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1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1973

To make access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of the United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. SHAW, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LEACH, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. TANCREDO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## A BILL

To make access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of the United States foreign assistance programs, 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 “Water for the Poor  
5       Act of 2005”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) Water-related diseases are a human trag-  
2 edy, killing up to 5 million people annually, pre-  
3 venting millions of people from leading healthy lives,  
4 and undermining development efforts.

5           (2) A child dies an average of every 15 seconds  
6 because of lack of access to safe water and adequate  
7 sanitation.

8           (3) In the poorest countries in the world, one  
9 out of five children dies from a preventable, water-  
10 related disease.

11          (4) Lack of access to safe drinking water, inad-  
12 equate sanitation, and poor hygiene practices are di-  
13 rectly responsible for the vast majority of diarrheal  
14 diseases which kill over 2 million children each year.

15          (5) At any given time, half of all people in the  
16 developing world are suffering from one or more of  
17 the main diseases associated with inadequate provi-  
18 sion of water supply and sanitation services.

19          (6) Over 1.2 billion people, one in every four  
20 people in the developing world, lack access to safe  
21 drinking water.

22          (7) Over 2.4 billion people, two in every five  
23 people in the developing world, lack access to basic  
24 sanitation services.

1           (8) Nearly 500 million people are affected by  
2 water stress or serious water scarcity. Under current  
3 trends, two-thirds of the world's population may be  
4 subject to moderate to high water stress by 2025.

5           (9) Access to safe water and sanitation and im-  
6 proved hygiene are significant factors in controlling  
7 the spread of disease in the developing world and  
8 positively affecting worker productivity and economic  
9 development.

10          (10) Increasing access to safe water and sanita-  
11 tion advances efforts toward other development ob-  
12 jectives, such as fighting poverty and hunger, pro-  
13 moting primary education and gender equality, re-  
14 ducing child mortality, promoting environmental sta-  
15 bility, improving the lives of slum dwellers, and  
16 strengthening national security.

17          (11) Providing safe supplies of water and sani-  
18 tation and hygiene improvements would save millions  
19 of lives by reducing the prevalence of water-borne  
20 diseases, water-based diseases, water-privation dis-  
21 eases, and water-related vector diseases.

22          (12) Because women and girls in developing  
23 countries are often the carriers of water, lack of ac-  
24 cess to safe water and sanitation disproportionately

1 affects women and limits women's opportunities at  
2 education, livelihood, and financial independence.

3 (13) Every \$1 invested in safe water and sani-  
4 tation would yield an economic return of between \$3  
5 and \$34, depending on the region.

6 (14) Developing sustainable financing mecha-  
7 nisms, such as pooling mechanisms and revolving  
8 funds, is necessary for the long-term viability of im-  
9 proved water and sanitation services.

10 (15) The annual level of investment needed to  
11 meet the water and sanitation needs of developing  
12 countries far exceeds the amount of Official Develop-  
13 ment Assistance (ODA) and spending by govern-  
14 ments of developing countries, so facilitating and at-  
15 tracting greater public and private investment is es-  
16 sential.

17 (16) Meeting the water and sanitation needs of  
18 the lowest-income developing countries will require  
19 an increase in the resources available as grants from  
20 donor countries.

21 (17) The long-term sustainability of improved  
22 water and sanitation services can be advanced by  
23 promoting community level action and engagement  
24 with civil society.

1           (18) Target 10 of the United Nations Millen-  
2           nium Development Goals is to reduce by half the  
3           proportion of people without sustainable access to  
4           safe drinking water by 2015.

5           (19) The participants in the 2002 World Sum-  
6           mit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannes-  
7           burg, South Africa, including the United States,  
8           agreed to the Plan of Implementation of the World  
9           Summit on Sustainable Development which included  
10          an agreement to work to reduce by one-half “the  
11          proportion of people who are unable to reach or af-  
12          ford safe drinking water,” and “the proportion of  
13          people without access to basic sanitation” by 2015.

14          (20) At the World Summit on Sustainable De-  
15          velopment, the United States announced the Water  
16          for the Poor Initiative, committing \$970 million for  
17          fiscal years 2003 through 2005 to improve sustain-  
18          able management of fresh water resources and accel-  
19          erate and expand international efforts to achieve the  
20          goal of cutting in half by 2015 the proportion of  
21          people who are unable to reach or to afford safe  
22          drinking water.

23          (21) United Nations General Assembly Resolu-  
24          tion 58/217 (February 9, 2004) proclaimed “the pe-  
25          riod from 2005 to 2015 the International Decade for

1 Action, ‘Water for Life’, to commence on World  
2 Water Day, 22 March 2005” for the purpose of in-  
3 creasing the focus of the international community on  
4 water-related issues at all levels and on the imple-  
5 mentation of water-related programs and projects.

6 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) in order to make the most effective use of  
9 amounts of Official Development Assistance (ODA)  
10 for water and sanitation and avoid waste and dupli-  
11 cation, the United States should seek to establish in-  
12 novative international coordination mechanisms  
13 based on best practices in other development sectors;

14 (2) the United States should greatly increase  
15 the amount of Official Development Assistance made  
16 available to carry out section 104D of the Foreign  
17 Assistance Act of 1961, as added by section 4(a) of  
18 this Act;

19 (3) United States water and sanitation assist-  
20 ance programs should reflect an appropriate balance  
21 of grants, loans, investment insurance, loan guaran-  
22 tees, and other assistance to ensure affordability and  
23 equity in the provision of access to safe water and  
24 sanitation for the very poor;

1           (4) United States water and sanitation assist-  
2           ance programs, to the extent possible, should sup-  
3           port the poverty reduction strategies of recipient  
4           countries;

5           (5) United States water and sanitation assist-  
6           ance programs should promote community-based ap-  
7           proaches in the provision of affordable and equitable  
8           access to safe water and sanitation, including the in-  
9           volvement of civil society; and

10          (6) protecting the supply and availability of safe  
11          water requires sound environmental management.

12 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE SAFE WATER AND SANI-**  
13 **TATION.**

14          (a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of the Foreign Assistance  
15 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by in-  
16 serting after section 104C the following new section:

17 **“SEC. 104D. ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE SAFE WATER AND**  
18 **SANITATION.**

19          “(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of assistance author-  
20 ized by this section are—

21               “(1) to promote good health, economic develop-  
22               ment, poverty reduction, women’s empowerment, and  
23               environmental sustainability by providing assistance  
24               to expand access to safe water and sanitation, pro-

1 moting integrated water resource management, and  
2 improving hygiene for people around the world;

3 “(2) to seek to reduce by one-half from the  
4 baseline year 1990 the proportion of people who are  
5 unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and  
6 the proportion of people without access to basic sani-  
7 tation by 2015;

8 “(3) to focus water and sanitation assistance  
9 toward the countries and people with the greatest  
10 need;

11 “(4) to promote affordability and equity in the  
12 provision of access to safe water and sanitation for  
13 the very poor, women, and other vulnerable popu-  
14 lations;

15 “(5) to promote long-term sustainability in the  
16 affordable and equitable provision of access to safe  
17 water and sanitation through the creation of innova-  
18 tive financing mechanisms such as national revolving  
19 funds, and by strengthening the capacity of recipient  
20 governments and communities to formulate and im-  
21 plement policies that expand access to safe water  
22 and sanitation in a sustainable fashion, including se-  
23 curing loans and strategic planning;

24 “(6) to secure the greatest amount of resources  
25 possible, encourage private investment in water and

1 sanitation infrastructure and services, particularly in  
2 lower middle-income countries, without creating  
3 unsustainable debt for low-income countries or  
4 unaffordable water and sanitation costs for the very  
5 poor; and

6 “(7) to promote the capacity of recipient gov-  
7 ernments to provide affordable, equitable, and sus-  
8 tainable access to safe water and sanitation.

9 “(b) AUTHORIZATION.—To carry out the purposes of  
10 subsection (a), the President is authorized to furnish as-  
11 sistance for programs in developing countries to provide  
12 affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanita-  
13 tion.

14 “(c) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Assistance provided  
15 under subsection (b) shall, to the maximum extent prac-  
16 ticable, be used to—

17 “(1) expand affordable and equitable access to  
18 safe water and sanitation for underserved popu-  
19 lations;

20 “(2) support the construction, maintenance, up-  
21 keep, repair, and operation of water delivery and  
22 sanitation systems;

23 “(3) improve the safety and reliability of water  
24 supplies, including environmental management; and

1           “(4) improve the institutional capacity of recipi-  
2           ent governments, including capacity-building pro-  
3           grams for improved water resource management.

4           “(d) LOCAL CURRENCY.—The President may use  
5           payments made in local currencies under an agreement  
6           made under title I of the Agricultural Trade Development  
7           and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to  
8           provide assistance under this section, including assistance  
9           for activities related to drilling or maintaining wells.”.

10          (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 104(c) of  
11          the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act  
12          of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1704(c)) is amended by adding at the  
13          end the following new paragraph:

14                 “(9) SAFE WATER.—To provide assistance  
15                 under section 104D of the Foreign Assistance Act of  
16                 1961 to promote good health, economic development,  
17                 poverty reduction, women’s empowerment, and envi-  
18                 ronmental sustainability by improving the safety of  
19                 water supplies, including programs related to drilling  
20                 or maintaining wells.”.

21 **SEC. 5. SAFE WATER AND SANITATION STRATEGY.**

22          (a) STRATEGY.—The Administrator of the United  
23          States Agency for International Development, in consulta-  
24          tion with the heads of other appropriate Federal depart-  
25          ments and agencies, international organizations, inter-

1 national financial institutions, recipient governments,  
2 United States and international nongovernmental organi-  
3 zations, indigenous civil society, and other appropriate en-  
4 tities, shall develop and implement a strategy to further  
5 the United States foreign assistance objective to provide  
6 affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanita-  
7 tion in developing countries.

8 (b) CONTENT.—The strategy required by subsection  
9 (a) shall include—

10 (1) an assessment of the activities that have  
11 been carried out, or that are planned to be carried  
12 out, by all appropriate Federal departments and  
13 agencies to improve affordable and equitable access  
14 to safe water and sanitation and hygiene in all coun-  
15 tries that receive assistance from the United States  
16 Agency for International Development;

17 (2) specific and measurable goals, benchmarks,  
18 and timetables to achieve the objective described in  
19 subsection (a);

20 (3) an assessment of the level of resources that  
21 are needed each year to achieve the goals, bench-  
22 marks, and timetables described in paragraph (2);

23 (4) methods to mobilize and leverage the finan-  
24 cial, technical, and managerial expertise of busi-  
25 nesses, governments, nongovernmental organizations,

1 and civil society in the form of public-private alli-  
2 ances;

3 (5) methods to encourage reforms and increase  
4 the capacity of foreign governments to formulate  
5 and implement policies that expand access to safe  
6 water and sanitation in an affordable, equitable, and  
7 sustainable fashion, including securing loans and  
8 strategic planning;

9 (6) methods to coordinate and integrate United  
10 States water and sanitation assistance programs  
11 with other United States development assistance  
12 programs to achieve the objective described in sub-  
13 section (a);

14 (7) methods to better coordinate United States  
15 water and sanitation assistance programs with pro-  
16 grams of other donor countries and entities to  
17 achieve the objective described in subsection (a);

18 (8) methods to take into account the different  
19 needs of countries with an absolute lack of resources  
20 to expand water and sanitation access and countries  
21 with the need to better allocate potentially sufficient  
22 existing resources and the different activities appro-  
23 priate to each, as well as countries with existing  
24 markets for investment in water and sanitation and

1 countries without existing markets for investment in  
2 water and sanitation; and

3 (9) methods to take into account the need for  
4 an appropriate balance of grants, loans, investment  
5 insurance, loan guarantees, and other assistance to  
6 ensure affordability and equity in the provision of  
7 access to safe water and sanitation for the very poor.

8 (c) REPORTS.—

9 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days  
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-  
11 ministrator of the United States Agency for Inter-  
12 national Development shall submit to the appro-  
13 priate congressional committees a report that de-  
14 scribes the strategy required by subsection (a).

15 (2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not less than  
16 once every year after the submission of the initial re-  
17 port under paragraph (1) until 2015, the Adminis-  
18 trator shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
19 committees a report on the status of the implemen-  
20 tation of the strategy, progress made in achieving  
21 the objective described in subsection (a), and any  
22 changes to the strategy since the date of the submis-  
23 sion of the last report.

24 (3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
25 “appropriate congressional committees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on International Rela-  
2 tions and the Committee on Appropriations of  
3 the House of Representatives; and

4 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
5 and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
6 Senate.

7 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
9 priated for fiscal year 2006 and each subsequent fiscal  
10 year such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act  
11 and the amendments made by this Act.

12 (b) OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated pur-  
13 suant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection  
14 (a) shall be in addition to the amounts otherwise available  
15 to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this  
16 Act.

17 (c) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant  
18 to the authorization of appropriations under section (a)  
19 are authorized to remain available until expended.

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