

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2604

To provide financial and other support to the United Nations Population Fund to carry out activities to save women’s lives, limit the incidence of abortion and maternal mortality associated with unsafe abortion, promote universal access to safe and reliable family planning, and assist women, children, and men in developing countries to live better lives.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide financial and other support to the United Nations Population Fund to carry out activities to save women’s lives, limit the incidence of abortion and maternal mortality associated with unsafe abortion, promote universal access to safe and reliable family planning, and assist women, children, and men in developing countries to live better lives.

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 “United Nations Popu-
5 lation Fund Women’s Health and Dignity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Sexual and reproductive health problems ac-
4 count for an estimated 10 percent of the total global
5 burden of disease and 32 percent of the burden
6 among women of reproductive age.

7 (2) More than four in 10 of the world's preg-
8 nant women still have no access to skilled care at
9 childbirth. Every minute, a woman somewhere dies
10 in pregnancy or childbirth—529,000 deaths a year.
11 Ninety-five percent of maternal deaths occur in Afri-
12 ca and Asia while fewer than one percent occur in
13 the more developed regions of the world.

14 (3) A million or more children are left mother-
15 less each year as a result of maternal mortality.
16 These children are three to 10 times more likely to
17 die within two years than children who live with both
18 parents. Almost half of infant deaths per year result
19 from poor maternal health and inadequate delivery
20 care.

21 (4) Roughly 201 million women in low-income
22 countries would use safe, effective contraceptive
23 methods but such methods are not available to such
24 women, including 25 percent of married women in
25 sub-Saharan Africa. If these women had access to
26 reliable family planning services, approximately 52

1 million unplanned pregnancies would be avoided in
2 the developing world every year, resulting in 23 mil-
3 lion unplanned births, 22 million induced abortions,
4 7 million spontaneous abortions, 1.4 million infant
5 deaths, 142,000 pregnancy-related deaths, and
6 505,000 children from losing their mothers.

7 (5) Each day 14,000 people are infected with
8 HIV. One-half of all new HIV infections occur in
9 women. In some places women are six times more
10 likely to be infected than men.

11 (6) Access to voluntary family planning serv-
12 ices, including contraception, is essential in helping
13 to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies
14 and, consequently, the incidence of abortion.

15 (7) In the process of helping women to achieve
16 their childbearing goals, enormous amounts of gov-
17 ernment funds are saved. A study in Mexico found
18 that for every peso the Mexican social security sys-
19 tem spent on voluntary family planning services be-
20 tween 1972 and 1984, it saved nine pesos in ex-
21 penses for treating complications of unsafe abortions
22 and providing maternal and infant care. Every dollar
23 invested in Thailand's voluntary family planning
24 program saved the Thai Government more than \$16.

1 (8) The growing global population and its con-
2 sumption patterns have profound consequences for
3 the global environment, including species extinction,
4 deforestation, desertification, climate change, and
5 the destruction of natural ecosystems. These global
6 environmental impacts pose a significant threat to
7 the earth's sustainability and impact the quality of
8 life of humans in all regions of the world.

9 (9) Demographic factors have been found to be
10 linked to an increased likelihood of the outbreak of
11 civil conflict during the 1990s. Countries in which
12 young adults comprised more than 40 percent of the
13 adult population were more than twice as likely as
14 countries with lower proportions of young adults to
15 the overall adult population to experience an out-
16 break of civil conflict.

17 (10) The United Nations Population Fund
18 (UNFPA) was created in 1969 with the support and
19 assistance of the United States Government. Today,
20 UNFPA is the largest multilateral source of fund-
21 ing, expertise, and programs targeted at voluntary
22 family planning, promotion of safe delivery, reduc-
23 tion of maternal and infant mortality, and assisting
24 women with sexual and reproductive health needs
25 during natural and man-made emergencies. UNFPA

1 also actively works to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS
2 and promote the rights, education, and livelihoods of
3 women in developing countries.

4 (11) UNFPA has family planning and repro-
5 ductive health programs in approximately 140 coun-
6 tries. The United States Agency for International
7 Development operates population programs in about
8 60 countries.

9 (12) In 2006, 180 countries made financial con-
10 tributions to the UNFPA, including every nation in
11 Latin America, the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Af-
12 rica. This represents an increase from the 69 na-
13 tions that made contributions in 1999. The United
14 States is the only developed nation not to make a
15 contribution to UNFPA, and the only nation to ever
16 withhold contributions for any reason other than
17 budgetary considerations.

18 (13) United States funding has been withheld
19 from UNFPA since January 2002, despite the fact
20 that Congress has appropriated funds for UNFPA
21 for every fiscal year since January 2002 and the Ad-
22 ministration's own Independent Assessment Team of
23 2002 which found, "[N]o evidence that UNFPA has
24 knowingly supported or participated in the manage-
25 ment of a program of coercive abortion or involun-

1 tary sterilization in the [People’s Republic of China].
2 We therefore recommend that not more than
3 \$34,000,000 which has already been appropriated be
4 released to UNFPA.”.

5 (14) UNFPA’s pilot programs of assistance in
6 China are proving—as they were designed to—the
7 advantages of voluntary, informed, consent-based
8 family planning over a top-down administrative ap-
9 proach. In 32 countries that receive UNFPA assist-
10 ance, maternal deaths have declined, births with
11 skilled attendance have increased, knowledge of
12 HIV/AIDS has risen, knowledge of more than three
13 modern contraceptives has risen, knowledge of nat-
14 ural methods has increased, surgical contraception
15 has dropped, abortion rates have dropped from 24
16 per 1,000 women to 10 per 1,000 women, home-
17 based childbirths have fallen, and choice of contra-
18 ception by clients has grown.

19 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that the United States Government should resume
21 annual contributions to UNFPA to facilitate the core mis-
22 sion of UNFPA to save and improve the lives of women,
23 infants, and men and improve communities in foreign
24 countries.

1 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 It is the policy of the United States to provide finan-
3 cial and other support to the United Nations Population
4 Fund to carry out activities to save women's lives, limit
5 the incidence of abortion and maternal mortality associ-
6 ated with unsafe abortion, promote universal access to
7 safe and reliable family planning, and assist women, chil-
8 dren, and men in developing countries to live better lives.

9 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF UNITED STATES VOLUNTARY**
10 **CONTRIBUTION TO UNFPA.**

11 (a) VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION AUTHORIZED.—Not-
12 withstanding any other provision of law, the President is
13 authorized to make a voluntary contribution on a grant
14 basis to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),
15 on such terms and conditions as the President may deter-
16 mine, to provide financial or other support to UNFPA to
17 carry out the activities described in subsection (b).

18 (b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities de-
19 scribed in this subsection are to—

20 (1) provide and distribute equipment, medicine,
21 and supplies, and expertise, including safe delivery
22 kits and hygiene kits, to ensure safe childbirth and
23 emergency obstetric care;

24 (2) make available supplies of contraceptives for
25 the prevention of pregnancy and sexually-trans-
26 mitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;

1 (3) reduce the incidence of abortion and mater-
2 nal mortality related to unsafe abortion;

3 (4) reduce and eliminate coercive family plan-
4 ning practices, including coercive abortion and invol-
5 untary sterilization;

6 (5) reduce and eliminate the incidence of sex
7 selection;

8 (6) prevent and treat cases of obstetric fistula;

9 (7) promote abandonment of harmful tradi-
10 tional practices, including female genital cutting and
11 child marriage;

12 (8) reestablish maternal health services in areas
13 where medical infrastructure and such services have
14 been destroyed by natural disasters; and

15 (9) promote the access of unaccompanied
16 women and other vulnerable people to vital services,
17 including access to water, sanitation facilities, food,
18 and health care, in emergency situations.

19 (c) WAIVER.—The President is authorized to make
20 a voluntary contribution on a grant basis to UNFPA to
21 provide financial or other support to UNFPA to carry out
22 activities to respond to a natural or man-made emergency
23 if the President determines that such activities will save
24 human life or prevent or alleviate human suffering.

1 **SEC. 5. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—The President shall trans-
3 mit to the appropriate congressional committees on an an-
4 nual basis for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012
5 a report on the implementation of this Act.

6 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-
7 quired by subsection (a) shall include a detailed analysis
8 of the scope, success, and value of activities of the United
9 Nations Population Fund, with particular emphasis on the
10 number of lives saved, the number of abortions prevented,
11 and success in meeting the goals of the Program of Action
12 of the International Conference on Population and Devel-
13 opment.

14 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
15 priate congressional committees” means—

16 (1) the Committee on Appropriations and the
17 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives; and

19 (2) the Committee on Appropriations and the
20 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

21 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 To carry out this Act, there are authorized to be ap-
23 propriated to the President \$50,000,000 for each of the
24 fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

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