

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1827

To provide permanent authorization for International Labor Affairs Bureau to continue and enhance their work to alleviate child labor and improve respect for internationally recognized worker rights and core labor standards, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 13, 2001

Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. BAUCUS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To provide permanent authorization for International Labor Affairs Bureau to continue and enhance their work to alleviate child labor and improve respect for internationally recognized worker rights and core labor standards, 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 “Fair International  
5       Labor Standards in Trade and Investment Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. OBJECTIVES; DUTIES OF ILAB.**

2 (a) OBJECTIVES.—The policy objectives of Congress  
3 with respect to international labor issues are as follows:

4 (1) Fundamental economic, political, social,  
5 technological, and cross-cultural changes are pro-  
6 ceeding in ways that accelerate global integration  
7 and interdependence.

8 (2) The United States national interest is  
9 served by more open markets, expanding trade, and  
10 investment liberalization within the community of  
11 nations, balanced by increased respect and enforce-  
12 ment of universal human rights as defined in the  
13 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the  
14 ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and  
15 Rights at Work.

16 (3) The American people believe that more open  
17 international trade, investment, and market access  
18 are not ends in themselves, but means for attaining  
19 greater economic justice, social responsibility, and  
20 sustainable development in both the United States  
21 and the global economy.

22 (4) A principal objective of the international  
23 economic policy of the United States is to spread the  
24 benefits of trade and investment liberalization as  
25 broadly as possible within all trading nations and  
26 not just between them.

(5) United States international economic policy should emphasize the following 4 principal goals:

(A) The achievement of steadily increasing purchasing power throughout the global economy in tandem with expanding global productive capacity that leads to—

(i) the elimination of abusive child labor;

(ii) rising living standards in developing and developed national economies; and

(iii) the acceleration of broad-based consumer markets within all trading nations.

(B) The discouragement of economic development by any nation based on the commercial exploitation of child labor and the systematic denial of internationally recognized worker rights and core labor standards, in order to gain illegitimate competitive advantage in international trade and investment.

(C) The expansion of global trade and investment, not protectionism, based on growing public confidence that the rules governing international flows of capital, goods, services, tech-

nology, and labor are structured, in law and practice, to end abusive child labor and promote the rights and interests of working people as well as those of other parties to international agreements.

(D) The alleviation of poverty, hunger, abusive child labor, and illiteracy through the empowerment of working people in all trading nations so that they can more fully participate in policy-making and benefit equitably from the fruits of their labor in the conduct of global trade, investment, and commerce.

(b) DUTIES OF ILAB.—Under the guidance of the Secretary of Labor, the International Labor Affairs Bureau shall have the primary responsibility for advancing the policy objectives and goals set out in subsection (a) and for coordinating all related United States activities.

**SEC. 3. FUNCTIONS.**

The Secretary of Labor is authorized to act through the International Labor Affairs Bureau, to carry out the following activities to promote fair international standards in trade and investment:

(1) Represent the United States in the International Labor Organization (ILO) and support that Organization's activities, consulting with the organi-

1        zations that represent employers and employees in  
2        that body.

3            (2) Provide bilateral and multilateral technical  
4        assistance to enable developing countries in par-  
5        ticular to—

6            (A) implement core labor standards;

7            (B) strengthen governmental capacity to  
8        enforce national labor laws and protect inter-  
9        nationally recognized worker rights; and

10          (C) develop policies to assist workers who  
11        are adversely affected by shifts in trade and in-  
12        vestments flows, structural adjustments, and  
13        macroeconomic changes within national econo-  
14        mies and the global economy respectively.

15          (3) Provide bilateral aid to foreign countries to  
16        eliminate abusive child labor and other trade and in-  
17        vestment-related worker rights violations and to sup-  
18        port workforce development programs to foster  
19        broad-based, equitable, and sustainable economic de-  
20        velopment in recipient countries.

21          (4) Compile and report annually to Congress,  
22        on the extent to which each foreign country that has  
23        a trade and investment agreement with the United  
24        States protects the free exercise of internationally  
25        recognized worker rights, as required under United

1 States law, and promotes core labor standards as  
2 embodied in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental  
3 Principles and Rights at Work.

4 (5) Conduct research and analysis on the rela-  
5 tionship between internationally recognized worker  
6 rights and core labor standards and the conduct of  
7 international, trade, commerce, and investment and  
8 related trends.

9 **SEC. 4. GRANTS.**

10 The Secretary of Labor may award grants and enter  
11 into cooperative agreements and contracts to carry out the  
12 functions described in section 3.

13 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated to the  
15 Secretary of Labor such sums as are necessary to carry  
16 out the provisions of this Act.

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