

# Calendar No. 637

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 987

[Report No. 111-344]

To protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2009

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DODD, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BURR, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

OCTOBER 26 (legislative day, OCTOBER 1), 2010

Reported under authority of the order of the Senate of September 29, 2010,  
by Mr. KERRY, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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## A BILL

To protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, 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 “International Pro-  
5 tecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress makes the following findings:

8            (1) Child marriage, also known as “forced mar-  
9 riage” or “early marriage”, is a harmful traditional  
10 practice that deprives girls of their dignity and  
11 human rights.

12            (2) Child marriage as a traditional practice, as  
13 well as through coercion or force, is a violation of ar-  
14 ticle 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human  
15 Rights, which states, “Marriage shall be entered into  
16 only with the free and full consent of intending  
17 spouses.”.

18            (3) According to the United Nations Children’s  
19 Fund (UNICEF), an estimated 60,000,000 girls in  
20 developing countries now ages 20–24 were married  
21 under the age of 18, and if present trends continue  
22 more than 100,000,000 more girls in developing  
23 countries will be married as children over the next  
24 decade, according to the Population Council.

1           (4) Child marriage “treats young girls as prop-  
2           erty” and “poses grave risks not only to women’s  
3           basic rights but also their health, economic inde-  
4           pendence, education, and status in society”, accord-  
5           ing to the Department of State in 2005.

6           (5) In 2005, the Department of State con-  
7           ducted a world-wide survey and found child marriage  
8           to be a concern in 64 out of 182 countries surveyed,  
9           with child marriage most common in sub-Saharan  
10          Africa and parts of South Asia.

11          (6) In Ethiopia’s Amhara region, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of  
12          all girls are married by age 14, with 95 percent not  
13          knowing their husbands before marriage, 85 percent  
14          unaware they were to be married, and 70 percent re-  
15          porting their first sexual initiation within marriage  
16          taking place before their first menstrual period, ac-  
17          cording to a 2004 Population Council survey.

18          (7) In some areas of northern Nigeria, 45 per-  
19          cent of girls are married by age 15 and 73 percent  
20          by age 18, with age gaps between girls and the hus-  
21          bands averaging between 12 and 18 years.

22          (8) Between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all girls are married  
23          before the age of 18 in Niger, Chad, Mali, Ban-  
24          gladesh, Guinea, the Central African Republic, Mo-

1 zambique, Burkina Faso, and Nepal, according to  
2 Demographic Health Survey data.

3 (9) Factors perpetuating child marriage include  
4 poverty, a lack of educational or employment oppor-  
5 tunities for girls, parental concerns to ensure sexual  
6 relations within marriage, the dowry system, and the  
7 perceived lack of value of girls.

8 (10) Child marriage has negative effects on the  
9 health of girls, including significantly increased risk  
10 of maternal death and morbidity, infant mortality  
11 and morbidity, obstetric fistula, and sexually trans-  
12 mitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

13 (11) According to the United States Agency for  
14 International Development (USAID), increasing the  
15 age at first birth for a woman will increase her  
16 chances of survival. Currently, pregnancy and child-  
17 birth complications are the leading cause of death  
18 for women 15 to 19 years old in developing coun-  
19 tries.

20 (12) In developing countries, girls 15 years of  
21 age are 5 times more likely to die in childbirth than  
22 women in their 20s.

23 (13) Child marriage can result in bonded labor  
24 or enslavement, commercial sexual exploitation, and  
25 violence against the victims, according to UNICEF.

1           (14) Out-of-school or unschooled girls are at  
2 greater risk of child marriage while girls in school  
3 face pressure to withdraw from school when sec-  
4 ondary school requires monetary costs, travel, or  
5 other social costs, including lack of lavatories and  
6 supplies for menstruating girls and increased risk of  
7 sexual violence.

8           (15) In Mozambique 60 percent of girls with no  
9 education are married by age 18, compared to 10  
10 percent of girls with secondary schooling and less  
11 than 1 percent of girls with higher education.

12           (16) According to UNICEF, in 2005 it was es-  
13 timated that “about half of girls in Sub-Saharan Af-  
14 rica who drop out of primary school do so because  
15 of poor water and sanitation facilities”.

16           (17) UNICEF reports that investments in im-  
17 proving school sanitation resulted in a 17 percent in-  
18 crease in school enrollment for girls in Guinea and  
19 an 11 percent increase for girls in Bangladesh.

20           (18) Investments in girls’ schooling, creating  
21 safe community spaces for girls, and programs for  
22 skills building for out-of-school girls are all effective  
23 and demonstrated strategies for preventing child  
24 marriage and creating a pathway to empower girls

1 by addressing conditions of poverty, low status, and  
2 norms that contribute to child marriage.

3 (19) Most countries with high rates of child  
4 marriage have a legally established minimum age of  
5 marriage, yet child marriage persists due to strong  
6 traditional norms and the failure to enforce existing  
7 laws.

8 (20) In Afghanistan, where the legal age of  
9 marriage for girls is 16 years, 57 percent of mar-  
10 riages involve girls below the age of 16, including  
11 girls younger than 10 years, according to the United  
12 Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

13 (21) Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has  
14 stated that "child marriage is a clear and unaccept-  
15 able violation of human rights, and that the Depart-  
16 ment of State denounces all cases of child marriage  
17 as child abuse".

18 **SEC. 3. CHILD MARRIAGE DEFINED.**

19 In this Act, the term "child marriage" means the  
20 marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the minimum age for  
21 marriage stipulated in law in the country in which the girl  
22 or boy is a resident.

23 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that—

1           (1) child marriage is a violation of human  
2 rights, and the prevention and elimination of child  
3 marriage should be a foreign policy goal of the  
4 United States;

5           (2) the practice of child marriage undermines  
6 United States investments in foreign assistance to  
7 promote education and skills building for girls, re-  
8 duce maternal and child mortality, reduce maternal  
9 illness, halt the transmission of HIV/AIDS, prevent  
10 gender-based violence, and reduce poverty; and

11           (3) expanding educational opportunities for  
12 girls, economic opportunities for women, and reduc-  
13 ing maternal and child mortality are critical to  
14 achieving the Millennium Development Goals and  
15 the global health and development objectives of the  
16 United States, including efforts to prevent HIV/  
17 AIDS.

18 **SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT THE INCIDENCE OF**  
19 **CHILDHOOD MARRIAGE IN DEVELOPING**  
20 **COUNTRIES.**

21           (a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—The President is au-  
22 thorized to provide assistance, including through multilat-  
23 eral, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations, to  
24 prevent the incidence of child marriage in developing coun-  
25 tries and to promote the educational, health, economic, so-

1 cial; and legal empowerment of girls and women as part  
2 of the strategy established pursuant to section 6 to pre-  
3 vent child marriage in developing countries.

4 (b) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance authorized  
5 under subsection (a), the President shall give priority to—

6 (1) areas or regions in developing countries in  
7 which 15 percent of girls under the age of 15 are  
8 married or 40 percent of girls under the age of 18  
9 are married; and

10 (2) activities to—

11 (A) expand and replicate existing commu-  
12 nity-based programs that are successful in pre-  
13 venting the incidence of child marriage;

14 (B) establish pilot projects to prevent child  
15 marriage; and

16 (C) share evaluations of successful pro-  
17 grams, program designs, experiences, and les-  
18 sons.

19 (c) COORDINATION.—Assistance authorized under  
20 subsection (a) shall be integrated with existing United  
21 States programs for advancing appropriate age and grade-  
22 level basic and secondary education through adolescence;  
23 ensure school enrollment and completion for girls; health,  
24 income generation, agriculture development, legal rights,  
25 and democracy building and human rights, including—

- 1           (1) support for community-based activities that  
2           encourage community members to address beliefs or  
3           practices that promote child marriage and to edu-  
4           cate parents, community leaders, religious leaders,  
5           and adolescents of the health risks associated with  
6           child marriage and the benefits for adolescents, es-  
7           pecially girls, of access to education, health care,  
8           livelihood skills, microfinance, and savings programs;
- 9           (2) enrolling girls in primary and secondary  
10          school at the appropriate age and keeping them in  
11          age-appropriate grade levels through adolescence;
- 12          (3) reducing education fees, and enhancing safe  
13          and supportive conditions in primary and secondary  
14          schools to meet the needs of girls, including—
  - 15               (A) access to water and suitable hygiene  
16               facilities, including separate lavatories and la-  
17               trines for girls;
  - 18               (B) assignment of female teachers;
  - 19               (C) safe routes to and from school; and
  - 20               (D) eliminating sexual harassment and  
21               other forms of violence and coercion;
- 22          (4) ensuring access to health care services and  
23          proper nutrition for adolescent girls, which is essen-  
24          tial to both their school performance and their eco-  
25          nomic productivity;

1           (5) increasing training for adolescent girls and  
2 their parents in financial literacy and access to eco-  
3 nomic opportunities, including livelihood skills, sav-  
4 ings, microfinance, and small-enterprise develop-  
5 ment;

6           (6) supporting education, including through  
7 community and faith-based organizations and youth  
8 programs, that helps remove gender stereotypes and  
9 the bias against girls used to justify child marriage,  
10 especially efforts targeted at men and boys, pro-  
11 motes zero tolerance for violence, and promotes gen-  
12 der equality, which in turn help to increase the per-  
13 ceived value of girls;

14           (7) creating peer support and female mentoring  
15 networks and safe social spaces specifically for girls;  
16 and

17           (8) supporting local advocacy work to provide  
18 legal literacy programs at the community level and  
19 ensure that governments and law enforcement offi-  
20 cials are meeting their obligations to prevent child  
21 and forced marriage.

22 **SEC. 6. STRATEGY TO PREVENT CHILD MARRIAGE IN DE-**  
23 **VELOPING COUNTRIES.**

24           (a) **STRATEGY REQUIRED.**—The President, acting  
25 through the Secretary of State, shall establish a multi-year

1 strategy to prevent child marriage in developing countries  
2 and promote the empowerment of girls at risk of child  
3 marriage in developing countries, including by addressing  
4 the unique needs, vulnerabilities, and potential of girls  
5 under age 18 in developing countries.

6 (b) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the strategy re-  
7 quired by subsection (a), the President shall consult with  
8 Congress, relevant Federal departments and agencies,  
9 multilateral organizations, and representatives of civil so-  
10 ciety.

11 (c) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection  
12 (a) shall—

13 (1) focus on areas in developing countries with  
14 high prevalence of child marriage; and

15 (2) encompass diplomatic initiatives between  
16 the United States and governments of developing  
17 countries, with attention to human rights, legal re-  
18 forms and the rule of law, and programmatic initia-  
19 tives in the areas of education, health, income gen-  
20 eration, changing social norms, human rights, and  
21 democracy building.

22 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
23 of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit  
24 to Congress a report that includes—

25 (1) the strategy required by subsection (a);

1           (2) an assessment, including data disaggregated  
2           by age and gender to the extent possible, of current  
3           United States-funded efforts to specifically assist  
4           girls in developing countries; and

5           (3) examples of best practices or programs to  
6           prevent child marriage in developing countries that  
7           could be replicated.

8 **SEC. 7. RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION.**

9           The Secretary of State shall work through the Ad-  
10          ministrators of the United States Agency for International  
11          Development and any other relevant agencies of the De-  
12          partment of State, and in conjunction with relevant execu-  
13          tive branch agencies as part of their ongoing research and  
14          data collection activities, to—

15               (1) collect and make available data on the inci-  
16               dence of child marriage in countries that receive for-  
17               eign or development assistance from the United  
18               States where the practice of child marriage is preva-  
19               lent; and

20               (2) collect and make available data on the im-  
21               pact of the incidence of child marriage and the age  
22               at marriage on progress in meeting key development  
23               goals.

1 **SEC. 8. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S COUNTRY REPORTS ON**  
2 **HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.**

3 The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

4 (1) in section 116 (22 U.S.C. 2151n), by add-  
5 ing at the end the following new subsection:

6 “(g) The report required by subsection (d) shall in-  
7 clude for each country in which child marriage is prevalent  
8 at rates at or above 40 percent in at least one subnational  
9 region; a description of the status of the practice of child  
10 marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term  
11 ‘child marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, not  
12 yet the minimum age for marriage stipulated in law in  
13 the country in which such girl or boy is a resident.”; and

14 (2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304), by add-  
15 ing at the end the following new subsection:

16 “(i) The report required by subsection (b) shall in-  
17 clude for each country in which child marriage is prevalent  
18 at rates at or above 40 percent in at least one subnational  
19 region; a description of the status of the practice of child  
20 marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term  
21 ‘child marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, not  
22 yet the minimum age for marriage stipulated in law in  
23 the country in which such girl or boy is a resident.”.

24 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

25 To carry out this Act and the amendments made by  
26 this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated such

1 sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2010 through  
2 2014.

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “International Protecting*  
5 *Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act of 2010”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress makes the following findings:*

8 *(1) Child marriage, also known as “forced mar-*  
9 *riage” or “early marriage”, is a harmful traditional*  
10 *practice that deprives girls of their dignity and*  
11 *human rights.*

12 *(2) Child marriage as a traditional practice, as*  
13 *well as through coercion or force, is a violation of ar-*  
14 *ticle 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human*  
15 *Rights, which states, “Marriage shall be entered into*  
16 *only with the free and full consent of intending*  
17 *spouses”.*

18 *(3) According to the United Nations Children’s*  
19 *Fund (UNICEF), an estimated 60,000,000 girls in*  
20 *developing countries now ages 20 through 24 were*  
21 *married under the age of 18, and if present trends*  
22 *continue more than 100,000,000 more girls in devel-*  
23 *oping countries will be married as children over the*  
24 *next decade, according to the Population Council.*

1           (4) *Between 1/2 and 3/4 of all girls are married*  
2 *before the age of 18 in Niger, Chad, Mali, Bangladesh,*  
3 *Guinea, the Central African Republic, Mozambique,*  
4 *Burkina Faso, and Nepal, according to Demographic*  
5 *Health Survey data.*

6           (5) *Factors perpetuating child marriage include*  
7 *poverty, a lack of educational or employment oppor-*  
8 *tunities for girls, parental concerns to ensure sexual*  
9 *relations within marriage, the dowry system, and the*  
10 *perceived lack of value of girls.*

11          (6) *Child marriage has negative effects on the*  
12 *health of girls, including significantly increased risk*  
13 *of maternal death and morbidity, infant mortality*  
14 *and morbidity, obstetric fistula, and sexually trans-*  
15 *mitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.*

16          (7) *According to the United States Agency for*  
17 *International Development (USAID), increasing the*  
18 *age at first birth for a woman will increase her*  
19 *chances of survival. Currently, pregnancy and child-*  
20 *birth complications are the leading cause of death for*  
21 *women 15 to 19 years old in developing countries.*

22          (8) *Most countries with high rates of child mar-*  
23 *riage have a legally established minimum age of mar-*  
24 *riage, yet child marriage persists due to strong tradi-*  
25 *tional norms and the failure to enforce existing laws.*

1           (9) *Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has stated*  
2           *that “child marriage is a clear and unacceptable vio-*  
3           *lation of human rights, and that the Department of*  
4           *State denounces all cases of child marriage as child*  
5           *abuse”.*

6           (10) *According to an International Center for*  
7           *Research on Women analysis of Demographic and*  
8           *Health Survey data, areas or regions in developing*  
9           *countries in which 40 percent or more of girls under*  
10          *the age of 18 are married are considered high-preva-*  
11          *lence areas for child marriage.*

12          (11) *Investments in girls’ schooling, creating safe*  
13          *community spaces for girls, and programs for skills*  
14          *building for out-of-school girls are all effective and*  
15          *demonstrated strategies for preventing child marriage*  
16          *and creating a pathway to empower girls by address-*  
17          *ing conditions of poverty, low status, and norms that*  
18          *contribute to child marriage.*

19       **SEC. 3. CHILD MARRIAGE DEFINED.**

20          *In this Act, the term “child marriage” means the mar-*  
21          *riage of a girl or boy, not yet the minimum age for mar-*  
22          *riage stipulated in law in the country in which the girl*  
23          *or boy is a resident.*

24       **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

25          *It is the sense of Congress that—*

1           (1) *child marriage is a violation of human*  
2 *rights, and the prevention and elimination of child*  
3 *marriage should be a foreign policy goal of the United*  
4 *States;*

5           (2) *the practice of child marriage undermines*  
6 *United States investments in foreign assistance to*  
7 *promote education and skills building for girls, reduce*  
8 *maternal and child mortality, reduce maternal ill-*  
9 *ness, halt the transmission of HIV/AIDS, prevent gen-*  
10 *der-based violence, and reduce poverty; and*

11           (3) *expanding educational opportunities for*  
12 *girls, economic opportunities for women, and reduc-*  
13 *ing maternal and child mortality are critical to*  
14 *achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the*  
15 *global health and development objectives of the United*  
16 *States, including efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS.*

17 **SEC. 5. STRATEGY TO PREVENT CHILD MARRIAGE IN DE-**  
18 **VELOPING COUNTRIES.**

19 (a) *ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—*

20           (1) *IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to*  
21 *provide assistance, including through multilateral,*  
22 *nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations, to*  
23 *prevent the incidence of child marriage in developing*  
24 *countries through the promotion of educational,*

1 *health, economic, social, and legal empowerment of*  
2 *girls and women.*

3 (2) *PRIORITY.*—*In providing assistance author-*  
4 *ized under paragraph (1), the President shall give*  
5 *priority to—*

6 (A) *areas or regions in developing countries*  
7 *in which 40 percent or more of girls under the*  
8 *age of 18 are married; and*

9 (B) *activities to—*

10 (i) *expand and replicate existing com-*  
11 *munity-based programs that are successful*  
12 *in preventing the incidence of child mar-*  
13 *riage;*

14 (ii) *establish pilot projects to prevent*  
15 *child marriage; and*

16 (iii) *share evaluations of successful*  
17 *programs, program designs, experiences,*  
18 *and lessons.*

19 (b) *STRATEGY REQUIRED.*—

20 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The President shall establish*  
21 *a multi-year strategy to prevent child marriage and*  
22 *promote the empowerment of girls at risk of child*  
23 *marriage in developing countries, and should include*  
24 *addressing the unique needs, vulnerabilities, and po-*  
25 *tential of girls under age 18 in developing countries.*

1           (2) *CONSULTATION.*—*In establishing the strategy*  
2           *required by paragraph (1), the President shall consult*  
3           *with relevant stakeholders.*

4           (3) *ELEMENTS.*—*The strategy required by para-*  
5           *graph (1) shall—*

6                   (A) *focus on areas in developing countries*  
7                   *with high prevalence of child marriage;*

8                   (B) *encompass diplomatic initiatives be-*  
9                   *tween the United States and governments of de-*  
10                   *veloping countries, with attention to human*  
11                   *rights, legal reforms and the rule of law, and*  
12                   *programmatically initiatives in the areas of edu-*  
13                   *cation, health, income generation, changing so-*  
14                   *cial norms, human rights, and democracy build-*  
15                   *ing; and*

16                   (C) *be implemented not later than one year*  
17                   *after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

18           (c) *REPORT.*—*Not later than three years after the date*  
19           *of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to*  
20           *Congress a report that includes—*

21                   (1) *a description of the implementation of the*  
22                   *strategy required by subsection (b);*

23                   (2) *examples of best practices or programs to*  
24                   *prevent child marriage in developing countries that*  
25                   *could be replicated; and*

1           (3) *an assessment, including data disaggregated*  
2           *by age and sex to the extent possible, of current*  
3           *United States funded efforts to specifically prevent*  
4           *child marriage in developing countries.*

5           (d) *COORDINATION.*—*Assistance authorized under sub-*  
6           *section (a) shall be integrated with existing United States*  
7           *programs for advancing appropriate age and grade-level*  
8           *basic and secondary education through adolescence, ensure*  
9           *school enrollment and completion for girls, health, income*  
10          *generation, agriculture development, legal rights, democracy*  
11          *building, and human rights, including—*

12           (1) *support for community-based activities that*  
13           *encourage community members to address beliefs or*  
14           *practices that promote child marriage and to educate*  
15           *parents, community leaders, religious leaders, and*  
16           *adolescents of the health risks associated with child*  
17           *marriage and the benefits for adolescents, especially*  
18           *girls, of access to education, health care, livelihood*  
19           *skills, microfinance, and savings programs;*

20           (2) *support for activities to educate girls in pri-*  
21           *mary and secondary school at the appropriate age*  
22           *and keeping them in age-appropriate grade levels*  
23           *through adolescence;*

24           (3) *support for activities to reduce education fees*  
25           *and enhance safe and supportive conditions in pri-*

1        *mary and secondary schools to meet the needs of girls,*  
2        *including—*

3                *(A) access to water and suitable hygiene fa-*  
4                *cilities, including separate lavatories and la-*  
5                *trines for girls;*

6                *(B) assignment of female teachers;*

7                *(C) safe routes to and from school; and*

8                *(D) eliminating sexual harassment and*  
9                *other forms of violence and coercion;*

10              *(4) support for activities that allow adolescent*  
11              *girls to access health care services and proper nutri-*  
12              *tion, which is essential to both their school perform-*  
13              *ance and their economic productivity;*

14              *(5) assistance to train adolescent girls and their*  
15              *parents in financial literacy and access economic op-*  
16              *portunities, including livelihood skills, savings,*  
17              *microfinance, and small-enterprise development;*

18              *(6) support for education, including through*  
19              *community and faith-based organizations and youth*  
20              *programs, that helps remove gender stereotypes and*  
21              *the bias against girls used to justify child marriage,*  
22              *especially efforts targeted at men and boys, promotes*  
23              *zero tolerance for violence, and promotes gender*  
24              *equality, which in turn help to increase the perceived*  
25              *value of girls;*

1           (7) assistance to create peer support and female  
2           mentoring networks and safe social spaces specifically  
3           for girls; and

4           (8) support for local advocacy work to provide  
5           legal literacy programs at the community level to en-  
6           sure that governments and law enforcement officials  
7           are meeting their obligations to prevent child and  
8           forced marriage.

9   **SEC. 6. RESEARCH AND DATA.**

10        *It is the sense of the Senate that the President and*  
11        *all relevant agencies should work through the Administrator*  
12        *of the United States Agency for International Development*  
13        *and any other relevant agencies of the Department of State,*  
14        *and in conjunction with relevant executive branch agencies*  
15        *as part of their ongoing research and data collection activi-*  
16        *ties, to—*

17           (1) collect and make available data on the inci-  
18           dence of child marriage in countries that receive for-  
19           eign or development assistance from the United States  
20           where the practice of child marriage is prevalent; and

21           (2) collect and make available data on the im-  
22           pact of the incidence of child marriage and the age  
23           at marriage on progress in meeting key development  
24           goals.

1 **SEC. 7. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S COUNTRY REPORTS ON**  
2 **HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.**

3 *The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—*

4 *(1) in section 116 (22 U.S.C. 2151n), by adding*  
5 *at the end the following new subsection:*

6 *“(g) The report required by subsection (d) shall include*  
7 *for each country in which child marriage is prevalent at*  
8 *rates at or above 40 percent in at least one subnational*  
9 *region, a description of the status of the practice of child*  
10 *marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term ‘child*  
11 *marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the*  
12 *minimum age for marriage stipulated in law or under the*  
13 *age of 18 if no such law exists, in the country in which*  
14 *such girl or boy is a resident.”; and*

15 *(2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304), by adding*  
16 *at the end the following new subsection:*

17 *“(i) The report required by subsection (b) shall include*  
18 *for each country in which child marriage is prevalent at*  
19 *rates at or above 40 percent in at least one subnational*  
20 *region, a description of the status of the practice of child*  
21 *marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term ‘child*  
22 *marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, not yet the*  
23 *minimum age for marriage stipulated in law or under the*  
24 *age of 18 if no such law exists, in the country in which*  
25 *such girl or boy is a resident.”.*

Calendar No. 637

11<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S. 987**

[Report No. 111-344]

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## **A BILL**

To protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

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OCTOBER 26 (legislative day, OCTOBER 1), 2010  
Reported with an amendment