

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3085

To authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2019

Ms. BASS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 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 “Ebola Eradication Act
5 of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The current Ebola outbreak in the Demo-
9 cratic Republic of the Congo, which began in August
10 2018 in eastern Congo, is the second largest in his-

1 tory and has a reported 1,778 confirmed total cases,
2 and 1,153 confirmed deaths.

3 (2) Despite the use of preventive tools and new
4 therapeutics, insecurity and community resistance to
5 response efforts remain major obstacles to ending
6 the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Re-
7 public of the Congo, and the outbreak continues to
8 spread.

9 (3) Hospitals, health clinics, and Ebola clinics
10 have been repeatedly attacked by armed actors.

11 (4) On February 28, 2019, Doctors Without
12 Borders suspended its work in Ebola epicenters after
13 two treatment centers were attacked.

14 (5) On April 19, 2019, Dr. Richard Valery
15 Mouzoko Kiboung, an epidemiologist from Cameroon
16 deployed by the World Health Organization to east-
17 ern Congo to help stop the outbreak, was killed in
18 an attack on Butembo University Hospital.

19 (6) Healthcare workers responding to Ebola
20 have expressed concerns about their ability to con-
21 tinue working on the response given the complex se-
22 curity situation.

23 (7) If the outbreak is not brought under con-
24 trol, it risks spreading across the border to neigh-
25 boring countries and endangering millions of people.

1 (8) The Administration released a November
2 29, 2018, Presidential Memorandum implementing
3 aid restrictions to most countries on Tier III of the
4 2018 Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report that fully
5 restricted non-humanitarian, non-trade related aid to
6 the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

7 (9) Paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 110(d) of
8 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22
9 U.S.C. 7107(d)(4)) authorize the continuation of as-
10 sistance in Tier III countries if such assistance is
11 determined to be in the national interest of the
12 United States.

13 (10) Section 110(d)(5)(B) of the Trafficking
14 Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.
15 7107(d)(5)(B)) states, “The President shall exercise
16 the [waiver] authority under paragraph (4) when
17 necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vul-
18 nerable populations, including women and children.”.

19 (11) The President has not exercised the waiver
20 authority provided for in section 110(d)(5)(B) of the
21 Trafficking in Victims Protection Act of 2000 in re-
22 lation to health, education, or community outreach
23 activities essential to the success of the Ebola re-
24 sponse in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

1 (12) It is in the national interest of the United
2 States to help control and end the current Ebola
3 outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
4 before it spreads.

5 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO ADDRESS THE EBOLA OUT-**
6 **BREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF**
7 **THE CONGO.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 110 of
9 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.
10 7107), the Administrator of the United States Agency for
11 International Development shall immediately provide as-
12 sistance, including multi-sectoral, non-humanitarian, and
13 non-trade related foreign assistance, to the Democratic
14 Republic of the Congo and other vulnerable countries to
15 effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in Au-
16 gust 2018. Subject to the availability of appropriations,
17 such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate
18 with both the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak and an
19 effective response. Activities to expand and improve access
20 to communities heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak
21 should be prioritized under this section.

22 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
24 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
25 velopment shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Rela-

1 tions of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs
2 of the House of Representatives a report—

3 (1) describing the actions the Administrator has
4 taken and plans to take under section 3(a) to end
5 the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic
6 of the Congo; and

7 (2) proposing any additional legal authorities
8 required to improve the response to the Ebola out-
9 break in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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