

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2615

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## AN ACT

To support the people of Central America and strengthen United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

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-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement  
 4 Act”.

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. Report on drivers of migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States.
- Sec. 3. Actions to promote inclusive economic growth and development in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 4. Actions to combat corruption in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 5. Actions to strengthen democratic institutions in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 6. Actions to improve security conditions in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations for assistance to Central America.
- Sec. 8. Conditions on assistance to the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 9. Enhancing engagement with the Government of Mexico on the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 10. Targeting assistance to address migration from communities in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 11. Targeted sanctions to fight corruption in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 12. Requirement to provide advance notification to Congress of security assistance to Northern Triangle countries.
- Sec. 13. Definitions.
- Sec. 14. Determination of budgetary effects.

7 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON DRIVERS OF MIGRATION FROM THE**  
 8 **NORTHERN TRIANGLE TO THE UNITED**  
 9 **STATES.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the  
 11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,  
 12 in coordination with the Administrator of the United  
 13 States Agency for International Development and the  
 14 heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to  
 15 the appropriate congressional committees a report on the  
 16 drivers of migration from each of the Northern Triangle

1 countries and the progress United States foreign assist-  
2 ance is making in addressing such drivers.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-  
4 section (a) shall include the following elements for each  
5 of the Northern Triangle countries, with data  
6 disaggregated by municipality, age, and gender, as nec-  
7 essary:

8 (1) Information and data on all criminal activi-  
9 ties, including drug trafficking, extortion, trafficking  
10 in persons, and gender-based violence, with par-  
11 ticular emphasis on such activities carried out by  
12 criminal gangs and transnational criminal organiza-  
13 tions such as MS-13 and the 18th Street Gang.

14 (2) Data on the extent to which criminal activi-  
15 ties referred to in paragraph (1) are reported to gov-  
16 ernment authorities and the number of perpetrators  
17 investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted,  
18 versus the number of known perpetrators who are  
19 not so investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or con-  
20 victed.

21 (3) Data on children and young adults forcibly  
22 recruited for criminal activities referred to in para-  
23 graph (1), including the extent to which government  
24 authorities received reports of forced recruitment.

1           (4) Data on internal displacement due to crimi-  
2           nal activities referred to in paragraph (1), and serv-  
3           ices, including temporary shelters, provided to those  
4           displaced by violence.

5           (5) Data on gender-based violence by region  
6           and municipality and descriptions of gender-based  
7           violence and domestic violence trends, including gen-  
8           der-based violence against indigenous women, and  
9           correlation to outward migration.

10          (6) Descriptions of the obstacles (including ca-  
11          pacity gaps within the criminal justice systems) to  
12          resolving gender-based violence cases and deterring  
13          violence against women and children.

14          (7) Information on the availability of trauma-  
15          informed legal and social services, including in shel-  
16          ters, for victims of gender-based violence.

17          (8) Data on the number of police officers, pros-  
18          ecutors, court personnel, and specialized units  
19          trained in violence against women and children, in-  
20          cluding data on the number of female police officers  
21          in each of the Northern Triangle countries.

22          (9) Data on reported cases of abuse, including  
23          extrajudicial executions, torture, forced disappear-  
24          ance, and arbitrary detention, allegedly committed  
25          by members of the security forces, and collusion be-

1       tween members of such security forces and gangs  
2       and other criminal groups, including transnational  
3       criminal organizations, and the number of perpetra-  
4       tors investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or con-  
5       victed, versus the number of known perpetrators not  
6       so investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or con-  
7       victed.

8               (10) Descriptions of the strategies being imple-  
9       mented to guarantee the rights of indigenous and  
10      rural communities.

11              (11) Descriptions of the strategies being imple-  
12      mented to address forced recruitment of children  
13      and youth by gangs, transnational criminal organiza-  
14      tions, and other criminal groups, and how such  
15      strategies are complemented by United States ef-  
16      forts.

17              (12) Descriptions of the strategies being imple-  
18      mented by the governments of each of the Northern  
19      Triangle countries to address corruption and orga-  
20      nized crime and how such strategies are com-  
21      plemented by United States efforts.

22              (13) Data on the effectiveness of anti-corrup-  
23      tion strategies, including through bilateral and mul-  
24      tilateral anti-corruption assistance.

1           (14) An assessment of the extent of corruption,  
2 including regarding narcotics trafficking and illicit  
3 campaign financing, a description of steps taken and  
4 to be taken to impose sanctions pursuant to the  
5 Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act  
6 (22 U.S.C. 2656 note), and a list of senior officials  
7 who are known or credibly alleged to have committed  
8 or facilitated such corruption, not including individ-  
9 uals who have already been sentenced to crimes in  
10 criminal courts.

11           (15) Descriptions of operating conditions for  
12 civil society organizations and independent media in  
13 each of the Northern Triangle countries, and data  
14 on harassment and attacks on civil society and inde-  
15 pendent media from political and criminal actors.

16           (16) An assessment of information sharing re-  
17 garding known or suspected terrorists and other in-  
18 dividuals and groups that pose a potential threat to  
19 United States national security that are crossing  
20 through or residing in the Northern Triangle.

21           (17) Descriptions of the obstacles (including ca-  
22 pacity gaps within the criminal justice systems) to  
23 resolving criminal cases and corruption and deter-  
24 ring violence.

1           (18) Data on the capacity of child welfare sys-  
2           tems in each Northern Triangle country to protect  
3           unaccompanied children, including runaways and  
4           refugee returnees.

5           (19) Data on the governance capacity of North-  
6           ern Triangle country governments at the local and  
7           national level, including ability to deliver basic cit-  
8           izen services, including tax collection and citizen se-  
9           curity.

10          (20) Data on the rates of extortion, the impact  
11          of extortion on local businesses and economies, and  
12          the number of extortion cases investigated, pros-  
13          ecuted, or convicted.

14          (21) Data on the extent to which the Northern  
15          Triangle governments are promoting economic  
16          growth and educational opportunities, improving  
17          health outcomes, and addressing the underlying  
18          causes of poverty and inequality through public poli-  
19          cies.

20          (22) Data on the activities of China and Rus-  
21          sia, an assessment of the threat of such activities to  
22          United States interests, and the impact of such ac-  
23          tivities on irregular migration.

24          (23) An analysis of the manner and extent to  
25          which assistance made available to the Northern Tri-

1 angle countries in fiscal years 2015 through 2017  
2 were expended, particularly including—

3 (A) the extent to which funds made avail-  
4 able to private and nongovernmental entities to  
5 provide such assistance were subsequently ex-  
6 pended on activities conducted within such  
7 countries; and

8 (B) the manner in which such funds were  
9 expended on activities in other countries.

10 (24) Data on the geographic regions where  
11 highest incidence of violence occurs against women  
12 and children.

13 (25) An evaluation of the extent to which  
14 women and children who are victims of violence have  
15 access to protection and justice.

16 (26) An evaluation of the capacity of the justice  
17 system in each Northern Triangle country to re-  
18 spond to reports of femicide, sexual assault, domes-  
19 tic violence, trafficking, or child abuse and neglect,  
20 and to hold perpetrators of such crimes accountable.

21 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report required  
22 under subsection (a) shall be made publicly available on  
23 the website of the Department of State.

1 **SEC. 3. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC**  
2 **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH-**  
3 **ERN TRIANGLE.**

4 (a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The  
5 Secretary of State shall prioritize economic development  
6 in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out the fol-  
7 lowing initiatives:

8 (1) Supporting market-based solutions to elimi-  
9 nate constraints to inclusive economic growth, in-  
10 cluding through support for increased digital  
11 connectivity and the use of financial technology, and  
12 private sector and civil society-led efforts to create  
13 jobs and foster economic prosperity.

14 (2) Addressing underlying causes of poverty  
15 and inequality, including by improving nutrition and  
16 food security, providing health resources and access  
17 to clean water, sanitation, hygiene, and shelter, and  
18 improving livelihoods.

19 (3) Responding to immediate humanitarian  
20 needs by increasing humanitarian assistance, includ-  
21 ing through access to clean water, sanitation, hy-  
22 giene, and shelter, improving livelihoods, and by pro-  
23 viding health resources and improving nutrition and  
24 food security.

1           (4) Supporting conservation and community re-  
2           silience and strengthening community preparedness  
3           for natural disasters and other external shocks.

4           (5) Identifying, as appropriate, a role for the  
5           United States International Development Finance  
6           Corporation, the Millennium Challenge Corporation  
7           (MCC), the United States Agency for International  
8           Development, and the United States private sector  
9           in supporting efforts to increase private sector in-  
10          vestment and strengthen economic prosperity.

11          (6) Expanding comprehensive reintegration  
12          mechanisms for repatriated individuals once re-  
13          turned to their countries of origin and supporting ef-  
14          forts by the private sector to hire and train eligible  
15          returnees.

16          (7) Establishing monitoring and verification  
17          services to determine the well-being of repatriated  
18          children in order to determine if United States pro-  
19          tection and screening functioned effectively in identi-  
20          fying persecuted and trafficked children.

21          (8) Supporting efforts to increase domestic re-  
22          source mobilization, including through strengthening  
23          of tax collection and enforcement and legal arbitra-  
24          tion mechanisms.

25          (b) STRATEGY.—

1           (1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after  
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
3 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of  
4 the United States Agency for International Develop-  
5 ment, the President and Chief Executive Officer of  
6 the Inter-American Foundation, the Director of the  
7 United States Trade and Development Agency, the  
8 Chief Executive Officer of the United States Inter-  
9 national Development Finance Corporation, and the  
10 heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall sub-  
11 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a 5-  
12 year strategy to support inclusive economic growth  
13 and development in the Northern Triangle countries  
14 by carrying out the initiatives described in sub-  
15 section (a).

16           (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-  
17 egy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of  
18 State shall consult with nongovernmental organiza-  
19 tions in the Northern Triangle countries and the  
20 United States.

21           (3) BENCHMARKS.—The strategy required  
22 under paragraph (1) shall include annual bench-  
23 marks to track the strategy’s progress in curbing ir-  
24 regular migration from the Northern Triangle to the  
25 United States.

1           (4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The strategy re-  
2           quired under paragraph (1) shall include a public di-  
3           plomacy strategy for educating citizens of the North-  
4           ern Triangle countries about United States assist-  
5           ance and its benefits to them, and informing such  
6           citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the  
7           United States.

8           (5) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.—Not later  
9           than 1 year after the submission of the strategy re-  
10          quired under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter  
11          for 4 years, the Secretary of State shall provide the  
12          appropriate congressional committees with a written  
13          description of progress made in meeting the bench-  
14          marks established in the strategy.

15          (6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy re-  
16          quired under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly  
17          available on the website of the Department of State.

18          (c) REPORT ON ESTABLISHING AN INVESTMENT  
19          FUND FOR THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES AND  
20          SOUTHERN MEXICO.—Not later than 180 days after the  
21          date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Of-  
22          ficer of the United States International Development Fi-  
23          nance Corporation shall submit to the appropriate con-  
24          gressional committees a detailed report assessing the fea-  
25          sibility, costs, and benefits of the Corporation establishing

1 an investment fund to promote economic and social devel-  
2 opment in the Northern Triangle countries and southern  
3 Mexico.

4 **SEC. 4. ACTIONS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION IN THE NORTH-**  
5 **ERN TRIANGLE.**

6 (a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The  
7 Secretary of State shall prioritize efforts to combat cor-  
8 ruption in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out  
9 the following initiatives:

10 (1) Supporting anti-corruption efforts, includ-  
11 ing by strengthening national justice systems and at-  
12 torneys general, providing technical assistance to fi-  
13 nancial institutions to identify money laundering and  
14 other financial crimes, breaking up financial hold-  
15 ings of organized criminal syndicates, including ille-  
16 gally acquired lands and proceeds from illegal activi-  
17 ties, and supporting independent media and inves-  
18 tigative reporting.

19 (2) Supporting anti-corruption efforts through  
20 bilateral assistance and complementary support  
21 through multilateral anti-corruption mechanisms  
22 when necessary.

23 (3) Encouraging cooperation agreements be-  
24 tween the Department of State and relevant United

1 States Government agencies and attorneys general  
2 to fight corruption.

3 (4) Supporting efforts to strengthen special  
4 prosecutorial offices and financial institutions to  
5 combat corruption, money laundering, financial  
6 crimes, extortion, human rights crimes, asset for-  
7 feiture, and criminal analysis.

8 (5) Supporting initiatives to advance judicial in-  
9 tegrity and improve security for members of the ju-  
10 dicial sector.

11 (6) Supporting transparent, merit-based selec-  
12 tion processes for prosecutors and judges and the  
13 development of professional and merit-based civil  
14 services.

15 (7) Supporting the establishment or strength-  
16 ening of methods, procedures, and expectations for  
17 internal and external control mechanisms for the se-  
18 curity and police services and judiciary.

19 (8) Supporting the adoption of appropriate  
20 technologies to combat corruption in public finance.

21 (b) STRATEGY.—

22 (1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after  
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
24 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of  
25 the United States Agency for International Develop-

1       ment and the heads of other relevant Federal agen-  
2       cies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
3       committees a 5-year strategy to combat corruption  
4       in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out  
5       the initiatives described in subsection (a).

6           (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-  
7       egy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of  
8       State shall consult with nongovernmental organiza-  
9       tions in the Northern Triangle countries and the  
10      United States.

11          (3) BENCHMARKS.—The strategy required  
12      under paragraph (1) shall include annual bench-  
13      marks to track the strategy’s progress in curbing ir-  
14      regular migration from the Northern Triangle to the  
15      United States.

16          (4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The strategy re-  
17      quired under paragraph (1) shall include a public di-  
18      plomacy strategy for educating citizens of the North-  
19      ern Triangle countries about United States assist-  
20      ance and its benefits to them, and informing such  
21      citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the  
22      United States.

23          (5) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.—Not later  
24      than 1 year after the submission of the strategy re-  
25      quired under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter

1 for 4 years, the Secretary of State shall provide the  
2 appropriate congressional committees with a written  
3 description of progress made in meeting the bench-  
4 marks established in the strategy.

5 (6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy re-  
6 quired under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly  
7 available on the website of the Department of State.

8 (c) DESIGNATION OF A SENIOR RULE OF LAW ADVI-  
9 SOR FOR THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE IN THE BUREAU OF  
10 WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS.—The Secretary of  
11 State shall designate in the Bureau of Western Hemi-  
12 sphere Affairs of the Department of State a Senior Rule  
13 of Law Advisor for the Northern Triangle who shall lead  
14 diplomatic engagement with the Northern Triangle coun-  
15 tries in support of democratic governance, anti-corruption  
16 efforts, and the rule of law in all aspects of United States  
17 policy towards the countries of the Northern Triangle, in-  
18 cluding carrying out the initiatives described in subsection  
19 (a) and developing the strategy required under subsection  
20 (b). The individual designated in accordance with this sub-  
21 section shall be a Department of State employee in the  
22 Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

1 **SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC INSTITU-**  
2 **TIONS IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.**

3 (a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The  
4 Secretary of State shall prioritize strengthening demo-  
5 cratic institutions, good governance, human rights, and  
6 the rule of law in the Northern Triangle countries by car-  
7 rying out the following initiatives:

8 (1) Providing support to strengthen government  
9 institutions and actors at the local and national lev-  
10 els to provide services and respond to citizen needs  
11 through transparent, inclusive, and democratic proc-  
12 esses.

13 (2) Supporting efforts to strengthen access to  
14 information laws and reform laws that currently  
15 limit access to information.

16 (3) Financing efforts to build the capacity of  
17 independent media with a specific focus on profes-  
18 sional investigative journalism.

19 (4) Ensuring that threats and attacks on jour-  
20 nalists and human rights defenders are fully inves-  
21 tigated and perpetrators are held accountable.

22 (5) Developing the capacity of civil society to  
23 conduct oversight and accountability mechanisms at  
24 the national and local levels.

25 (6) Training political actors committed to  
26 democratic principles.

1           (7) Strengthening electoral institutions and  
2 processes to ensure free, fair, and transparent elec-  
3 tions.

4           (8) Advancing conservation principles and the  
5 rule of law to address multiple factors, including the  
6 impacts of illegal cattle ranching and smuggling as  
7 drivers of deforestation.

8           (b) STRATEGY.—

9           (1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after  
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
11 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of  
12 the United States Agency for International Develop-  
13 ment and the heads of other relevant Federal agen-  
14 cies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
15 committees a strategy to support democratic govern-  
16 ance in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying  
17 out the initiatives described in subsection (a).

18           (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-  
19 egy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of  
20 State shall consult with nongovernmental organiza-  
21 tions in the Northern Triangle countries and the  
22 United States.

23           (3) BENCHMARKS.—The strategy required  
24 under paragraph (1) shall include annual bench-  
25 marks to track the strategy's progress in curbing ir-

1 regular migration from the Northern Triangle to the  
2 United States.

3 (4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The strategy re-  
4 quired under paragraph (1) shall include a public di-  
5 plomacy strategy for educating citizens of the North-  
6 ern Triangle countries about United States assist-  
7 ance and its benefits to them, and informing such  
8 citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the  
9 United States.

10 (5) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.—Not later  
11 than 1 year after the submission of the strategy re-  
12 quired under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter  
13 for 4 years, the Secretary of State shall provide the  
14 appropriate congressional committees with a written  
15 description of progress made in meeting the bench-  
16 marks established in the strategy.

17 (6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy re-  
18 quired under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly  
19 available on the website of the Department of State.

20 **SEC. 6. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE SECURITY CONDITIONS IN**  
21 **THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.**

22 (a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The  
23 Secretary of State shall prioritize security in the Northern  
24 Triangle countries by carrying out the following initiatives:

1           (1) Implementing the Central America Regional  
2 Security Initiative of the Department of State.

3           (2) Continuing the vetting and  
4 professionalization of security services, including the  
5 civilian police and military units.

6           (3) Supporting efforts to combat the illicit ac-  
7 tivities of criminal gangs and transnational criminal  
8 organizations, including MS-13 and the 18th Street  
9 Gang, through support to fully vetted elements of at-  
10 torneys general offices, appropriate government in-  
11 stitutions, and security services.

12           (4) Supporting training for fully vetted civilian  
13 police and appropriate security services in criminal  
14 investigations, best practices for citizen security, and  
15 human rights.

16           (5) Providing capacity-building to relevant secu-  
17 rity services and attorneys general to support coun-  
18 ternarcotics efforts and combat human trafficking,  
19 forcible recruitment of children and youth by gangs,  
20 gender-based violence, and other illicit activities, in-  
21 cluding trafficking of wildlife, and natural resources.

22           (6) Encouraging collaboration with regional and  
23 international partners in implementing security as-  
24 sistance, including by supporting cross-border infor-

1 mation sharing on gangs and transnational criminal  
2 organizations.

3 (7) Providing equipment, technology, tools, and  
4 training to security services to assist in border and  
5 port inspections.

6 (8) Providing equipment, technology, tools, and  
7 training to assist security services in counter-  
8 narcotics and other efforts to combat illicit activities.

9 (9) Continuing information sharing regarding  
10 known or suspected terrorists and other individuals  
11 and entities that pose a potential threat to United  
12 States national security that are crossing through or  
13 residing in the Northern Triangle.

14 (10) Supporting information sharing on gangs  
15 and transnational criminal organizations between  
16 relevant Federal, State, and local law enforcement  
17 and the governments of the Northern Triangle coun-  
18 tries.

19 (11) Considering the use of assets and re-  
20 sources of United States State and local government  
21 entities, as appropriate, to support the activities de-  
22 scribed in this subsection.

23 (12) Providing thorough end-use monitoring of  
24 equipment, technology, tools, and training provided  
25 pursuant to this subsection.

1 (b) STRATEGY.—

2 (1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after  
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
4 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of  
5 the United States Agency for International Develop-  
6 ment and the heads of other relevant Federal agen-  
7 cies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
8 committees a 5-year strategy to prioritize the im-  
9 provement of security in the Northern Triangle  
10 countries by carrying out the initiatives described in  
11 subsection (a).

12 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-  
13 egy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of  
14 State shall consult with nongovernmental organiza-  
15 tions in the Northern Triangle countries and the  
16 United States.

17 (3) BENCHMARKS.—The strategy required  
18 under paragraph (1) shall include annual bench-  
19 marks to track the strategy’s progress in curbing ir-  
20 regular migration from the Northern Triangle to the  
21 United States.

22 (4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The strategy re-  
23 quired under paragraph (1) shall include a public di-  
24 plomacy strategy for educating citizens of the North-  
25 ern Triangle countries about United States assist-

1       ance and its benefits to them, and informing such  
2       citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the  
3       United States.

4               (5) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.—Not later  
5       than 1 year after the submission of the strategy re-  
6       quired under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter  
7       for 4 years, the Secretary of State shall provide the  
8       appropriate congressional committees with a written  
9       description of progress made in meeting the bench-  
10      marks established in the strategy.

11              (6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy re-  
12      quired under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly  
13      available on the website of the Department of State.

14      (c) WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTION COM-  
15      PACTS.—

16              (1) IN GENERAL.—The President, in consulta-  
17      tion with the Secretary of State, the Administrator  
18      of the United States Agency for International Devel-  
19      opment, and the heads of other relevant Federal de-  
20      partments or agencies, is authorized to enter into bi-  
21      lateral agreements with one or more of the Govern-  
22      ments of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras to  
23      provide United States assistance for the purposes  
24      of—

1 (A) strengthening the capacity of the jus-  
2 tice systems in such countries to protect women  
3 and children fleeing domestic, gang, or drug vi-  
4 olence and to serve victims of domestic violence,  
5 sexual assault, trafficking, or child abuse or ne-  
6 glect, including by strengthening the capacity of  
7 such systems to hold perpetrators accountable;  
8 and

9 (B) creating, securing, and sustaining safe  
10 communities and schools in such countries, by  
11 building on current approaches to prevent and  
12 deter violence against women and children in  
13 such communities or schools.

14 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—An agreement under the  
15 authority provided by paragraph (1)—

16 (A) shall establish a 3- to 6-year plan to  
17 achieve the objectives described in subpara-  
18 graphs (A) and (B) of such paragraph;

19 (B) shall include measurable goals and in-  
20 dicators with respect to such objectives;

21 (C) may not provide for any United States  
22 assistance to be made available directly to any  
23 of the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala,  
24 or Honduras; and

1 (D) may be suspended or terminated with  
2 respect to a country or an entity receiving as-  
3 sistance pursuant to the agreement, if the Sec-  
4 retary of State determines that such country or  
5 entity has failed to make sufficient progress to-  
6 wards the goals of the Compact.

7 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSIST-**  
8 **ANCE TO CENTRAL AMERICA.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-  
10 priated to the President \$577,000,000 for fiscal year 2020  
11 to carry out the United States Strategy for Engagement  
12 in Central America in accordance with subsection (b).  
13 Funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-  
14 tion shall be used only for the purposes set forth in sub-  
15 section (b).

16 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts authorized to be  
18 appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be  
19 made available for assistance to Central American  
20 countries to implement the United States Strategy  
21 for Engagement in Central America, including ef-  
22 forts to carry out sections 3, 4, 5, and 6.

23 (2) EFFECTIVE TARGETING OF ASSISTANCE.—  
24 The Secretary of State shall ensure that, to the ex-  
25 tent practicable, assistance provided to Central

1 American countries to carry out this Act is obligated  
2 and expended on projects, programs, or activities  
3 within such countries, in order to better support in-  
4 clusive economic growth and development, combat  
5 corruption, strengthen democratic institutions, and  
6 improve security conditions in such countries.

7 (c) INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION.—Not less than  
8 \$10,000,000 of the funds authorized to be appropriated  
9 pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available to the  
10 Inter-American Foundation to address the root causes of  
11 migration from Central America.

12 (d) NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—Not less than  
13 \$490,000,000 of the funds authorized to be appropriated  
14 pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available for pro-  
15 gramming in the Northern Triangle counties.

16 (e) WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTION COM-  
17 PACTS.—Not less than \$20,000,000 of the funds author-  
18 ized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall  
19 be made available to provide assistance pursuant to agree-  
20 ments authorized by section 6(c).

21 **SEC. 8. CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO THE NORTHERN**  
22 **TRIANGLE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds authorized to be ap-  
24 propriated to the President by this Act that are made  
25 available for assistance for each of the central govern-

1 ments of the Northern Triangle countries, 50 percent of  
2 such funds for each such central government may only be  
3 obligated with respect to each such country after the Sec-  
4 retary of State certifies and reports to the appropriate  
5 congressional committees that such central government is  
6 meeting the following conditions:

7           (1) Informing its citizens of the dangers of the  
8           journey to the southwest border of the United  
9           States.

10           (2) Combating all human smuggling and traf-  
11           ficking entities.

12           (3) Countering the trafficking of illicit drugs,  
13           firearms, wildlife, natural resources, and other con-  
14           traband.

15           (4) Combating corruption, including inves-  
16           tigating and prosecuting current and former govern-  
17           ment officials credibly alleged to be corrupt.

18           (5) Implementing reforms, policies, and pro-  
19           grams to increase transparency and strengthen pub-  
20           lic institutions and the rule of law.

21           (6) Countering the activities of criminal gangs,  
22           drug traffickers, and transnational criminal organi-  
23           zations.

24           (7) Ensuring that human rights are respected  
25           by national security forces.

1           (8) Investigating and prosecuting in the civilian  
2 justice system government personnel who are  
3 credibly alleged to have violated human rights.

4           (9) Cooperating with commissions against cor-  
5 ruption and impunity and with regional human  
6 rights entities.

7           (10) Supporting programs to reduce poverty,  
8 expand education and vocational training for at-risk  
9 youth, create jobs, and promote equitable economic  
10 growth, particularly in areas contributing to large  
11 numbers of migrants.

12           (11) Creating a professional, accountable civil-  
13 ian police force and ending the role of the military  
14 in internal policing.

15           (12) Protecting the right of political opposition  
16 parties and other members of civil society to operate  
17 without interference.

18           (13) Implementing tax reforms, ensuring prop-  
19 erty rights, and supporting increased private invest-  
20 ment in the region.

21           (14) Resolving commercial disputes.

22 (b) REPROGRAMMING.—

23           (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds withheld pursuant to  
24 the limitation described in subsection (a) shall be  
25 made available for programs in the Northern Tri-

1 angle that do not directly support the central gov-  
2 ernments of such countries.

3 (2) EXCEPTION.—The limitation described in  
4 subsection (a) does not apply to funds authorized to  
5 be appropriated by this Act for humanitarian assist-  
6 ance or global food security programs.

7 **SEC. 9. ENHANCING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GOVERN-**  
8 **MENT OF MEXICO ON THE NORTHERN TRI-**  
9 **ANGLE.**

10 (a) ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GOVERN-  
11 MENT OF MEXICO ON THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—The  
12 Secretary of State shall collaborate with the Government  
13 of Mexico to—

14 (1) enhance development, particularly in col-  
15 laboration with the Administrator of the United  
16 States Agency for International Development, the  
17 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Inter-  
18 American Foundation, the Chief Executive Officer of  
19 the United States International Development Fi-  
20 nance Corporation, and the heads of other relevant  
21 Federal agencies, in southern Mexico; and

22 (2) strengthen security cooperation at Mexico's  
23 shared border with Guatemala and Belize.

24 (b) STRATEGY.—

1           (1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after  
2           the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
3           of State shall submit to the appropriate congress-  
4           sional committees a strategy to carry out the col-  
5           laboration described in subsection (a).

6           (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strat-  
7           egy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of  
8           State shall consult with nongovernmental organiza-  
9           tions in Mexico, Belize, the Northern Triangle coun-  
10          tries, and the United States.

11          (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy re-  
12          quired under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly  
13          available on the website of the Department of State.

14 **SEC. 10. TARGETING ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS MIGRATION**  
15                   **FROM COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTHERN TRI-**  
16                   **ANGLE.**

17          Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
18          of this Act and annually thereafter for each of the three  
19          succeeding years, the Comptroller General of the United  
20          States shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-  
21          mittees a report that contains the following:

22           (1) Raw data from Federal agencies on the  
23           number of migrants coming to the United States  
24           from each community or geographic area in the  
25           Northern Triangle countries, with a specific focus on

1 communities targeted by United States foreign as-  
2 sistance.

3 (2) An assessment of whether United States  
4 foreign assistance to the Northern Triangle coun-  
5 tries is effectively reaching the communities from  
6 which individuals are migrating.

7 (3) An assessment of the extent to which  
8 United States foreign assistance is mitigating North-  
9 ern Triangle migration to the United States, includ-  
10 ing a breakdown of effectiveness by project and im-  
11 plementer.

12 (4) An assessment of the extent to which the  
13 Department of State and the United States Agency  
14 for International Development are adjusting foreign  
15 assistance programming in the Northern Triangle  
16 countries as migration patterns shift.

17 (5) An assessment of how the Department of  
18 State, the United States Agency for International  
19 Development, and other implementers of United  
20 States foreign assistance in the Northern Triangle  
21 are measuring the impact of programs on migration  
22 trends.

23 (6) An assessment of how the Department of  
24 State, the United States Agency for International  
25 Development, and other implementers of United

1 States foreign assistance in the Northern Triangle  
2 are implementing a public diplomacy strategy that is  
3 widely informing local citizens about United States  
4 Government assistance and the dangers of illegal mi-  
5 gration to the United States, including an assess-  
6 ment of the effectiveness of such strategy on curbing  
7 such illegal migration.

8 (7) An assessment of the extent to which the  
9 governments of the Northern Triangle countries are  
10 addressing drivers of migration, including efforts to  
11 increase economic prosperity, citizen security, anti-  
12 corruption efforts, democratic principles, and rule of  
13 law.

14 (8) An assessment of how the Northern Tri-  
15 angle countries are educating their citizens about  
16 the dangers of illegal migration to the United States  
17 and the effectiveness of such educational efforts on  
18 curbing such illegal migration.

19 **SEC. 11. TARGETED SANCTIONS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION IN**  
20 **THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.**

21 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
22 gress that—

23 (1) corruption in the Northern Triangle coun-  
24 tries by private citizens and select officials in local,  
25 regional, and federal governments significantly dam-

1       ages the economies of such countries and deprives  
2       citizens of opportunities;

3           (2) corruption in the Northern Triangle is fa-  
4       cilitated and carried out not only by private citizens  
5       and select officials from those countries but also in  
6       many instances by individuals from third countries;  
7       and

8           (3) imposing targeted sanctions on individuals  
9       from throughout the world and particularly in the  
10      Western Hemisphere who are engaged in acts of sig-  
11      nificant corruption that impact the Northern Tri-  
12      angle countries will benefit the citizens and govern-  
13      ments of such countries.

14      (b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall  
15      impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with re-  
16      spect to a foreign person who the President determines  
17      on or after the date of the enactment of this Act to have  
18      knowingly engaged in significant corruption in a Northern  
19      Triangle country, including the following:

20           (1) Corruption related to government contracts.

21           (2) Bribery and extortion.

22           (3) The facilitation or transfer of the proceeds  
23      of corruption, including through money laundering.

24      (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in  
2 this subsection are the following:

3           (A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The blocking, in  
4 accordance with the International Emergency  
5 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.),  
6 of all transactions in all property and interests  
7 in property of a foreign person if such property  
8 and interests in property are in the United  
9 States, come within the United States, or are or  
10 come within the possession or control of a  
11 United States person.

12           (B) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMIS-  
13 SION TO THE UNITED STATES.—In the case of  
14 a foreign person who is an individual, such for-  
15 eign person is—

16                   (i) inadmissible to the United States;

17                   (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other  
18 documentation to enter the United States;

19                   and

20                   (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted  
21 or paroled into the United States or to re-  
22 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-  
23 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et  
24 seq.).

25           (C) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing con-  
2 sular officer or the Secretary of State, (or  
3 a designee of the Secretary of State) shall,  
4 in accordance with section 221(i) of the  
5 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
6 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry  
7 documentation issued to a foreign person  
8 regardless of when the visa or other entry  
9 documentation is issued.

10 (ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A rev-  
11 ocation under clause (i) shall—

12 (I) take effect immediately; and

13 (II) automatically cancel any  
14 other valid visa or entry documenta-  
15 tion that is in the foreign person's  
16 possession.

17 (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-  
18 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a  
19 violation of a measure imposed pursuant to para-  
20 graph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order  
21 issued to carry out such paragraph shall be subject  
22 to the penalties specified in subsections (b) and (c)  
23 of section 206 of the International Emergency Eco-  
24 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same ex-

1       tent as a person that commits an unlawful act de-  
2       scribed in subsection (a) of such section.

3           (3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-  
4       NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under subpara-  
5       graph (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) shall not apply  
6       with respect to a foreign person if admitting or pa-  
7       roling such person into the United States is nec-  
8       essary to permit the United States to comply with  
9       the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the  
10      United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,  
11      1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947,  
12      between the United Nations and the United States,  
13      or other applicable international obligations.

14      (d) IMPLEMENTATION; REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

15           (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-  
16      ercise all authorities provided under sections 203  
17      and 205 of the International Emergency Economic  
18      Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out  
19      this section.

20           (2) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President  
21      shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as  
22      are necessary to carry out this section.

23      (e) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President  
24      may waive the application of the sanctions under sub-  
25      section (c) if the President—

1           (1) determines that such a waiver is in the na-  
2           tional interest of the United States; and

3           (2) submits to the appropriate congressional  
4           committees a notice of and justification for the waiv-  
5           er.

6           (f) TERMINATION.—The authority to impose sanc-  
7           tions under subsection (b), and any sanctions imposed  
8           pursuant to such authority, shall expire on the date that  
9           is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

10          (g) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF  
11          GOODS.—The authorities and requirements to impose  
12          sanctions authorized under this Act shall not include the  
13          authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the im-  
14          portation of goods.

15          (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16                (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
17                TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
18                mittees” means—

19                        (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
20                        Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-  
21                        mittee on Financial Services of the House of  
22                        Representatives; and

23                        (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,  
24                        the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-

1           mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
2           of the Senate.

3           (2) GOOD.—The term “good” means any arti-  
4           cle, natural or man-made substance, material, supply  
5           or manufactured product, including inspection and  
6           test equipment, and excluding technical data.

7           (3) PERSON FROM A NORTHERN TRIANGLE  
8           COUNTRY.—The term “person from a Northern Tri-  
9           angle country” means—

10                   (A) a citizen of a Northern Triangle coun-  
11                   try; or

12                   (B) an entity organized under the laws of  
13                   a Northern Triangle country or any jurisdiction  
14                   within a Northern Triangle country.

15 **SEC. 12. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE ADVANCE NOTIFICA-**  
16 **TION TO CONGRESS OF SECURITY ASSIST-**  
17 **ANCE TO NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES.**

18           (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
19           sion of law, the President may not provide security assist-  
20           ance to a Northern Triangle country during the 3-year  
21           period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act  
22           until 30 days after the date on which the President has  
23           provided to the appropriate congressional committees no-  
24           tice of such proposed provision of security assistance.

1 (b) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-  
2 tion of subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis if the Presi-  
3 dent—

4 (1) determines it is in the national security in-  
5 terests of the United States to do so; and

6 (2) submits to the appropriate congressional  
7 committees such determination and the rationale for  
8 the determination.

9 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
11 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
12 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
13 the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
14 Foreign Relations of the Senate.

15 (2) SECURITY ASSISTANCE.—The term “secu-  
16 rity assistance”—

17 (A) has the meaning given such term in  
18 section 502B(d)(2) of the Foreign Assistance  
19 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304); and

20 (B) includes assistance under any inter-  
21 national security assistance program conducted  
22 under any other provision of law not specified  
23 in section 502B(d)(2) of such Act.

24 **SEC. 13. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1           (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2           TEES.—Except as otherwise provided, the term “ap-  
3           propriate congressional committees” means—

4                   (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and  
5                   the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
6                   of Representatives; and

7                   (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
8                   and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
9                   Senate.

10          (2) NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—The term “North-  
11          ern Triangle” means the region of Central America  
12          that encompasses the countries of El Salvador, Gua-  
13          temala, and Honduras.

14          (3) NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES.—The  
15          term “Northern Triangle countries” means the  
16          countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

17          (4) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZA-  
18          TION.—The term “transnational criminal organiza-  
19          tion” has the meaning given the term “significant  
20          transnational criminal organization” in Executive  
21          Order No. 13581 (July 24, 2011).

22   **SEC. 14. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

23          The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
24          complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010,  
25          shall be determined by reference to the latest statement

1 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
2 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
3 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-  
4 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the  
5 vote on passage.

Passed the House of Representatives July 15, 2019.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

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**H. R. 2615**

**AN ACT**

To support the people of Central America and strengthen United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.