

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4929

To require continued participation by the United States in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2026

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. MERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To require continued participation by the United States in the World Health Organization, 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 TITLES.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Epidemic Barrier and
5 Outbreak Leadership Act” or the “EBOLA Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Infectious disease outbreaks and pandemics
9 pose significant threats to the national security, pub-

1 lic health, and economic well-being of the United
2 States.

3 (2) The 2026 Ebola Disease outbreak in Cen-
4 tral and Eastern Africa has rapidly spread across
5 international borders and resulted in more than
6 1,000 cases of the disease.

7 (3) According to the Centers for Disease Con-
8 trol and Prevention’s model scenarios, without a
9 strong public health intervention, the current out-
10 break could become larger than the outbreak in
11 West Africa from 2014 to 2016 in which more than
12 11,000 people died.

13 (4) Despite the need for continued reforms, the
14 World Health Organization serves as the principal
15 international body for disease surveillance, outbreak
16 response coordination, and public health information
17 sharing.

18 (5) Participation in the World Health Organiza-
19 tion enhances the ability of the United States to
20 monitor emerging infectious diseases, coordinate
21 with international partners, and protect the health
22 of the American people.

23 (6) On January 20, 2025, President Trump ini-
24 tiated the withdrawal of the United States from the
25 World Health Organization through Executive Order

1 14155 (90 Fed. Reg. 8361), which was completed on
2 January 22, 2026.

3 (7) In previous public health emergencies of
4 international concern, the United States has consist-
5 ently communicated with representatives of the
6 World Health Organization, other multilateral health
7 agencies, and the governments of other countries to
8 ensure United States global health funding was tar-
9 geted, coordinated, and efficient.

10 **SEC. 3. PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZA-**
11 **TION.**

12 The President, in coordination with the Secretary of
13 State, shall—

14 (1) take all necessary steps for the United
15 States to rejoin the World Health Organization not
16 later than 30 days after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act; and

18 (2) immediately collaborate with the World
19 Health Organization to respond to the Ebola Dis-
20 ease outbreak in Central and Eastern Africa.

21 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
23 as may be necessary to carry out this Act, including—

- 1 (1) paying assessed contributions and any other
2 financial obligations to restore United States mem-
3 bership in the World Health Organization; and
4 (2) supporting the response effort of the World
5 Health Organization and other United Nations enti-
6 ties to the Ebola Disease epidemic in Central and
7 Eastern Africa, including through voluntary con-
8 tributions and programmatic support, in order to
9 prevent global transmission of the virus, including
10 transmission to the people and territory of the
11 United States.

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