

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3177

To develop a policy to address the critical needs of Iraqi refugees.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2008

Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY) (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To develop a policy to address the critical needs of Iraqi refugees.

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. WHITE HOUSE COORDINATOR FOR IRAQI REFU-**
4 **GEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PER-**
5 **SONS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in the
7 Executive Office of the President, the position of White
8 House Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees and Internally Dis-
9 placed Persons (referred to in this section as the “Coordi-
10 nator”), who shall be appointed by the President.

1 (b) RANK; SUPERVISION.—The Coordinator shall—

2 (1) have the rank and status of Ambassador-at-

3 Large; and

4 (2) report directly to the President.

5 (c) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall—

6 (1) develop and implement United States' poli-

7 cies and strategies to—

8 (A) address the protection, resettlement,

9 and assistance needs of Iraqi refugees and dis-

10 placed persons; and

11 (B) foster long-term solutions for improv-

12 ing the lives of Iraqi citizens and nationals who

13 have been displaced;

14 (2) coordinate all Federal Government func-

15 tions to ensure that a cohesive, comprehensive policy

16 is implemented to address the resettlement and hu-

17 manitarian needs of Iraqi refugees and internally

18 displaced persons;

19 (3) monitor the development and implementa-

20 tion of assistance strategies to countries in the Mid-

21 dle East hosting Iraqi refugees;

22 (4) ensure that the President's budget requests

23 to Congress are sufficient to meet the needs of

24 Iraqis and displaced persons and seek to fund at

25 least 50 percent of all United Nations and other

1 international organizations' appeals for Iraqi refu-
2 gees and internally displaced persons;

3 (5) serve as principal liaison with—

4 (A) the Government of Iraq and the inter-
5 national community to solicit and direct bilat-
6 eral and multilateral contributions to address
7 the humanitarian needs of Iraqis in Syria, Jor-
8 dan, and other countries in the Middle East
9 and internally displaced persons in Iraq;

10 (B) the nongovernmental humanitarian
11 community; and

12 (C) organizations that are assisting Iraqi
13 refugees and internally displaced persons; and

14 (6) ensure that the United States Government
15 will encourage refugee returns only when conditions
16 permit safe, sustainable returns on a voluntary
17 basis.

18 (d) REPORT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act and every
21 180 days thereafter, the Coordinator shall submit a
22 report on the implementation of the strategy devel-
23 oped under subsection (b)(1) to—

24 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
25 the Senate;

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
2 the House of Representatives;

3 (C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
4 Senate; and

5 (D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
6 House of Representatives.

7 (2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
8 this subsection shall—

9 (A) include specific financial commitments
10 made by countries in the region, Arab League
11 members, and other major donors in the inter-
12 national community for Iraqi refugees and in-
13 ternally displaced persons; and

14 (B) address challenges to securing addi-
15 tional commitments.

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