
 13 ized to—

14 (A) coordinate and advise on activities,
 15 policies, programs, and funding of relevant bu-
 16 reaus and offices of the Department of State,
 17 which relate to—

18 (i) gender integration;

19 (ii) women’s and girls’ economic, so-
 20 cial and legal development, protection, im-
 21 provement in role and status in societies;
 22 and

23 (iii) prevention and response to vio-
 24 lence against women and girls, including
 25 child and forced marriage;

1 (B) promote and advance the full integra-
2 tion of gender analysis into the programs,
3 structures, processes, and capacities of the De-
4 partment of State and other Federal Govern-
5 ment agencies conducting international pro-
6 grams;

7 (C) work with relevant offices within the
8 Department of State to promote the collection,
9 retention, and analysis of data on programs and
10 activities of the Department—

11 (i) to integrate gender into its policies
12 and programs;

13 (ii) regarding the protection and eco-
14 nomic, social, and legal development of
15 women and girls;

16 (iii) to improve the role and status of
17 women and girls in societies; and

18 (iv) to prevent and respond to violence
19 against women and girls, including child
20 and forced marriage; and

21 (D) in coordination with relevant bureaus
22 and offices of the Department of State, design
23 support, and implement relevant activities and
24 programs regarding international girls' and
25 women's issues.

(2) COORDINATING ROLE.—The Ambassador is authorized to—

(A) advise and coordinate with relevant Executive Branch agencies engaged in international women’s policies and programs, including the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce, the United States Agency for International Development and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, on policies, programs, and funding of such agencies relating to women’s issues in their international programs and policies; and

(B) work with relevant Executive Branch agencies described in subparagraph (A), to compile and make public comprehensive information about United States Government international programs relating to—

- (i) the economic, social, and legal development of women and girls;
- (ii) the protection of women and girls;
- (iii) the improvement of the role and status of women and girls in societies;

1 (iv) the prevention of and response to
 2 violence against women and girls, including
 3 child and forced marriage; and

4 (v) the outcomes and effectiveness of
 5 such programs.

6 (3) DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.—Subject to
 7 the direction of the President and the Secretary of
 8 State, the Ambassador is authorized to represent the
 9 United States in matters relevant to the status of
 10 women internationally.

11 (d) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—

12 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Ambassador is au-
 13 thorized—

14 (A) to provide advice and guidance, as ap-
 15 propriate, to the Federal Government agencies
 16 described in subsection (c)(2)(A); and

17 (B) on behalf of the Secretary of State, to
 18 convene periodic meetings with other Federal
 19 Government agencies to enhance and ensure ef-
 20 fective coordination of policies, programs, and
 21 resources regarding critical issues related to
 22 international women’s status and development.

23 (2) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of
 24 the Senate that the heads of relevant Federal Gov-
 25 ernment agencies described in subsection (c)(2)(A)

1 should ensure effective implementation and coordina-
 2 tion of all international women’s policies and pro-
 3 grams by annually sharing information with the Of-
 4 fice on programs described in subsection (c)(2)(B).

5 (e) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 6
 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
 7 annually thereafter, the Ambassador shall brief Congress
 8 on the integration of gender considerations into its strate-
 9 gies, programming, and associated outcomes, and inter-
 10 agency cooperation.

11 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 12 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
 13 required for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2015
 14 to carry out the activities authorized under this section.

15 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DE-**
 16 **VELOPMENT WOMEN’S DEVELOPMENT ADVI-**
 17 **SOR.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established, within
 20 the United States Agency for International Develop-
 21 ment (referred to in this section as “USAID”), the
 22 Women’s Development Advisor (referred to in this
 23 section as the “Advisor”), who shall—

24 (A) be appointed by, and report directly to,
 25 the USAID Administrator;

(B) be highly qualified in the areas of international development and gender integration; and

(C) participate in high level strategic policy, planning, operations, and evaluations throughout all regional and functional disciplines of USAID.

(2) SUPPORT STAFF.—The Office of Women in International Development shall report directly to the Advisor. The USAID Administrator may assign additional staff with technical and operational expertise as may be needed to assist the Advisor in carrying out the purposes of this section.

(b) DUTIES.—The Advisor is authorized to—

(1) coordinate USAID efforts to integrate gender in foreign assistance design, strategy, and programs;

(2) coordinate and consult with the Ambassador;

(3) inform the USAID Administrator of United States Government policies relating to gender, including those disseminated by the Ambassador;

(4) collect and make publicly available data and analysis on gender integration activities, women's development, strategies for gender-based violence

1 prevention and response, in accordance with agency-
2 wide mechanisms for data collection, monitoring,
3 and evaluation; and

4 (5) provide recommendations to the Adminis-
5 trator.

6 (c) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 6
7 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
8 annually thereafter, the USAID Administrator or the Ad-
9 visor shall provide to Congress data collected under sub-
10 section (b)(5) on the integration of gender, women’s devel-
11 opment, and gender-based violence prevention and re-
12 sponse into its strategies, programming, and associated
13 outcomes.

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
16 necessary for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2015
17 to carry out the activities authorized under this section.

18 **SEC. 5. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**

19 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
21 General of the United States shall submit a report to the
22 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the
23 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
24 tives that provides a detailed accounting of all United
25 States Government financial assistance—

1 (1) to further international economic, social,
2 and legal development for women and girls;

3 (2) to provide protection for women and girls;

4 (3) to improve the role and status of women
5 and girls in societies;

6 (4) to prevent and respond to violence against
7 women and girls, including child and forced mar-
8 riage; and

9 (5) to address related issues.

10 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required under sub-
11 section (a) shall include—

12 (1) a description and assessment of the pro-
13 grams authorized and funded to address the issues
14 set forth in paragraphs (1) through (5) of subsection
15 (a);

16 (2) an assessment of the coordination among
17 Federal agencies involved in such programs, includ-
18 ing—

19 (A) an examination of the internal coordi-
20 nation within such programs; and

21 (B) the integration with the larger global
22 health and development agenda of the United
23 States;

24 (3) an assessment of procurement policies and
25 practices within such programs;

- 1 (4) an assessment of the impact of such efforts;
- 2 and
- 3 (5) recommendations for improving the coordi-
- 4 nation and outcomes of such programs and funding.

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