

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4939

To increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2016

Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, 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 “United States–Carib-
5 bean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 Congress declares that it is the policy of the United
3 States to increase engagement with the governments of
4 the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community
5 in the United States, and the private sector and civil soci-
6 ety in both the United States and the Caribbean in a con-
7 certed effort to—

8 (1) enhance diplomatic relations between the
9 United States and the Caribbean region;

10 (2) increase economic cooperation between the
11 United States and the Caribbean region;

12 (3) support regional economic, political, and se-
13 curity integration efforts in the Caribbean region;

14 (4) encourage sustainable economic develop-
15 ment and increased regional economic diversification
16 and global competitiveness;

17 (5) reduce levels of crime and violence, curb the
18 trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law,
19 and improve citizen security;

20 (6) improve energy security by increasing access
21 to diverse, reliable, affordable, and sustainable
22 power;

23 (7) advance cooperation on democracy and
24 human rights in the Caribbean region and at multi-
25 lateral fora; and

1 (8) continue support for public health advances
2 and cooperation on health concerns and threats to
3 the Caribbean region.

4 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY.**

5 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination
7 with the Administrator of the United States Agency for
8 International Development (USAID), shall submit to the
9 appropriate congressional committees a multi-year strat-
10 egy for United States engagement with the Caribbean re-
11 gion that—

12 (1) identifies Department of State and USAID
13 efforts, in coordination with other executive branch
14 agencies, to prioritize United States policy towards
15 the Caribbean region;

16 (2) outlines an approach to broaden Depart-
17 ment of State and USAID outreach to the Carib-
18 bean diaspora community in the United States to
19 promote their involvement and participation in the
20 economic development and citizen security of the
21 Caribbean region;

22 (3) outlines an approach to partner with the
23 governments of the Caribbean region to improve cit-
24 izen security, reduce the trafficking of illicit drugs,
25 strengthen the rule of law, and improve the effective-

1 ness and sustainability of the Caribbean Basin Secu-
2 rity Initiative;

3 (4) establishes a comprehensive, integrated,
4 multi-year strategy to encourage the efforts of the
5 Caribbean region to implement regional and national
6 strategies that improve energy security by increasing
7 access to diverse, reliable, affordable, and sustain-
8 able power, including significant renewable energy
9 resources within the Caribbean region such as bio-
10 mass, geothermal, hydropower, solar, tidal, waste-to-
11 energy, and wind, and by taking advantage of the
12 ongoing energy revolution in the United States;

13 (5) outlines an approach to improve diplomatic
14 engagement with the governments of the Caribbean
15 region, including with respect to key votes on human
16 rights and democracy at the United Nations and the
17 Organization of American States;

18 (6) develops an approach to assisting Caribbean
19 countries in the diversification of their economies,
20 the reduction of legal, technical, and administrative
21 barriers that prevent the free flow of foreign direct
22 investment and trade to and from each country and
23 within the Caribbean region, and support for the
24 training and employment of youth and citizens in
25 marginalized communities; and

1 (7) reflects the input of other executive branch
2 agencies, as appropriate.

3 **SEC. 4. BRIEFINGS.**

4 The Secretary of State shall provide annual briefings
5 to the appropriate congressional committees that review
6 Department of State efforts to implement the strategy for
7 United States engagement with the Caribbean region in
8 accordance with section 3.

9 **SEC. 5. PROGRESS REPORT.**

10 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the President
12 shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees
13 a report on progress made toward to implementing the
14 strategy for United States engagement with the Caribbean
15 region in accordance with section 3.

16 **SEC. 6. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT**
17 **ON CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

18 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
20 States shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
21 mittees a report that contains the following:

22 (1) An evaluation of the Caribbean Basin Secu-
23 rity Initiative (CBSI) and the extent to which the
24 CBSI has met Department of State and USAID
25 benchmarks.

1 (2) An accounting of CBSI funding appro-
2 priated, obligated, and expended from fiscal year
3 2010 through fiscal year 2016.

4 (3) A breakdown of yearly CBSI assistance pro-
5 vided to each CBSI country.

6 (4) A description of how CBSI is coordinated
7 with other security assistance programs in the West-
8 ern Hemisphere, particularly the Merida Initiative
9 and the Central America Regional Security Initia-
10 tive, and the role of the Department of State's Sen-
11 ior Coordinator for the Citizen Security Initiatives in
12 the Western Hemisphere in such coordination.

13 (5) A description of all United States security
14 assistance provided to the Caribbean region, exclu-
15 sive of assistance through CBSI.

16 (6) Recommendations for legislative and execu-
17 tive action to make CBSI more effective and effi-
18 cient.

19 **SEC. 7. GAO REPORT ON DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT IN**
20 **THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN.**

21 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
23 States shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
24 mittees a report that contains the following:

1 (1) An evaluation of United States diplomatic
2 outreach from the United States embassy in Bar-
3 bados to the countries of Antigua and Barbuda,
4 Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St.
5 Vincent, and the Grenadines.

6 (2) A list of visits over the previous five years
7 of personnel at the United States embassy in Bar-
8 bados to the countries of Antigua and Barbuda,
9 Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St.
10 Vincent, and the Grenadines.

11 (3) A description of how personnel at the
12 United States embassy in Barbados have engaged
13 with government officials and civil society organiza-
14 tions in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts
15 and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, and the Gren-
16 adines over the previous five years.

17 (4) A description of how personnel at the
18 United States embassy in Grenada have engaged
19 with government officials and civil society organiza-
20 tions over the previous five years.

21 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
24 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
25 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of

1 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
2 Foreign Relations of the Senate.

3 (2) CARIBBEAN REGION.—The term “Caribbean
4 region” means the Caribbean Basin Security Initia-
5 tive beneficiary countries.

6 (3) SECURITY ASSISTANCE.—The term “secu-
7 rity assistance” has the meaning given such term in
8 section 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of
9 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)).

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