

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1340

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Ebola Eradication Act  
3 of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) The current Ebola outbreak in the Demo-  
7 cratic Republic of the Congo, which began in August  
8 2018 in eastern Congo, is the second largest in his-  
9 tory and has resulted in over 1,600 cases and 1,000  
10 deaths.

11 (2) Despite the use of preventive tools and new  
12 therapeutics, insecurity and community resistance to  
13 response efforts remain major obstacles to ending  
14 the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Re-  
15 public of the Congo, and the outbreak continues to  
16 spread.

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

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

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

1           (6) Healthcare workers responding to Ebola  
2 have expressed concerns about their ability to con-  
3 tinue working on the response given the complex se-  
4 curity situation.

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

8           (8) The Administration released a November  
9 29, 2018, Presidential Memorandum implementing  
10 aid restrictions to most countries on Tier III of the  
11 2018 Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report that fully  
12 restricted non-humanitarian, non-trade related aid to  
13 the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

14           (9) Paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 110(d) of  
15 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22  
16 U.S.C. 7107(d)(4) and (5)) authorize the continu-  
17 ation of assistance in Tier III countries if such as-  
18 sistance is determined to be in the national interest  
19 of the United States.

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

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

7           (12) It is in the national interest of the United  
8           States to help control and end the current Ebola  
9           outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
10          before it spreads.

11 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO ADDRESS THE EBOLA OUT-**  
12                                   **BREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF**  
13                                   **THE CONGO.**

14          (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 110 of  
15          the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.  
16          7107), and subject to the availability of appropriations,  
17          the Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-  
18          national Development shall immediately provide assist-  
19          ance, including targeted foreign assistance under chapters  
20          1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961  
21          (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.; 22 U.S.C. 2293 et seq.) for global  
22          health and activities necessary to respond to the threat  
23          posed by Ebola, and under chapter 4 of part II of the  
24          Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.),  
25          to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan,

1 and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that  
2 began in August 2018, including water and sanitation in-  
3 frastructure, global health activities, public messaging and  
4 other critical activities necessary for ending the outbreak.  
5 Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate  
6 both to address the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak  
7 and conduct activities necessary for an effective response.  
8 Activities to expand and improve access to communities  
9 heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be  
10 prioritized under this section.

11 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days  
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-  
13 trator of the United States Agency for International De-  
14 velopment shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Rela-  
15 tions of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
16 of the House of Representatives a report—

17 (1) describing the actions the Administrator has  
18 taken and plans to take under section 3(a) to end  
19 the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic  
20 of the Congo; and

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

Passed the Senate September 23, 2019.

Attest:

JULIE E. ADAMS,

*Secretary.*