

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1888

To establish the United States Foundation for International Food Security to leverage private sector investments in order to improve and scale economically viable agricultural production, build food systems to mitigate food shock, reduce malnutrition, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2025

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To establish the United States Foundation for International Food Security to leverage private sector investments in order to improve and scale economically viable agricultural production, build food systems to mitigate food shock, reduce malnutrition, and drive economic growth, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “United States Foundation for International Food Secu-
4 rity Act of 2025”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
6 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. United States Foundation for International Food Security.

Sec. 4. Governance of the Foundation.

Sec. 5. Corporate powers and obligations of the Foundation.

Sec. 6. Outcome-based funding, safeguards, and accountability.

Sec. 7. Ventures, financing, and grants.

Sec. 8. Prohibition of support in countries that support terrorism or violate human rights and of support for sanctioned persons.

Sec. 9. Annual report.

Sec. 10. Authorization of appropriations.

7 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

8 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees” means—

10 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
11 Senate;

(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry of the Senate;

1 (6) the Committee on Appropriations of the
2 House of Representatives.

3 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL**
4 **FOOD SECURITY.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

6 (1) FINDING.—Congress finds that there has
7 been established, in the District of Columbia, a pri-
8 vate, nonprofit corporation, which is known as the
9 United States Foundation for International Food
10 Security (referred to in this Act as the “Founda-
11 tion”), which is not an agency or establishment of
12 the United States Government.

13 (2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this Act
14 may be construed as—

15 (A) making the Foundation an agency or
16 establishment of the United States Government;
17 or

18 (B) making any member of the Board of
19 Directors of the Foundation or any officer or
20 employee of the Foundation an employee of the
21 United States.

22 (3) TRANSFERS OR CONSOLIDATION REQUIRE
23 ACT OF CONGRESS.—Neither the Foundation nor
24 any of its functions, powers, or duties may be trans-
25 ferred to, or consolidated with, any department,

1 agency, or entity of the Federal Government absent
2 an Act of Congress to such effect.

3 (4) TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.—The Board shall
4 take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure
5 that the Foundation is established as an organiza-
6 tion described in subsection (c) of section 501 of the
7 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which exempts the
8 organization from taxation under subsection (a) of
9 such section.

10 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Foundation
11 are—

12 (1) to accelerate enduring, primarily locally led
13 agriculture investments that foster food security and
14 resilience in the crop, poultry, aquaculture, and live-
15 stock industries, that focus on building economically
16 resilient food systems by investing in—

17 (A) financing for, distribution of, and
18 training around key inputs required for increas-
19 ing crop and animal productivity, distribution,
20 and profits;

21 (B) infrastructure, such as irrigation,
22 warehousing, storage, and food processing, to
23 improve food production and market access
24 through better product quality and the preven-
25 tion of food loss;

(C) applied agricultural research; and

(D) economically viable technology deployment that reduces hunger and increases agriculture production or distribution methods;

(2) to prevent unnecessary or inefficient vetting processes, due diligence, project financing, or evaluation reviews by seeking out partnerships and consulting with existing government and nongovernmental entities that have proven track records;

(3) to deploy and scale technology and innovation to accelerate food security and agricultural-led economic growth that reduces global hunger and malnutrition;

(4) to coordinate with the United States Foundation for International Conservation;

(5) to advance the national security interests of the United States;

(6) to complement international and government investment and technical assistance mechanisms, such as those employed or managed by the United States International Development Finance Corporation, and United States Government food security programs, to jointly catalyze private and public sector engagement, spur agricultural-led economic

1 growth, and strengthen local food and nutrition sys-
2 tems; and

3 (7) to ensure the effective use of United States
4 taxpayer dollars and the prioritization of United
5 States foreign policy interests.

6 **SEC. 4. GOVERNANCE OF THE FOUNDATION.**

7 (a) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

8 (1) GOVERNANCE.—The Foundation shall be
9 governed by a voting Board of Directors (referred to
10 in this section as the “Board”) that—

11 (A) shall not exceed 15 members; and

12 (B) may consult with a nonvoting Board of
13 Advisors when making decisions related to the
14 Foundation’s work.

15 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Individuals appointed to
16 the Board shall include individuals who are knowl-
17 edgeable and experienced in matters relating to—

18 (A) agricultural production, livestock, land
19 management, or forestry;

20 (B) agricultural economics, business devel-
21 opment, technology deployment, market access,
22 agribusinesses (including food companies), mar-
23 ket access, supply chains, infrastructure, or
24 commodities groups;

(C) international finance and multilateral governance;

(D) outcome-based and impact funding concepts, including the role of impact evaluations and data collection, to measure the progress of ventures, and innovative grantee or investee selection and funding structures;

(E) agricultural research and development;

or

(F) national security.

(3) LIMITATION ON POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—

The Directors of the Board shall include members of both major political parties in a relatively equal number.

(4) CHAIRPERSON.—A quorum of the voting Directors of the Board shall elect a Chairperson, who shall serve in such position for a 4-year term.

(5) VOTING.—All voting Directors of the Board shall have equal voting rights.

(6) TERMS; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERMS.—The term of service of each Director may not exceed 5 years and is renewable for not more than 1 additional 5-year term.

(B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the membership of the appointed Directors of the Board—

(i) shall be filled in accordance with the bylaws of the Foundation;

(ii) does not affect the power of the remaining appointed Directors to execute the duties of the Board; and

(iii) shall be filled by an individual selected in accordance with the bylaws of the Board.

(7) QUORUM.—A majority of the current membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Foundation business.

(8) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet not less frequently than twice per year.

(B) AUTHORITY.—The Board shall maintain full control and decision-making authority of the Foundation.

(C) REMOVAL.—Any Director may be removed from the Board if—

(i) the Director is absent from 2 consecutive regularly scheduled meetings without reasonable cause; or

5 (9) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—Directors
6 of the Board shall serve without pay, but may be re-
7 imbursed for the actual and necessary traveling and
8 subsistence expenses incurred by such members in
9 the performance of their duties on behalf of the
10 Foundation.

16 (11) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

17 (A) establish bylaws for the Foundation;

18 (B) provide overall direction for the activi-
19 ties of the Foundation and establish priority ac-
20 tivities;

(C) carry out any other necessary activities
of the Foundation;

16 (ii) the use and disposition of the as-
17 sets of the Foundation;

24 (D) the specific duties of the Executive Di-
25 rector of the Foundation;

(E) policies for winding down the activities
of the Foundation upon termination, including
a plan—

4 (i) to return unobligated appropria-
5 tions to the Department of the Treasury;
6 and

(F) specific policies and requirements governing project criteria, measurable outcomes, impact evaluations, and country eligibility requirements.

15 (b) BOARD OF ADVISORS COMPOSITION.—

(B) the Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee;

1 (C) the Chief Executive Officer of the
2 United States International Development Fi-
3 nance Corporation, or his or her designee; and

4 (D) 2 deans or other designated faculty
5 members of United States land-grant colleges
6 or universities that have an international agri-
7 culture program.

14 (c) PROCEDURES.—

23 (d) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; STAFF.—

(1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Board shall hire a qualified individual to serve, at the pleasure

1 of the Board, as the Executive Director of the Foun-
2 dation.

3 (2) FOUNDATION STAFF.—Officers and employ-
4 ees of the Foundation—

5 (A) may not be employees of, or hold any
6 office in, the United States Government;

7 (B) shall be appointed without regard to
8 the provisions of—

9 (i) title 5, United States Code, gov-
10 erning appointments in the competitive
11 service; and

12 (ii) chapter 51 and subchapter III of
13 chapter 53 of such title, relating to classi-
14 fication and General Schedule pay rates;
15 and

16 (C) shall receive a salary that is commen-
17 surate with the salaries of similar positions in
18 similar foundations.

19 (e) LIMITATION; CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS.—

20 (1) POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.—The Founda-
21 tion may not participate or intervene in any political
22 activities on behalf of any candidate for public office
23 in any country.

24 (2) FINANCIAL INTERESTS.—All Directors of
25 the Board, Advisors, officers, and employees of the

1 Foundation are subject to industry standard con-
2 flicts of interest protocols set forth in the Founda-
3 tion bylaws.

4 **SEC. 5. CORPORATE POWERS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE**
5 **FOUNDATION.**

6 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITIES.—The Foundation—

7 (1) may conduct business throughout the
8 States, territories, and possessions of the United
9 States and in foreign countries;

10 (2) shall have its principal offices in the Wash-
11 ington, DC, metropolitan area; and

12 (3) shall continuously maintain a designated
13 agent in Washington, DC, who is authorized to ac-
14 cept notice or service of process on behalf of the
15 Foundation.

16 (b) AUTHORITIES.—In addition to powers explicitly
17 authorized under this Act, the Foundation, in order to
18 carry out the purposes described in section 3(b), shall have
19 the usual powers of a corporation headquartered in Wash-
20 ington, DC, including the authority—

21 (1) to accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer,
22 and use any gift, devise, or bequest, either absolutely
23 or in trust, or real or personal property or any in-
24 come derived from such gift or property, or other in-
25 terest in such gift or property;

1 (2) to acquire by donation, gift, devise, pur-
2 chase, or exchange any real or personal property or
3 interest in such property;

4 (3) unless otherwise required by the instrument
5 of transfer, to sell, donate, lease, invest, reinvest, re-
6 tain, or otherwise dispose of any property or income
7 derived from such property;

8 (4) to complain and defend itself in any court
9 of competent jurisdiction (except that the Directors
10 of the Board shall not be personally liable, except for
11 gross negligence);

12 (5) to enter into legal arrangements with public
13 agencies, private organizations, and persons and to
14 make such payments as may be necessary to carry
15 out the purposes of such contracts or arrangements;
16 and

17 (6) to engage in funding activities, which may
18 include structured or project financing, grants, eq-
19 uity (provided that returns flow back to the Founda-
20 tion), and concessional lending, for eligible projects,
21 in accordance with section 7.

22 (c) FEDERAL FUNDS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation may—

24 (A) hold Federal funds made available, but
25 not immediately disbursed; and

(A) interest-bearing obligations of the
United States; or

(B) obligations guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the United States.

12 (d) LIMITATION OF PUBLIC LIABILITY.—The United
13 States shall not be liable for any debts, defaults, acts, or
14 omissions of the Foundation. The Federal Government
15 shall be held harmless from any damages or awards or-
16 dered by a court against the Foundation.

17 SEC. 6. OUTCOME-BASED FUNDING, SAFEGUARDS, AND AC-
18 COUNTABILITY.

19 (a) OUTCOME-BASED FUNDING.—

24 (A) identifying and regularly reviewing any
25 such outcomes that advance the purposes de-

1 scribed in section 3(b), such as increased crop
2 and animal productivity, increased profit to
3 farmers, or decreased hunger rates; and

4 (B) a portfolio, multi-year, approach to
5 Foundation investments in which the failure of
6 any specific program to achieve target outcomes
7 is acceptable if the overall portfolio of projects
8 meets target outcomes.

9 (2) FINANCING AND EVALUATION PROCESS.—

10 The Foundation shall establish an efficient and
11 streamlined financing and evaluation process that—

12 (A) prioritizes the achievement of defined
13 outcomes;

14 (B) assesses risk of corruption and em-
15 ploys a strategy to counter corruption;

16 (C) prioritizes funding ventures with part-
17 ners that are primarily locally based or locally
18 run organizations, entities, and businesses
19 that—

20 (i) achieve such outcomes; and

21 (ii) demonstrate an ability to sustain
22 the financed project; and

23 (D) focuses venture evaluations on assess-
24 ing such outcomes and minimizing unnecessary
25 reporting on project activities.

1 (b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

2 (1) IMPACT EVALUATIONS.—The achievement
3 of venture outcomes shall be determined through im-
4 pact evaluations that include a comparison group to
5 determine any measured improvements that are at-
6 tributable to the funded venture.

7 (2) METHODOLOGY ASSESSMENTS.—Founda-
8 tion staff may assess the methodology used by
9 grantees or investees that are already running im-
10 pact evaluations to increase efficiency, and such
11 evaluations may be accepted in place of additional
12 evaluations.

13 (3) DEDICATED FUNDING.—Any grantee or
14 investee that lacks impact evaluation capacity may
15 receive dedicated funding to support in-house evalua-
16 tions or to contract with independent, external eval-
17 uators.

18 (4) THIRD-PARTY EVALUATIONS.—The Founda-
19 tion may pay for third-party evaluations of any
20 grantee's project to verify the results derived from
21 an in-house evaluation.

22 (c) SAFEGUARDS.—The Foundation shall develop,
23 and incorporate into any agreement for support provided
24 by the Foundation, appropriate safeguards, policies, and

1 guidelines, consistent with internationally recognized best
2 practices.

3 (d) INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM.—
4 The Foundation shall establish or contract for a trans-
5 parent and independent accountability mechanism, con-
6 sistent with best practices, which shall provide—

7 (1) a compliance review function that assesses
8 whether Foundation-supported ventures adhere to
9 the requirements developed pursuant to subsection
10 (a);

11 (2) a dispute resolution function for resolving
12 and remedying concerns between venture implemen-
13 ters regarding the impacts of specific Foundation-
14 supported ventures with respect to such standards;
15 and

16 (3) an advisory function that reports to the
17 Board regarding ventures, policies, and practices.

18 **SEC. 7. VENTURES, FINANCING, AND GRANTS.**

19 (a) VENTURE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall award
21 funding, which may include project financing, credit
22 risk insurance, grants, concessional lending, or cred-
23 it, in accordance with this section, for eligible
24 projects described in paragraph (2) that—

(A) increase agricultural productivity and incomes; and

(2) ELIGIBLE VENTURES.—A venture qualifies as an eligible venture if the venture seeks—

(B) to incorporate a set of key independently verified outcomes, which shall be measured by rigorous impact evaluations, such as measuring attributable increases in agricultural yields, infrastructure, or any other eligible use;

16 (C) to not substantially duplicate the work
17 of other funders or institutions or displace cur-
18 rent profit-making ventures;

(D) to leverage existing infrastructure and community-led development to allow for the immediate launch of ventures;

(E) to advance the national security interests of the United States;

24 (F) to demonstrate—

11 (G) to consider projects that meet the
12 highest needs of food insecure populations
13 based on food security, agriculture, and mal-
14 nutrition assessments.

15 (b) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES FOR VENTURES.—Before
16 entering into any venture agreement pursuant to this sec-
17 tion, the Board shall—

18 (1) establish criteria to determine whether a
19 country is eligible to receive funding for such a ven-
20 ture; and

(B) have demonstrated leadership to modernize the country's agricultural food systems, in partnership with the private sector; and

4 (C) are committed—

5 (i) to making policy reforms to help
6 transform, scale, and build enduring food
7 systems;

11 (iii) to collaborating with stake-
12 holders—

(II) to scale resilient food systems; and

(III) to improve food safety, processing, logistics, and supply chain processes for input and output markets.

21 (c) FUNDING AUTHORIZED.—

1 (A) coordinate with other international
2 public and private donors or investors and local
3 organizations active in food security to the ex-
4 tent possible; and

5 (B) seek additional financial and non-
6 financial contributions and commitments for its
7 projects from host governments and other orga-
8 nizations.

9 (2) FUNDING CRITERIA.—Funding awarded
10 pursuant to this section—

11 (A) shall be provided to ventures that dem-
12 onstrate progress, during the funding period, in
13 achieving clearly identified performance indica-
14 tors and outcomes defined in the project agree-
15 ment, which may include—

16 (i) increasing agricultural or food pro-
17 duction through agriculture research and
18 the competitive delivery of market-based fi-
19 nancing, distribution and extension serv-
20 ices, and supporting technology commer-
21 cialization and adoption through such serv-
22 ices;

23 (ii) improving the nutritional status of
24 intended beneficiaries by—

(I) increasing the production, availability, and access of nutritious foods domestically;

(II) promoting highly nutritious foods, diet diversification, and nutritional behaviors that improve maternal and child health; and

(III) supporting the expansion of producer market opportunities;

- (iii) building resilient food systems to mitigate against future food shocks among vulnerable populations and households; and

(iv) identifying additional revenue sources or financing mechanisms to meet the recurring costs of ventures by serving as a conduit between institutional investors and the agribusiness sector; and

(B) may be terminated if the Board determines that the country receiving such funding—

(i) is not meeting applicable requirements under this Act;

6 SEC. 8. PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT IN COUNTRIES THAT
7 SUPPORT TERRORISM OR VIOLATE HUMAN
8 RIGHTS AND OF SUPPORT FOR SANCTIONED
9 PERSONS.

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation may not provide
11 support for any government, or any entity owned or con-
12 trolled by a government, if the Secretary of State deter-
13 mines that such government—

(B) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));

(C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

(D) any other relevant provision of law;

24 (2) has repeatedly engaged with any organiza-
25 tions designated as foreign terrorist organizations by

1 the Secretary in accordance with section 219 of the
2 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189);
3 or

4 (3) has engaged in a consistent pattern of gross
5 violations of human rights, as determined under sec-
6 tion 116(a) or 502B(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance
7 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(a) and 2304(a)(2))
8 or any other relevant provision of law.

9 (b) PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT FOR SANCTIONED
10 PERSONS.—The Foundation may not engage in any deal-
11 ing prohibited under United States sanctions laws or regu-
12 lations, including dealings with persons on the list of spe-
13 cially designated persons and blocked persons maintained
14 by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department
15 of the Treasury, except to the extent otherwise authorized
16 by the Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Treasury.

17 (c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
18 tion of subsections (a) and (b) with respect to any govern-
19 ment, or any entity owned or controlled by a government,
20 by notifying the appropriate congressional committees of
21 the intention to exercise such waiver not later than 45
22 days before the waiver is scheduled to take effect.

23 **SEC. 9. ANNUAL REPORT.**

24 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter by March 31st

1 of any year during which the Foundation is operational,
2 the Executive Director of the Foundation shall submit to
3 the appropriate congressional committees a report that—
4 (1) has been approved by the Board of Direc-
5 tors;
6 (2) contains the expectations of the year ahead;
7 and
8 (3) describes—
9 (A) the goals of the Foundation for the up-
10 coming year, including areas to increase oper-
11 ational efficiency and further advance United
12 States policy objectives and national security;
13 (B) lessons learned and best practices de-
14 veloped through projects funded by the Founda-
15 tion during the prior fiscal year;
16 (C) a project-specific and a portfolio-level
17 report describing—
18 (i) the progress achieved against key
19 performance indicators and the outcomes
20 described in section 6, and
21 (ii) how such progress will benefit the
22 American taxpayer;
23 (D) an assessment of—

(ii) how any necessary additional efficiencies can be built into future project selection; and

(iii) whether project evaluations are successfully measuring outcomes;

(F) an annual financial report from an independent auditor.

15 SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Using funds appropriated to the
17 Department of State to carry out chapter 4 of part II of
18 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et
19 seq.), the Secretary of State is authorized to award an
20 annual grant to the Foundation to enable the Foundation
21 to carry out the purposes specified in section 3(b).

22 (b) COST MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Amounts au-
23 thorized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a)
24 shall be made available, on a cost matching basis, to the

1 maximum extent practicable, from sources other than the
2 United States Government.

3 (c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—Not later than
4 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
5 Secretary of State and the Executive Director of the
6 Foundation shall consult with the Committee on Approp-
7 priations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Rela-
8 tions of the Senate, the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
9 tion, and Forestry of the Senate, the Committee on Approp-
10 priations of the House of Representatives, the Committee
11 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
12 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
13 tives regarding the implementation of this Act and the
14 proposed activities of the Foundation.

15 (d) PROHIBITION OF USE OF GRANTS FOR LOBBYING
16 EXPENSES.—No grant funds provided by the Foundation
17 pursuant to section 7 may be used for any activity in-
18 tended to influence legislation pending before Congress.

