

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 497

To express the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should field currently available weapons, other technologies, tactics and operational concepts that provide suitable alternatives to anti-personnel mines and mixed anti-tank mine systems and that the United States should end its use of such mines and join the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines as soon as possible, to expand support for mine action programs including mine victim assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2001

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. TORRICELLI, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REED, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should field currently available weapons, other technologies, tactics and operational concepts that provide suitable alternatives to anti-personnel mines and mixed anti-tank mine systems and that the United States should end its use of such mines and join the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines as soon as possible, to expand support for mine action programs including mine victim assistance, 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 “Landmine Elimination
5 and Victim Assistance Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The threat posed by tens of millions of
9 unexploded landmines to innocent civilians is a glob-
10 al problem requiring strong United States leadership
11 in cooperation with other governments.

12 (2) Landmines continue to maim and kill thou-
13 sands of people, mostly civilians, each year, and
14 most mine victims lack the care and rehabilitation
15 services they need.

16 (3) Landmines, which remain active for hours,
17 days or years, impede the mobility and threaten the
18 safety of United States Armed Forces, North Atlan-
19 tic Treaty Organization forces, and other friendly
20 forces in combat and other military operations.

21 (4) At least 139 countries have signed, and 110
22 countries have ratified, the Convention on the Prohi-
23 bition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and
24 Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their De-
25 struction (opened for signature at Ottawa, Canada,

1 on December 3 and 4, 1997, and at the United Na-
2 tions Headquarters beginning December 5, 1997).
3 Many of these countries are former producers, ex-
4 porters, and users of anti-personnel mines. World-
5 wide adherence to the Convention would greatly re-
6 duce the threat to future generations from anti-per-
7 sonnel mines.

8 (5) It is United States Government policy that
9 the United States will search aggressively for alter-
10 natives to anti-personnel mines and mixed anti-tank
11 mine systems and that the United States will join
12 the Convention by 2006 if suitable alternatives are
13 fielded by then.

14 (6) Since 1992, United States law has prohib-
15 ited the export or transfer of anti-personnel mines.

16 (7) Since 1997, the United States has capped
17 its inventory of anti-personnel mines and has not
18 produced anti-personnel mines.

19 (8) The United States Government has contrib-
20 uted hundreds of millions of dollars to the costly,
21 dangerous, and arduous task of humanitarian
22 demining around the world.

23 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) the Department of Defense should field cur-
2 rently available weapons, other technologies, tactics
3 and operational concepts that provide suitable alter-
4 natives to anti-personnel mines and mixed anti-tank
5 systems; and

6 (2) the United States should end its use of such
7 mines and join the Convention on the Prohibition of
8 the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of
9 Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction as
10 soon as possible.

11 **SEC. 4. TRANSFERS OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES.**

12 Section 1365(c) of the National Defense authoriza-
13 tion Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (22 U.S.C. 2778 note) is
14 amended by striking “During” and all that follows
15 through “1992—” and inserting “Beginning on October
16 23, 1992—”.

17 **SEC. 5. INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP ON MINE ACTION.**

18 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, the President shall establish an inter-
20 agency working group to develop a comprehensive plan for
21 expanded mine action programs, including mine victim re-
22 habilitation, social support, and economic reintegration.
23 The working group shall be composed of the Secretaries
24 of State, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs,
25 Defense, Education, and the Administrator of the Agency

1 for International Development. The comprehensive plan
2 shall be developed in close consultation with relevant non-
3 governmental organizations. As part of the development
4 of the comprehensive plan, the working group shall deter-
5 mine an estimated cost of carrying out the plan.

6 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON ALTERNATIVES TO MINES.**

7 Not later than 120 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit
9 to the Committees on Armed Services and the Committees
10 on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Rep-
11 resentatives a report describing actions taken by the De-
12 partment of Defense to field currently available weapons,
13 other technologies, tactics and operational concepts that
14 provide suitable alternatives to anti-personnel mines and
15 mixed anti-tank mine systems.

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