

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3795

To recognize the refugee and immigrant communities from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam including the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Americans who supported and defended the Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia, authorize assistance to support activities relating to clearance of unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10 (legislative day, MARCH 7), 2022

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. MORAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To recognize the refugee and immigrant communities from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam including the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Americans who supported and defended the Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia, authorize assistance to support activities relating to clearance of unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war, 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 “Legacies of War Rec-  
3 ognition and Unexploded Ordnance Removal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. RECOGNITION OF THE HMONG, CHAM, CAMBODIAN,**  
5 **IU-MIEN, KHMU, LAO, MONTAGNARD, AND VI-**  
6 **ETNAMESE COMMUNITIES WHO SUPPORTED**  
7 **AND DEFENDED THE ARMED FORCES IN**  
8 **SOUTHEAST ASIA.**

9       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

10           (1) Many Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien,  
11 Khmu, Lao, Montagnard and Vietnamese—

12               (A) fought and died with United States  
13 Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast  
14 Asia in the 1960s and 1970s;

15               (B) rescued United States pilots shot down  
16 in enemy-controlled territory and returned the  
17 pilots to safety;

18               (C) gathered and provided to the United  
19 States Armed Forces intelligence about enemy  
20 troop positions, movement, and strength; and

21               (D) provided food, shelter, and support to  
22 the United States Armed Forces.

23           (2) The National Armed Forces of Cambodia  
24 facilitated the evacuation of the United States Em-  
25 bassy in Phnom Penh on April 12, 1975, by con-

1 continuing to fight Khmer Rouge forces as they ad-  
2 vanced upon the capital.

3 (3) The unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Viet-  
4 nam, Laos, and Cambodia that still litter forests,  
5 rice fields, villages, school grounds, roads, and other  
6 populated areas hinder development and poverty re-  
7 duction efforts.

8 (4) Vietnam remains one of the world's most  
9 contaminated countries, with an estimated 800,000  
10 tons of UXO left over from the conflict in Southeast  
11 Asia that ended more than 40 years ago. Since  
12 1975, mine and UXO accidents have caused more  
13 than 105,000 casualties, including more than 38,000  
14 deaths of Vietnamese civilians.

15 (5) In Laos, much of the country's land re-  
16 mains contaminated with tens of millions of small,  
17 unexploded cluster munitions. Since 1964, explosive  
18 remnants of war have injured or killed more than  
19 50,000 civilians in Laos.

20 (6) Cambodia has experienced one of the high-  
21 est rates of landmine and UXO casualties in the  
22 world. Over 64,000 Cambodians have been killed or  
23 injured by UXO and other explosive remnants of  
24 war since 1979.

1           (7) The United States is the world's leading fi-  
 2           nancial supporter of demining and UXO removal  
 3           programs. Since 1993, the United States has worked  
 4           to locate and destroy UXO and other explosive rem-  
 5           nants of war in more than 100 countries, including  
 6           in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

7           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
 8           gress that—

9           (1) the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien,  
 10          Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Ameri-  
 11          cans deserve recognition for their support and de-  
 12          fense of the United States Armed Forces during the  
 13          conflict in Southeast Asia; and

14          (2) the United States should continue to sup-  
 15          port activities to clear UXO and other explosive rem-  
 16          nants of war in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and  
 17          strengthen people-to-people ties and reaffirm Amer-  
 18          ica's long-standing commitment to Southeast Asia.

19 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE FOR VIETNAM,**  
 20 **LAOS, AND CAMBODIA.**

21          (a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to  
 22          provide humanitarian assistance for programs to support  
 23          the activities described in subsection (b).

1 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Activities that may be  
2 supported by assistance under subsection (a) include the  
3 following:

4 (1) Developing national surveys of unexploded  
5 ordnance (UXO) and other explosive remnants of  
6 war in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

7 (2) Providing for clearance of such UXO and  
8 other explosive remnants of war.

9 (3) Providing assistance for capacity building,  
10 risk education, and assistance to survivors, including  
11 medical assistance and prosthetic devices, in Viet-  
12 nam, Laos, and Cambodia related to both UXO and  
13 other explosive remnants of war.

14 (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the  
15 President shall seek to consult, partner, and coordinate  
16 with international organizations, civil society, donor gov-  
17 ernments, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to lever-  
18 age their expertise, financial support, and resources to  
19 minimize duplication of efforts and maximize the efficient  
20 and effective provision of United States assistance.

21 (d) BRIEFINGS.—

22 (1) ANNUAL BRIEFINGS.—The President shall  
23 provide annual briefings to the appropriate commit-  
24 tees of Congress on activities undertaken in accord-  
25 ance with this section.

1           (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS  
2       DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-  
3       priate committees of Congress” means—

4           (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations,  
5           the Committee on Armed Services, and the  
6           Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;  
7           and

8           (B) the Committee of Foreign Affairs, the  
9           Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-  
10          mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
11          resentatives.

12       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
13       authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry  
14       out this section \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022  
15       through 2026.

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