

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4516

To require the Secretary of State to ensure that commodities procured for the purpose of foreign assistance are made available to intended beneficiaries before such commodities expire, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2025

Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. MENG, Mr. AMO, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to ensure that commodities procured for the purpose of foreign assistance are made available to intended beneficiaries before such commodities expire, 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 “Saving Lives and Tax-  
5       payer Dollars Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Foreign assistance commodities, including  
2           food, medicine, family planning products, and vac-  
3           cines, provide critical support to people who are re-  
4           covering from the aftermath of natural disasters,  
5           fleeing conflict or war, residing in refugee camps, or  
6           living in developing communities with limited access  
7           to health care.

8           (2) United States investments in global health  
9           bolster economic growth for partner countries,  
10          produce returns on investment for the United States  
11          economy, create an estimated 600,000 jobs in the  
12          United States, and generated an estimated  
13          \$104,000,000,000 in economic activity during the  
14          15-year period between 2007 and 2022.

15          (3) Reliable access to vaccines and medications,  
16          including pre-exposure prophylaxis and antiretroviral  
17          drugs to prevent the spread of HIV and vaccines to  
18          prevent the transmission of communicable diseases  
19          such as polio and drug-resistant tuberculosis, makes  
20          everyone safer.

21          (4) United States food assistance benefits  
22          United States farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses,  
23          while addressing global food insecurity. United  
24          States farmers annually supply an estimated 40 per-

1 cent of all international food assistance, which is val-  
2 ued at approximately \$2,000,000,000.

3 (5) Greater access to family planning products  
4 and services has the potential to prevent up to 30  
5 percent of the 295,000 annual maternal deaths and  
6 save the lives of approximately 1,400,000 children  
7 who are younger than 5 years old.

8 (6) The voluntary destruction of foreign assist-  
9 ance commodities intended for beneficiaries at risk  
10 of food insecurity and famine, sexual violence, ma-  
11 ternal and infant death and disease is unethical and  
12 contrary to United States interests and moral obli-  
13 gations.

14 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON THE DESTRUCTION OF FOREIGN**  
15 **ASSISTANCE PRODUCTS AND COMMODITIES.**

16 Section 102 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961  
17 (22 U.S.C. 2151–1) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the  
19 following:

20 “(18) Perishable and nonperishable foreign as-  
21 sistance commodities and products, including medi-  
22 cine, vaccines, medical devices, food, and food com-  
23 modities that are procured, managed, controlled, or  
24 held in warehouses, ships, shipping containers, or  
25 any other storage facility, by the United States Gov-

1       ernment or by a foreign assistance implementing  
2       partner of the United States Government shall be  
3       made available to intended beneficiaries, including  
4       through donation, for their intended purpose and be-  
5       fore the date on which such commodities and prod-  
6       ucts spoil or expire.”; and

7               (2) by adding at the end the following:

8       “(d)(1) If any commodity is in the possession or con-  
9       trol of a foreign assistance implementing partner of the  
10      United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Ag-  
11      riculture, or the Administrator of the United States Agen-  
12      cy for International Development, as appropriate, shall, on  
13      an expedited basis, release such funds as may be necessary  
14      to ensure the delivery or donation of the commodity to  
15      the intended beneficiaries before the date the commodity  
16      spoils or expires.

17      “(2) No commodity may be destroyed unless every  
18      effort has been made to sell, donate, or otherwise make  
19      the commodity available (whichever is more likely to en-  
20      sure the commodity will be received and used by the in-  
21      tended beneficiaries) before the date the commodity spoils  
22      or expires.

23      “(3)(A) Not later than 90 days after the date of the  
24      enactment of the Saving Lives and Taxpayer Dollars Act,  
25      and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordi-

1 nation with the Administrator of the United States Agen-  
2 cy for International Development and the Secretary of Ag-  
3 riculture, as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate  
4 congressional committees a report that describes any com-  
5 modity that, during the year prior to the date of the sub-  
6 mission of the report expired, spoiled, or was destroyed  
7 prior to the delivery of such commodity to an intended  
8 beneficiary.

9 “(B) Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall  
10 include, for each expired, spoiled, or destroyed commodity  
11 described—

12 “(i) a description of all negotiations, plans, and  
13 efforts to make the commodity available to the in-  
14 tended beneficiaries;

15 “(ii) the reason the commodity was not made  
16 available to the intended beneficiaries;

17 “(iii) the intended purpose of the commodity;

18 “(iv) a list of the geographic locations of all in-  
19 tended beneficiaries of the commodity, by country or  
20 region, as appropriate;

21 “(v) the procured and market value of the com-  
22 modity; and

23 “(vi) the cost incurred to destroy or dispose of  
24 the commodity.

25 “(4) In this subsection—

1           “(A) the term ‘appropriate congressional com-  
2       mittees’ means—

3           “(i) the Committee on Appropriations and  
4       the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House  
5       of Representatives; and

6           “(ii) the Committee on Appropriations and  
7       the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-  
8       ate.

9           “(B) the term ‘commodity’ means a perishable  
10      or nonperishable commodity or product (including  
11      medicine, vaccines, medical devices, food, and food  
12      commodities) that is procured, managed, controlled,  
13      or held in warehouses, ships, shipping containers, or  
14      any other storage facility, by the United States Gov-  
15      ernment or by a foreign assistance implementing  
16      partner of the United States Government for the  
17      purpose of providing foreign assistance.”.

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