

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1591

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to establish the Health Technology Program in the United States Agency for International Development to research and develop technologies to improve global health, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2009

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to establish the Health Technology Program in the United States Agency for International Development to research and develop technologies to improve global health, 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 “21st Century Global
5 Health Technology Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The United States has committed to the
2 United Nations Millennium Development Goals of—

3 (A) reducing child mortality;

4 (B) improving maternal health; and

5 (C) combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and
6 other diseases.

7 (2) The goals described in paragraph (1) can-
8 not be reached without health technologies and de-
9 vices to diagnose infectious diseases and reduce dis-
10 ease transmission.

11 (3) The development, advancement, and intro-
12 duction of affordable and appropriate technologies
13 are essential to efforts by the United States to re-
14 duce deaths among the world's most vulnerable pop-
15 ulations, particularly children and women in the de-
16 veloping world.

17 (4) A recent report by the Institute of Medicine
18 on the commitment of the United States to global
19 health—

20 (A) recommends that United States insti-
21 tutions share existing knowledge to address
22 prevalent health problems in low- and middle-
23 income countries;

24 (B) recommends continued support for
25 partnerships between the public and private sec-

1 tors to develop and deliver health products in
2 low- and middle-income countries; and

3 (C) urges the United States Government to
4 continue its support for innovative research
5 models to address unmet health needs in poor
6 countries.

7 (5) Investments by the United States in afford-
8 able, appropriate health technologies, such as med-
9 ical devices for maternal and child care, vaccine de-
10 livery tools, safe injection devices, diagnostic tests
11 for infectious diseases, and innovative disease pre-
12 vention strategies—

13 (A) reduce the risk of disease transmission;
14 and

15 (B) accelerate access to life-saving global
16 health interventions for the world’s poor.

17 (6) Through a cooperative agreement, known as
18 the Technologies for Health program (referred to in
19 this section as “HealthTech”), USAID supports the
20 development of technologies that—

21 (A) maximize the limited resources avail-
22 able for global health; and

23 (B) ensure that products and medicines
24 developed for use in low-resource settings reach

1 the people that need such products and medi-
2 cines.

3 (7) The HealthTech cooperative agreement—

4 (A) facilitates public-private collaboration
5 in the development of global health tech-
6 nologies;

7 (B) leverages public sector support for
8 early stage research and development of health
9 technologies to encourage private sector invest-
10 ment in late-stage technology development and
11 product introduction in developing countries;

12 (C) benefits the United States economy by
13 investing in the growing United States global
14 health technology sector, which—

15 (i) provides skilled jobs for American
16 workers; and

17 (ii) enhances United States competi-
18 tiveness in the increasingly technological
19 and knowledge-based global economy; and

20 (D) enhances United States national secu-
21 rity by—

22 (i) reducing the risk of pandemic dis-
23 ease; and

24 (ii) contributing to economic develop-
25 ment and stability in developing countries.

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to authorize a health tech-
3 nology development program that supports coordinated,
4 long-term research and development of appropriate global
5 health technologies—

6 (1) to improve global health;

7 (2) to reduce maternal and child mortality
8 rates; and

9 (3) to reverse the incidence of HIV/AIDS, ma-
10 laria, and other diseases.

11 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY**
12 **PROGRAM.**

13 Section 107 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
14 U.S.C. 2151e) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(c) HEALTH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—(1) There is
17 established in the United States Agency for International
18 Development (referred to in this section as ‘USAID’) the
19 Health Technology Program, which shall—

20 “(A) coordinate and lead research and develop-
21 ment efforts;

22 “(B) be funded by USAID on a competitive
23 basis; and

24 “(C) serve as a national laboratory and tech-
25 nology development program for global health.

1 “(2) The Health Technology Program shall develop,
2 advance, and introduce affordable, available, and appro-
3 priate technologies specifically designed—

4 “(A) to improve the health and nutrition of de-
5 veloping country populations;

6 “(B) to reduce maternal and child mortality;
7 and

8 “(C) to improve the diagnosis, prevention and
9 reduction of disease, especially HIV/AIDS, malaria,
10 tuberculosis, and other major diseases.

11 “(3) The Health Technology Program shall be lo-
12 cated at an institution with a successful record of—

13 “(A) advancing the technologies described in
14 paragraph (2); and

15 “(B) integrating practical field experience into
16 the research and development process in order to in-
17 troduce the most appropriate technologies.

18 “(4) The Administrator of USAID, in collaboration
19 with the Health Technology Program, shall submit an an-
20 nual report to Congress and all relevant Federal agencies
21 that describes—

22 “(A) the relevant activities of the Health Tech-
23 nology Program that are in the incubation phase;

1 “(B) the progress made on such activities and
2 on other projects carried out through the Health
3 Technology Program; and

4 “(C) the outlook for future health technology
5 efforts evaluated by the Health Technology Program
6 to have significant growth potential.

7 “(5) There are authorized to be appropriated
8 \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014
9 to carry out the Health Technology Program under this
10 subsection.”.

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