

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1777

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## AN ACT

To authorize assistance for individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and warfare, 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 “International Dis-  
5 ability and Victims of Landmines, Civil Strife and Warfare  
6 Assistance Act of 2002”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
3 ing:

4 (1)(A) According to the International Com-  
5 mittee of the Red Cross, there are tens of millions  
6 of landmines in over 60 countries around the world,  
7 and it has estimated that as many as 24,000 people  
8 are maimed or killed each year by landmines, mostly  
9 civilians, resulting in amputations and disabilities of  
10 various kinds.

11 (B) While the United States Government in-  
12 vests more than \$100,000,000 in mine action pro-  
13 grams annually, including funding for mine aware-  
14 ness and demining training programs, only about  
15 ten percent of these funds go to directly aid land-  
16 mine victims.

17 (C) The Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund, ad-  
18 ministered by the United States Agency for Inter-  
19 national Development, has provided essential pros-  
20 thetics and rehabilitation for landmine and other  
21 war victims in developing countries who are disabled  
22 and has provided long-term sustainable improve-  
23 ments in quality of life for victims of civil strife and  
24 warfare, addressing such issues as barrier-free acces-  
25 sibility, reduction of social stigmatization, and in-  
26 creasing economic opportunities.

1           (D) Enhanced coordination is needed among  
 2       Federal agencies that carry out assistance programs  
 3       in foreign countries for victims of landmines and  
 4       other victims of civil strife and warfare to make bet-  
 5       ter use of interagency expertise and resources.

6           (2) According to a review of Poverty and Dis-  
 7       ability commissioned by the World Bank, “disabled  
 8       people have lower education and income levels than  
 9       the rest of the population. They are more likely to  
 10      have incomes below poverty level than the non-dis-  
 11      abled population, and they are less likely to have  
 12      savings and other assets . . . [t]he links between  
 13      poverty and disability go two ways—not only does  
 14      disability add to the risk of poverty, but conditions  
 15      of poverty add to the risk of disability.”.

16          (3) Numerous international human rights con-  
 17      ventions and declarations recognize the need to pro-  
 18      tect the rights of individuals regardless of their sta-  
 19      tus, including those individuals with disabilities,  
 20      through the principles of equality and non-discrimi-  
 21      nation.

22          (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-  
 23      ize assistance for individuals with disabilities, including  
 24      victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and  
 25      warfare.

1 **SEC. 3. INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES AND WAR VICTIMS**  
 2 **ASSISTANCE.**

3 The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151  
 4 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 134 the fol-  
 5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 135. INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES AND WAR VIC-**  
 7 **TIMS ASSISTANCE.**

8 “(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The President is authorized  
 9 to furnish assistance to individuals with disabilities, in-  
 10 cluding victims of civil strife and warfare, in foreign coun-  
 11 tries.

12 “(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—The programs established pursu-  
 13 ant to subsection (a) may include programs, projects, and  
 14 activities such as the following:

15 “(1) Development of local capacity to provide  
 16 medical and rehabilitation services for individuals  
 17 with disabilities, including victims of civil strife and  
 18 warfare, in foreign countries, such as—

19 “(A) support for and training of medical  
 20 professionals, including surgeons, nurses, and  
 21 physical therapists, to provide effective emer-  
 22 gency and other medical care and for the devel-  
 23 opment of training manuals relating to first aid  
 24 and other medical treatment;

25 “(B) support for sustainable prosthetic  
 26 and orthotic services; and

1           “(C) psychological and social rehabilitation  
2           of such individuals, together with their families  
3           as appropriate, for the reintegration of such in-  
4           dividuals into local communities.

5           “(2) Support for policy reform and educational  
6           efforts related to the needs and abilities of individ-  
7           uals with disabilities, including victims of civil strife  
8           and warfare.

9           “(3) Coordination of programs established pur-  
10          suant to subsection (a) with existing programs for  
11          individuals with disabilities, including victims of civil  
12          strife and warfare, in foreign countries.

13          “(4) Support for establishment of appropriate  
14          entities in foreign countries to coordinate programs,  
15          projects, and activities related to assistance for indi-  
16          viduals with disabilities, including victims of civil  
17          strife and warfare.

18          “(5) Support for primary, secondary, and voca-  
19          tional education, public awareness and training pro-  
20          grams and other activities that help prevent war-re-  
21          lated injuries and assist individuals with disabilities,  
22          including victims of civil strife and warfare, with  
23          their reintegration into society and their ability to  
24          make sustained social and economic contributions to  
25          society.

1       “(c) PRIORITY.—To the maximum extent feasible, as-  
 2       sistance under this section shall be provided through non-  
 3       governmental organizations, and, as appropriate, through  
 4       governments to establish appropriate norms, standards,  
 5       and policies related to rehabilitation and issues affecting  
 6       individuals with disabilities, including victims of civil strife  
 7       and warfare.

8       “(d) FUNDING.—Amounts made available to carry  
 9       out the other provisions of this part (including chapter 4  
 10      of part II of this Act) and the Support for East European  
 11      Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 are authorized to be  
 12      made available to carry out this section and are authorized  
 13      to be provided notwithstanding any other provision of  
 14      law.”.

15   **SEC. 4. RESEARCH, PREVENTION, AND ASSISTANCE RE-**  
 16                   **LATED TO INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES**  
 17                   **AND LANDMINE AND OTHER WAR VICTIMS.**

18       (a) AUTHORIZATION.—

19           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
 20       Human Services, acting through the Director of the  
 21       Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is  
 22       authorized—

23           (A) to conduct programs in foreign coun-  
 24       tries related to individuals with disabilities, in-

1 including victims of landmines and other victims  
2 of civil strife and warfare;

3 (B) to provide grants to nongovernmental  
4 organizations for the purpose of carrying out  
5 research, prevention, public awareness and as-  
6 sistance programs in foreign countries related  
7 to individuals with disabilities, including victims  
8 of landmines and other victims of civil strife  
9 and warfare.

10 (2) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY OF STATE.—Ac-  
11 tivities under programs established pursuant to  
12 paragraph (1) may be carried out in foreign coun-  
13 tries only in coordination with the Administrator of  
14 the United States Agency for International Develop-  
15 ment, and upon approval for such activities in such  
16 countries by the Secretary of State.

17 (b) ACTIVITIES.—Programs established pursuant to  
18 subsection (a) may include the following activities:

19 (1) Research on trauma, physical, psychological,  
20 and social rehabilitation, and continuing medical  
21 care related to individuals with disabilities, including  
22 victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife  
23 and warfare, including—

1 (A) conducting research on psychological  
 2 and social factors that lead to successful recovery;  
 3

4 (B) developing, testing, and evaluating  
 5 model interventions that reduce post-traumatic  
 6 stress and promote health and well-being;

7 (C) developing basic instruction tools for  
 8 initial medical response to traumatic injuries;  
 9 and

10 (D) developing basic instruction manuals  
 11 for patients and healthcare providers, including  
 12 for emergency and follow-up care, proper ampu-  
 13 tation procedures, and reconstructive surgery.

14 (2) Facilitation of peer support networks for in-  
 15 dividuals with disabilities, including victims of land-  
 16 mines and other victims of civil strife and warfare,  
 17 in foreign countries, including—

18 (A) establishment of organizations at the  
 19 local level, administered by such individuals, to  
 20 assess and address the physical, psychological,  
 21 economic and social rehabilitation and other  
 22 needs of such individuals, together with their  
 23 families as appropriate, for the purpose of eco-  
 24 nomic and social reintegration into local com-  
 25 munities; and



1 (B) training related to the implementation  
2 of such peer support networks, including train-  
3 ing of outreach workers to assist in the estab-  
4 lishment of organizations such as those de-  
5 scribed in subparagraph (A) and assistance to  
6 facilitate the use of the networks by such indi-  
7 viduals.

8 (3) Sharing of expertise from limb-loss and dis-  
9 ability research centers in the United States with  
10 similar centers and facilities in war-affected coun-  
11 tries, including promoting increased health for indi-  
12 viduals with limb loss and limb deficiency and epide-  
13 miological research on secondary medical conditions  
14 related to limb loss and limb deficiency.

15 (4) Developing a database of best practices to  
16 address the needs of the war-related disabled  
17 through comprehensive examination of support ac-  
18 tivities related to such disability and access to med-  
19 ical care and supplies.

20 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
21 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of  
22 Health and Human Services to carry out this section such  
23 sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003  
24 through 2004.

1 **SEC. 5. EXPERTISE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
2 **AFFAIRS.**

3 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized—

4 (1) to provide advice and expertise on pros-  
5 thetics, orthotics, physical and psychological rehabili-  
6 tation and treatment, and disability assistance to  
7 other Federal departments and agencies, including  
8 providing for temporary assignment on a non-reim-  
9 bursable basis of appropriate Department of Vet-  
10 erans Affairs personnel, with respect to the imple-  
11 mentation of programs to provide assistance to vic-  
12 tims of landmines and other victims of civil strife  
13 and warfare in foreign countries and landmine re-  
14 search and health-related programs, including pro-  
15 grams established pursuant to section 135 of the  
16 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section  
17 3 of this Act) and programs established pursuant to  
18 section 4 of this Act; and

19 (2) to provide technical assistance to private  
20 voluntary organizations on a reimbursable basis with  
21 respect to the planning, development, operation, and

- 1 evaluation of such landmine assistance, research,
- 2 and prevention programs.

Passed the Senate September 13, 2002.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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