

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 854

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

To provide humanitarian assistance to the Venezuelan people, including Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the Americas and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Humanitarian Assist-  
3 ance to the Venezuelan People Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON THE COORDINATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA INCLUDING STRATEGY ON FUTURE EFFORTS.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the  
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,  
10 in coordination with the Administrator of the United  
11 States Agency for International Development, shall submit  
12 to the appropriate congressional committees a report out-  
13 lining the coordination of humanitarian assistance to the  
14 people of Venezuela, both in Venezuela and throughout the  
15 Western Hemisphere, with nongovernmental organizations  
16 and international organizations operating in Venezuela or  
17 countries in the region to alleviate the suffering of the  
18 Venezuelan people.

19 (b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report re-  
20 quired under subsection (a) shall include the following:

21 (1) A description of how and under what cir-  
22 cumstances the following humanitarian assistance  
23 has been provided:

24 (A) Public health commodities for Ven-  
25 zuelan health facilities and services, including  
26 medicines on the World Health Organization’s

1 List of Essential Medicines, and basic medical  
2 supplies and equipment.

3 (B) Basic food commodities and nutritional  
4 supplements needed to address growing mal-  
5 nutrition and improve food security for the peo-  
6 ple of Venezuela, with a specific emphasis on  
7 the most vulnerable populations.

8 (C) Technical assistance to ensure health  
9 and food commodities are appropriately se-  
10 lected, procured, and distributed, predominantly  
11 through local nongovernmental organizations.

12 (2) An identification of United States Agency  
13 for International Development and Department of  
14 State best practices in delivering humanitarian as-  
15 sistance, particularly with regard to food assistance,  
16 and how such best practices are being utilized in  
17 providing humanitarian assistance to Venezuela and  
18 countries in the region.

19 (3) A description of current and anticipated  
20 challenges to distributing humanitarian assistance in  
21 Venezuela and countries hosting Venezuelan mi-  
22 grants.

23 (4) A description of efforts to ensure that hu-  
24 manitarian and development assistance for Ven-  
25 ezuelans is coordinated with other United States bi-

1 lateral assistance in the Western Hemisphere and  
2 does not result in duplication or omission of such  
3 other bilateral assistance.

4 (5) A description of how the pre-positioning and  
5 distribution of humanitarian assistance is being  
6 monitored and evaluated, the number of beneficiaries  
7 reached, an assessment of how humanitarian and de-  
8 velopment assistance is benefitting Venezuelan mi-  
9 grants inside and outside of the country, and what  
10 additional staff may be necessary to manage such  
11 assistance.

12 (6) A strategy for future efforts to provide hu-  
13 manitarian assistance to the people of Venezuela  
14 that includes a description of future efforts regard-  
15 ing the matters described in paragraphs (1) through  
16 (5).

17 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF CONGRESS.**

18 Congress strongly condemns all violent actions by the  
19 Maduro regime and Venezuela's security forces to block  
20 and divert humanitarian assistance from entering Ven-  
21 ezuela.

1 **SEC. 4. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON UNITED**  
2 **STATES EFFORTS TO PROVIDE HUMANI-**  
3 **TARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF**  
4 **VENEZUELA.**

5 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
6 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United  
7 States shall submit to appropriate congressional commit-  
8 tees a report assessing the impact of United States hu-  
9 manitarian assistance on the people of Venezuela, both in  
10 Venezuela and throughout the Western Hemisphere, in-  
11 cluding the total number of beneficiaries reached.

12 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HUMAN-**  
13 **ITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF**  
14 **VENEZUELA.**

15 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President is authorized to  
16 provide humanitarian assistance to support the people of  
17 Venezuela, both in Venezuela and throughout the Western  
18 Hemisphere, in accordance with established international  
19 humanitarian principles.

20 (b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Con-  
21 gress that not less than \$150,000,000 is necessary for  
22 each of fiscal years 2020 and 2021 to carry out this sec-  
23 tion.

24 (c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is  
25 authorized to be appropriated to the President such sums

1 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2020 and  
2 2021 to carry out this section.

3 **SEC. 6. DEFINITION.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
6 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
7 mittees” means the following:

8 (A) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
9 the House of Representatives.

10 (B) The Committee on Appropriations of  
11 the House of Representatives.

12 (C) The Committee on Foreign Relations  
13 of the Senate.

14 (D) The Committee on Appropriations of  
15 the Senate.

16 (2) VENEZUELAN SECURITY FORCES.—The  
17 term “Venezuelan security forces” includes the fol-  
18 lowing:

19 (A) The Bolivarian National Armed  
20 Forces, including the Bolivarian National  
21 Guard.

22 (B) The Bolivarian National Intelligence  
23 Service.

24 (C) The Bolivarian National Police.

1                   (D) The Bureau for Scientific, Criminal  
2                   and Forensic Investigations of the Ministry of  
3                   Interior, Justice, and Peace.

Passed the House of Representatives March 25,  
2019.

Attest:                   CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*