

114<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4939

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2016

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “United States–Carib-  
3 bean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016”.

4 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

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

11 (1) enhance diplomatic relations between the  
12 United States and the Caribbean region;

13 (2) increase economic cooperation between the  
14 United States and the Caribbean region;

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

17 (4) encourage sustainable economic develop-  
18 ment and increased regional economic diversification  
19 and global competitiveness;

20 (5) reduce levels of crime and violence, curb the  
21 trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law,  
22 and improve citizen security;

23 (6) improve energy security by increasing access  
24 to diverse, reliable, affordable, and sustainable  
25 power;

1           (7) advance cooperation on democracy and  
2           human rights in the Caribbean region and at multi-  
3           lateral fora; and

4           (8) continue support for public health advances  
5           and cooperation on health concerns and threats to  
6           the Caribbean region.

7 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY.**

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

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

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

1           (3) outlines an approach to partner with the  
2 governments of the Caribbean region to improve cit-  
3 izen security, reduce the trafficking of illicit drugs,  
4 strengthen the rule of law, and improve the effective-  
5 ness and sustainability of the Caribbean Basin Secu-  
6 rity Initiative;

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

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

22           (6) develops an approach to assisting Caribbean  
23 countries in the diversification of their economies,  
24 the reduction of legal, technical, and administrative  
25 barriers that prevent the free flow of foreign direct

1 investment and trade to and from each country and  
2 within the Caribbean region, and support for the  
3 training and employment of youth and citizens in  
4 marginalized communities; and

5 (7) reflects the input of other executive branch  
6 agencies, as appropriate.

7 **SEC. 4. BRIEFINGS.**

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

13 **SEC. 5. PROGRESS REPORT.**

14 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
15 of this Act and biennially thereafter for the following 4  
16 years, the President shall transmit to the appropriate con-  
17 gressional committees a report on progress made toward  
18 to implementing the strategy for United States engage-  
19 ment with the Caribbean region in accordance with section  
20 3.

21 **SEC. 6. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT**  
22 **ON CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

23 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
24 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States

1 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
2 a report that contains the following:

3 (1) An evaluation of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) and the extent to which the  
4 CBSI has met Department of State and USAID  
5 benchmarks.

6  
7 (2) An accounting of CBSI funding appropriated, obligated, and expended from fiscal year  
8 2010 through fiscal year 2016.

9  
10 (3) A breakdown of yearly CBSI assistance provided to each CBSI country.

11  
12 (4) A description of how CBSI is coordinated with other security assistance programs in the Western Hemisphere, particularly the Merida Initiative  
13 and the Central America Regional Security Initiative, and the role of the Department of State's Senior Coordinator for the Citizen Security Initiatives in  
14 the Western Hemisphere in such coordination.

15  
16 (5) A description of all United States security assistance provided to the Caribbean region, exclusive of assistance through CBSI.

17  
18 (6) Recommendations for legislative and executive action to make CBSI more effective and efficient, as appropriate.

1 **SEC. 7. GAO REPORT ON DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT IN**  
2 **THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN.**

3 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
4 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
5 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
6 a report that contains the following:

7 (1) An evaluation of United States diplomatic  
8 outreach from the United States embassy in Bar-  
9 bados to the countries of Antigua and Barbuda,  
10 Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St.  
11 Vincent, and the Grenadines.

12 (2) A list of visits over the previous 5 years of  
13 personnel at the United States embassy in Barbados  
14 to the countries of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica,  
15 St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, and  
16 the Grenadines.

17 (3) A description of how personnel at the  
18 United States embassy in Barbados have engaged  
19 with government officials and civil society organiza-  
20 tions in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts  
21 and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, and the Gren-  
22 adines over the previous 5 years.

23 (4) A description of how personnel at the  
24 United States embassy in Grenada have engaged  
25 with government officials and civil society organiza-  
26 tions over the previous 5 years.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORTING COST OFFSET.**

2 Paragraph (4) of section 601(c) of the Foreign Serv-  
3 ice Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4001(c)) is amended in the  
4 matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the fol-  
5 lowing:” and all that follows through “A workforce plan”  
6 and inserting “a workforce plan” and adjusting the mar-  
7 gins accordingly.

8 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
11 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
12 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
13 the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
14 Foreign Relations of the Senate.

15 (2) **CARIBBEAN REGION.**—The term “Caribbean  
16 region” means the Caribbean Basin Security Initia-  
17 tive beneficiary countries.

18 (3) **SECURITY ASSISTANCE.**—The term “secu-  
19 rity assistance” has the meaning given such term in  
20 section 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of  
21 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)).

Passed the House of Representatives June 13, 2016.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*