

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1462

To authorize assistance for individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of warfare and civil strife, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 27, 2003

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. QUINN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CASE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. OLVER, Mr. HOEFFEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. LANGEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To authorize assistance for individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of warfare and civil strife, 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 Warfare and Civil Strife Assistance
6 Act of 2003”.

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 au-
 22 thorized—

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 amputation
13 procedures, and reconstructive surgery.

14 (2) Facilitation of peer support networks for individuals
15 with disabilities, including victims of landmines
16 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 economic
24 and social reintegration into local communities;
25 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
22 evaluation of such landmine assistance, research,
23 and prevention programs.

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