

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4452

To require funds made available to each Federal department and agency for United States development or humanitarian assistance programs to be made available to foreign countries through the activities of United States organizations or businesses that are owned or controlled by naturalized United States citizens, or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence, who are from those foreign countries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2004

Mr. MEEKS of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To require funds made available to each Federal department and agency for United States development or humanitarian assistance programs to be made available to foreign countries through the activities of United States organizations or businesses that are owned or controlled by naturalized United States citizens, or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence, who are from those foreign countries.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) American society has long been known for
2 being a “melting pot”, boasting citizens from all
3 countries and continents across the world.

4 (2) After reaching America’s shores, naturalized
5 United States citizens and aliens lawfully admitted
6 for permanent residence have taken advantage of
7 educational and entrepreneurial opportunities there-
8 by allowing these individuals to contribute to the
9 economic and cultural riches that define our great
10 Nation.

11 (3) Many of these new Americans still have
12 connections to their countries of origin—forming
13 community, educational, religious, and other organi-
14 zations in the United States that continue to tie
15 them to their homelands. These new Americans send
16 remittances that total more than \$70,000,000,000
17 per year to help loved ones abroad sustain dreams
18 and build new ones.

19 (4) At a time when the events of September 11,
20 2001, have resulted in new and different security
21 concerns for the United States, it is critical that
22 every attempt be made to better understand those
23 foreign countries that receive United States assist-
24 ance.

1 (5) Due to national security implications, the
2 United States Government can no longer afford to
3 conduct foreign policy without the benefit of engage-
4 ment of foreign countries, including on a cultural,
5 social, technical, and economic basis.

6 (6) Naturalized United States citizens and
7 aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence
8 should be encouraged to use the same skills that
9 they have contributed to the development of the
10 United States toward the development of their coun-
11 tries of origin in order to—

12 (A) take part in introducing or enhancing
13 democratic values abroad;

14 (B) capitalize on America’s diversity to es-
15 tablish strong cross-border relationships that
16 can create multilateral bonds for generations to
17 come;

18 (C) utilize multilingual and multicultural
19 segments of American society to ease and re-
20 duce costs for project transitions in foreign
21 countries; and

22 (D) encourage long-term sustainable devel-
23 opment in foreign countries in which such de-
24 velopment has been difficult to obtain.

1 (7) Currently, projects under many foreign as-
2 sistance programs do not involve naturalized United
3 States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted for perma-
4 nent residence who are from the recipient country in
5 leadership roles in the planning, design, and imple-
6 mentation of the projects, and consequently—

7 (A) project leaders often do not transfer
8 critical skills to individuals in the recipient
9 country, making it difficult for long term devel-
10 opment to take place; and

11 (B) increased costs relating to cultural ad-
12 justment often occur that might not occur if in-
13 dividuals originally from the recipient country
14 were involved in the projects.

15 (8) Because many United States Government
16 departments and agencies face management con-
17 straints that make it necessary to bundle projects
18 and activities for foreign countries under “Mega”
19 contracts and grants, it has become increasingly dif-
20 ficult for smaller United States organizations and
21 businesses owned or controlled by naturalized United
22 States citizens, or aliens lawfully admitted for per-
23 manent residence, who are from such foreign coun-
24 tries to compete to carry out those projects and ac-
25 tivities.

1 (9) To encourage the transference of skills,
2 knowledge, and democratic values that will lead to
3 long-term sustainable development and require fewer
4 transition costs, special preferences should be given
5 to naturalized United States citizens, or aliens law-
6 fully admitted for permanent residence, who are
7 seeking United States foreign assistance funding for
8 projects in their countries of origin.

9 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE DEVELOPMENT AND**
10 **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FUNDS TO FOR-**
11 **EIGN COUNTRIES THROUGH UNITED STATES**
12 **ENTITIES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY INDI-**
13 **VIDUALS FROM THOSE FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

14 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, up to 10
15 percent of funds made available to each Federal depart-
16 ment and agency for any fiscal year (beginning with fiscal
17 year 2005) to carry out United States development assist-
18 ance or humanitarian assistance programs shall be made
19 available to foreign countries through the activities of
20 United States organizations or businesses that are owned
21 or controlled by naturalized United States citizens, or
22 aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence, who are
23 from such foreign countries.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

2 Not later than January 1 of each year, the President
3 shall prepare and transmit to the appropriate congressional
4 committees a report that contains a description of
5 the implementation of section 3 for the preceding fiscal
6 year. Each such report shall specify the number and dollar
7 value or amount (as the case may be) of prime contracts,
8 subcontracts, grants, and cooperative agreements awarded
9 to organizations and individuals described in such section
10 during the preceding fiscal year.

11 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
14 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
15 mittees” means the Committee on International Re-
16 lations of the House of Representatives and the
17 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

18 (2) UNITED STATES DEVELOPMENT ASSIST-
19 ANCE OR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—
20 The term “United States development assistance or
21 humanitarian assistance programs” means programs
22 to provide development assistance or humanitarian
23 assistance under major budget functional category
24 150 (relating to International Affairs), including
25 programs under—

1 (A) chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign As-
2 sistance Act of 1961 (relating to development
3 assistance);

4 (B) chapter 10 of part I of that Act (relat-
5 ing to the Development Fund for Africa);

6 (C) chapter 11 of part I of that Act (relat-
7 ing to assistance for the independent states of
8 the former Soviet Union);

9 (D) chapter 12 of part I of that Act (relat-
10 ing to assistance for the countries of the South
11 Caucasus and Central Asia region);

12 (E) chapter 4 of part II of that Act (relat-
13 ing to the Economic Support Fund); or

14 (F) the Support for East European De-
15 mocracy (SEED) Act of 1989.

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