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To promote United States policy objectives in Syria, including the departure from power of President Bashar Assad and his family, the effective transition to a democratic, free, and secure country, and the promotion of a prosperous future in Syria.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2, 2012

Mr. RUBIO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

MARCH 7, 2012

Committee discharged; referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To promote United States policy objectives in Syria, including the departure from power of President Bashar Assad and his family, the effective transition to a democratic, free, and secure country, and the promotion of a prosperous future in Syria.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Syria Democracy Transition Act of 2012”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Findings.
- Sec. 4. Statement of policy.

TITLE I—ACCELERATING THE PACE OF REGIME TRANSITION

- Sec. 101. Imposition of sanctions on foreign financial institutions that conduct transactions with the Central Bank of Syria.
- Sec. 102. Exportation of petroleum, oil, and natural gas produced in Syria.
- Sec. 103. Prohibition on certain vessels landing in the United States; enhanced inspections.
- Sec. 104. Promotion of multilateral action at the United Nations.

TITLE II—PROMOTING AN EFFECTIVE TRANSITION

- Sec. 201. Report on opposition groups.
- Sec. 202. Identification and disposition of weapons.
- Sec. 203. Transition funding and termination of sanctions.
- Sec. 204. Designating an official coordinator.

TITLE III—CREATING A PROSPEROUS FUTURE

- Sec. 301. Syrian-American Enterprise Fund.
- Sec. 302. Additional measures to stimulate economic growth in Syria.

3 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) ACCOUNT; CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT; PAY-
 6 ABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms “account”,
 7 “correspondent account”, and “payable-through ac-
 8 count” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
 9 tion 5318A of title 31, United States Code.

10 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 11 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
 12 mittees” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Finance, the Com-
 14 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-

1 fairs, and the Committee on Foreign Relations
2 of the Senate; and

3 (B) the Committee on Ways and Means,
4 the Committee on Financial Services, and the
5 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
6 Representatives.

7 (3) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The
8 term “foreign financial institution” has the meaning
9 of that term as determined by the Secretary of the
10 Treasury pursuant to section 104(i) of the Com-
11 prehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Di-
12 vestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8513(i)).

13 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

14 Congress makes the following findings:

15 (1) On December 12, 2003, President George
16 W. Bush signed the Syria Accountability and Leba-
17 nese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public
18 Law 108–175; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note) in order to
19 hold the Government of Syria accountable for its ac-
20 tions.

21 (2) Current law in the United States prohibits
22 the Government of Syria from receiving assistance
23 from the United States because it has repeatedly
24 provided support for acts of international terrorism,
25 as determined by the Secretary of State for purposes

1 of section 6(j)(1) of the Export Administration Act
2 of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)) (as in effect
3 pursuant to the International Emergency Economic
4 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)) and other re-
5 lated statutes.

6 (3) In 2006, the Department of the Treasury
7 issued a final ruling that imposes a special measure
8 against the Commercial Bank of Syria, a quasi-gov-
9 ernment bank, as a financial institution of primary
10 money laundering concern.

11 (4) Since mass peaceful demonstrations started
12 on March 15, 2011, the Government of Syria, led by
13 President Bashar al-Assad, has responded by
14 launching a violent crackdown, committing human
15 rights abuses, and violating its international obliga-
16 tions, including the International Covenant on Civil
17 and Political Rights, adopted December 16, 1966,
18 and the United Nations Convention Against Torture
19 and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment
20 or Punishment, done at New York December 10,
21 1984.

22 (5) On April 15, 2011, Christof Heyns, the
23 United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial,
24 summary, or arbitrary executions, stated that live
25 ammunition has been used by the Government of

1 Syria against demonstrators “in clear violation of
2 international law”.

3 (6) On April 29, 2011, President Barack
4 Obama issued additional sanctions with respect to
5 Syria, stating that “the Government of Syria’s
6 human rights abuses, including those related to the
7 repression of the people of Syria, manifested most
8 recently by the use of violence and torture against,
9 and arbitrary arrests and detentions of, peaceful
10 protestors by police, security forces, and other enti-
11 ties that have engaged in human rights abuses, con-
12 stitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the
13 national security, foreign policy, and economy of the
14 United States”.

15 (7) On May 6, 2011, envoys of the 27 countries
16 of the European Union agreed to impose sanctions
17 on the Government of Syria for the human rights
18 abuses it is perpetrating, including asset freezes and
19 visa bans on 13 members of the Government of
20 Syria and an arms embargo on the country.

21 (8) On May 18, 2011, President Obama issued
22 an executive order sanctioning senior officials of the
23 Syrian Arab Republic and their supporters, specifi-
24 cally designating seven people: President Bashar al-
25 Assad, Vice President Farouk al-Shara, Prime Min-

1 ister Adel Safar, Minister of the Interior Mohammad
2 Ibrahim al-Shaar, Minister of Defense Ali Habib
3 Mahmoud, Head of Syrian Military Intelligence
4 Abdul Fatah Qudsiya, and Director of Political Se-
5 curity Directorate Mohammed Dib Zaitoun.

6 (9) On June 29, 2011, the Department of the
7 Treasury sanctioned the chief and deputy chief of
8 Iran's national police and the head of the Syrian Air
9 Force Intelligence for providing support to the Gov-
10 ernment of Syria in engaging in human rights
11 abuses.

12 (10) In July 2011, supporters of President
13 Bashar al-Assad attacked the embassies of the
14 United States and France, following demonstrations
15 sanctioned by the Government of Syria outside the
16 embassy of the United States.

17 (11) On August 11, 2011, the Department of
18 the Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control
19 named the Commercial Bank of Syria, a quasi-gov-
20 ernment bank, a Specially Designated National.
21 With this designation, all property and assets of the
22 bank in the United States or under control of
23 United States persons, including overseas branches,
24 were frozen.

1 (12) On August 18, 2011, President Obama
2 stated, “The future of Syria must be determined by
3 its people, but President Bashar al-Assad is stand-
4 ing in their way. His calls for dialogue and reform
5 have rung hollow while he is imprisoning, torturing
6 and slaughtering his own people. We have consist-
7 ently said that President Assad must lead a demo-
8 cratic transition or get out of the way. He has not
9 led. For the sake of the Syrian people, the time has
10 come for President Assad to step aside.”.

11 (13) On November 12, 2011, the Arab League
12 voted to suspend Syria from membership, based on
13 continuing violence and inability to adhere to a
14 League-brokered plan.

15 (14) On November 15, 2011, King Abdullah of
16 Jordan became the first Arab leader to openly urge
17 Mr. Assad to step down, saying President Assad
18 should “step down and make sure whoever comes be-
19 hind me has the ability to change the status quo
20 that we’re seeing”.

21 (15) On November 28, 2011, a report from the
22 United Nations-backed Independent International
23 Commission of Inquiry on Syria concluded that “the
24 substantial body of evidence gathered by the com-
25 mission indicates that these gross violations of

1 human rights have been committed by Syrian mili-
2 tary and security forces since the beginning of the
3 protests in March”.

4 (16) On January 17, 2012, President Obama
5 made the following statement: “We will continue to
6 consult very closely with Jordan to create the kind
7 of international pressure and environment that en-
8 courage the current Syrian regime to step aside so
9 that a more democratic process and transition can
10 take place inside of Syria.”.

11 (17) On January 30, 2012, Secretary of State
12 Hillary Clinton said that “the status quo is
13 unsustainable; the longer the Assad regime con-
14 tinues its attacks on the Syrian people and stands
15 in the way of a peaceful transition, the greater the
16 concern that instability will escalate and spill over
17 throughout the region”.

18 (18) On January 28, 2012, the League of Arab
19 States decided to suspend its international moni-
20 toring mission due to escalating violence within
21 Syria.

22 (19) On February 4, 2012, the Russian Federa-
23 tion and People’s Republic of China vetoed a United
24 Nations Security Council Resolution in support of
25 the League of Arab States’ Plan of Action.

1 (20) On February 13, 2012, the United Na-
2 tion’s High Commissioner for Human Rights said,
3 “The failure of the Security Council to agree on firm
4 collective action appears to have emboldened the
5 Syrian government to plan an all-out assault in an
6 effort to crush resistance with overwhelming force.”.

7 (21) As of February 13, 2012, the United Na-
8 tion estimates security forces of the Government of
9 Syria have killed well above 5,400 people, with tens
10 of thousands, including children, arrested and more
11 than 18,000 reportedly still arbitrarily held in deten-
12 tion. Approximately 25,000 people have sought ref-
13 uge in other countries, and more than 70,000 are es-
14 timated to have been internally displaced.

15 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

16 It is the policy of the United States—

17 (1) to strongly condemn the ongoing, wide-
18 spread, and systemic violations of human rights con-
19 ducted by the authorities in Syria, including the use
20 of force against civilians, torture, extrajudicial
21 killings, arbitrary executions, sexual violence, and in-
22 terference with access to medical treatment;

23 (2) to support the aspirations of the people of
24 Syria for self-government based on democratic polit-
25 ical, civil, and religious rights;

1 (3) to assure the departure from power of
2 Bashar al-Assad and his family, and facilitate a
3 peaceful transition to a representative and inclusive
4 government that ensures freedom, justice, and pros-
5 perity for all the people of Syria;

6 (4) to promote an effective transition to democ-
7 racy by identifying and supporting organizations in
8 Syria that are representative of the Syrian people,
9 make demonstrable commitments to protect human
10 rights, and religious freedom, reject terrorism, co-
11 operate with international counterterrorism and non-
12 proliferation efforts, and abstain from destabilizing
13 neighboring countries;

14 (5) to identify weapons stockpiles and prevent
15 the proliferation of conventional, biological, chemical,
16 and other types of weapons in Syria; and

17 (6) to mobilize international support for a post-
18 Assad democratic and inclusive Government of
19 Syria.

1 **TITLE I—ACCELERATING THE**
2 **PACE OF REGIME TRANSITION**

3 **SEC. 101. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON FOREIGN FINAN-**
4 **CIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT CONDUCT TRANS-**
5 **ACTIONS WITH THE CENTRAL BANK OF**
6 **SYRIA.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b), (c),
8 and (d), not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, the President shall—

10 (1) prohibit the opening or maintaining in the
11 United States of a correspondent account or a pay-
12 able-through account by a foreign financial institu-
13 tion that the President determines has knowingly
14 conducted any financial transaction with the Central
15 Bank of Syria; and

16 (2) freeze and prohibit all transactions in all
17 property and interests in property of each such for-
18 eign financial institution if such property and inter-
19 ests in property are in the United States or are in
20 the possession or control of a United States person.

21 (b) EXCEPTION FOR SALES OF FOOD, MEDICINE,
22 AND MEDICAL DEVICES.—The President may not impose
23 sanctions under subsection (a) on a foreign financial insti-
24 tution for engaging in a transaction with the Central Bank

1 of Syria for the sale of food, medicine, or medical devices
2 to Syria.

3 (c) APPLICABILITY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
5 graph (2), subsection (a) applies with respect to fi-
6 nancial transactions commenced on or after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act.

8 (2) PETROLEUM TRANSACTIONS.—Subsection
9 (a) applies with respect to financial transactions for
10 the purchase of petroleum or petroleum products
11 through the Central Bank of Syria commenced on or
12 after the date that is 180 days after the date of the
13 enactment of this Act.

14 (d) WAIVER.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive
16 the application of subsection (a) with respect to a
17 foreign financial institution for a period of not more
18 than 60 days, and may renew that waiver for addi-
19 tional periods of not more than 60 days, if the Presi-
20 dent determines and reports to the appropriate con-
21 gressional committees every 60 days that the waiver
22 is necessary to the national security interest of the
23 United States.

1 (2) FORM.—A report submitted pursuant to
2 paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified
3 form, but may contain a classified annex.

4 **SEC. 102. EXPORTATION OF PETROLEUM, OIL, AND NAT-**
5 **URAL GAS PRODUCED IN SYRIA.**

6 (a) SANCTIONS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
8 section (c), beginning 60 days after the date of the
9 enactment of this Act, the President shall impose
10 the sanctions described in section 6(a) of the Iran
11 Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50
12 U.S.C. 1701 note) with respect to a person if the
13 President determines that the person knowingly, on
14 or after the date of the enactment of this Act, pro-
15 vides any service described in subsection (b) with re-
16 spect to the exportation of petroleum, oil, or lique-
17 fied natural gas to be refined or otherwise processed
18 outside of Syria if—

19 (A) the Government of Syria was directly
20 and significantly involved in the development,
21 extraction, production, transportation, or sale of
22 such petroleum, oil, or liquefied natural gas in
23 Syria; and

1 (B)(i) the fair market value of such petro-
2 leum, oil, or liquefied natural gas is \$1,000,000
3 or more; or

4 (ii) during a 12-month period, the aggre-
5 gate fair market value of such petroleum, oil, or
6 liquefied natural gas is \$5,000,000 or more.

7 (2) SANCTIONED PERSONS.—The sanctions im-
8 posed on a person under paragraph (1) shall also be
9 imposed on any person against which such sanctions
10 may be imposed in accordance with section 5(c) of
11 the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–
12 172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) as a result of the per-
13 son’s relationship with the sanctioned person.

14 (b) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The services described
15 in this subsection are—

16 (1) refining or otherwise processing petroleum,
17 oil, or liquefied natural gas;

18 (2) the provision of ships or shipping services;
19 or

20 (3) financing, brokering, underwriting, or pro-
21 viding insurance or reinsurance.

22 (c) EXCEPTION FOR UNDERWRITERS AND INSUR-
23 ANCE PROVIDERS EXERCISING DUE DILIGENCE.—The
24 President may not impose sanctions under this section
25 with respect to a person on the basis of underwriting serv-

1 ices or insurance or reinsurance provided by the person
2 if the President determines that the person has exercised
3 due diligence in establishing and enforcing official policies,
4 procedures, and controls to ensure that the person does
5 not underwrite or enter into a contract to provide insur-
6 ance or reinsurance with respect to the exportation of pe-
7 troleum, oil, or liquefied natural gas in violation of sub-
8 section (a).

9 **SEC. 103. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN VESSELS LANDING IN**
10 **THE UNITED STATES; ENHANCED INSPEC-**
11 **TIONS.**

12 (a) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN VESSELS LANDING IN
13 THE UNITED STATES.—A vessel may not knowingly land
14 at any port in the United States to load or unload cargo
15 or engage in the trade of goods or services if the vessel
16 entered a port in Syria during the 180-day period pre-
17 ceding arrival of the vessel at the port in the United
18 States.

19 (b) ENFORCEMENT; ENHANCED INSPECTIONS.—Not
20 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
21 this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consulta-
22 tion with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary
23 of Commerce, shall prescribe regulations that—

24 (1) require each vessel requesting to land at a
25 port in the United States to certify that the vessel

1 is not prohibited from landing at that port under
2 subsection (a);

3 (2) provide for, with respect to any vessel that
4 provides a false certification under paragraph (1)—

5 (A) the prohibition, for a period of 2 years,
6 on that vessel landing at a port in the United
7 States; or

8 (B) the prosecution of the owner of that
9 vessel under title 18, United States Code, if the
10 penalty provided for under such title is greater
11 than the penalty described in subparagraph (A);

12 (3) provide a mechanism for identifying foreign
13 ports at which vessels have landed during the pre-
14 ceding 180-day period that have also landed at ports
15 in Syria during that period;

16 (4) require enhanced inspection of all vessels
17 arriving at a port in the United States from a for-
18 eign port identified under paragraph (3); and

19 (5) set forth procedures for inspecting each ves-
20 sel described in paragraph (4) that are sufficiently
21 rigorous to establish whether the vessel was involved,
22 during the 180-day period preceding the arrival of
23 the vessel at the port in the United States, in any
24 activity that would be subject to sanctions under this
25 Act or any other provision of law.

1 (c) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The Secretary of
2 Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of
3 the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce, may waive
4 the application of subsections (a) and (b) with respect to
5 a vessel not earlier than 30 days after the Secretary of
6 Homeland Security—

7 (1) determines that the waiver is in the national
8 security interests of the United States; and

9 (2) submits to the appropriate congressional
10 committees a report describing the reasons for the
11 determination.

12 (d) PORT DEFINED.—For purposes of this section,
13 the term “port” means a seaport.

14 **SEC. 104. PROMOTION OF MULTILATERAL ACTION AT THE**
15 **UNITED NATIONS.**

16 The President shall use the voice, vote, and influence
17 of the United States at the United Nations Security Coun-
18 cil to urge the Security Council to adopt resolutions—

19 (1) freezing the assets of, and imposing a travel
20 ban on, all officials within the regime of Bashar
21 Assad and all family members of Mr. Assad;

22 (2) implementing a ban on passenger flights to
23 and from Syria; and

24 (3) restricting the shipment of goods to or from
25 Syria, including the insurance of such shipments.

1 **TITLE II—PROMOTING AN**
2 **EFFECTIVE TRANSITION**

3 **SEC. 201. REPORT ON OPPOSITION GROUPS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall sub-
6 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report
7 on opposition groups in Syria.

8 (b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection
9 (a) shall include—

10 (1) an assessment of ties between these groups
11 and any designated foreign terrorist organizations
12 and individuals that pose a threat to the United
13 States and its allies, and an assessment of the po-
14 tential of these groups to serve as part of a recog-
15 nized transitional government, including the Syrian
16 National Council (SNC), the National Coordination
17 Commission of the Forces of Democratic Change
18 (NCC), the Free Syrian Army, and the Free Officers
19 Movement; and

20 (2) an assessment of the military capacity of
21 opposition forces in Syria, including organization,
22 quality and quantity of armaments, and need for
23 and capability of utilizing assistance.

1 **SEC. 202. IDENTIFICATION AND DISPOSITION OF WEAPONS.**

2 Not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, the President shall provide a briefing
4 to the appropriate congressional committees on—

5 (1) all known weapons stockpiles of the Govern-
6 ment of Syria, with particular focus on biological,
7 chemical, radiological, and nuclear weapons and mis-
8 siles; and

9 (2) a plan for the identification, recovery, and
10 disposition of such weapons.

11 **SEC. 203. TRANSITION FUNDING AND TERMINATION OF**
12 **SANCTIONS.**

13 (a) **TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.**—The require-
14 ments under sections 101, 102, and 103 to impose sanc-
15 tions shall no longer have force or effect with respect to
16 Syria if the President determines and certifies to the ap-
17 propriate congressional committees that—

18 (1) President Bashar Assad has been removed
19 from power in Syria;

20 (2) a democratic transitional authority is in
21 place in Syria; and

22 (3) the Government of Syria has—

23 (A) ended its campaign of violence against
24 the people of Syria;

25 (B) ceased support for international ter-
26 rorist groups and terrorist activities in Iraq,

1 and has been removed from the Department of
2 State list of state sponsors of terrorism under
3 section 6 of the Export Administration Act (50
4 U.S.C. App. 2405(j) (as continued in effect
5 pursuant to the International Emergency Eco-
6 nomic Powers Act; 50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)),
7 section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22
8 U.S.C. 2780), and section 620A of the Foreign
9 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371); and
10 (C) complied with Syria's commitments
11 under relevant multilateral proliferation control
12 regimes.

13 (b) ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT DEMOCRATIC TRANSI-
14 TION.—Upon making the certification described in sub-
15 section (a), the President may establish a \$50,000,000
16 Syrian Stabilization Fund, to be drawn from amounts
17 made available for Economic Support Fund assistance and
18 Non-proliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related
19 programs assistance, to help support opposition groups
20 and provide for the recovery, identification, and destruc-
21 tion of weapons in Syria.

22 (c) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Not later than
23 30 days after making the certification described in sub-
24 section (a), the President shall submit to the appropriate
25 congressional committees a report detailing the assets fro-

1 zen under section 101 and describing the criteria for re-
 2 leasing such assets.

3 **SEC. 204. DESIGNATING AN OFFICIAL COORDINATOR.**

4 The President shall expand the role of the Depart-
 5 ment of State's Special Coordinator for Middle East Tran-
 6 sitions to include Syria for purposes of assisting in pro-
 7 viding the certification under section 203(a) and coordi-
 8 nating transition efforts in Syria.

9 **TITLE III—CREATING A**
 10 **PROSPEROUS FUTURE**

11 **SEC. 301. SYRIAN-AMERICAN ENTERPRISE FUND.**

12 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
 13 ings:

14 (1) The Support for East European Democracy
 15 (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.) cre-
 16 ated 10 Enterprise Funds with the expressed pur-
 17 pose of transforming the entrenched command
 18 economies of the former Soviet Union to free mar-
 19 kets through capital injections in new businesses.

20 (2) These Enterprise Funds represented a new
 21 way of delivering economic assistance, placing pools
 22 of public capital into the hands of private investment
 23 professionals to finance entrepreneurs on a tradi-
 24 tional business-to-business basis.

1 (3) The first Fund created, the Polish-Amer-
2 ican Enterprise Fund, made 50 equity investments
3 totaling \$243,000,000, over 10,000 small business
4 loans and 125,000 micro loans, and eventually cre-
5 ated a net asset base of \$374,000,000.

6 (4) Upon the closing of the Polish-American
7 Enterprise Fund, for the first time in the history of
8 United States foreign aid, a portion of the funds,
9 \$120,000,000, or half of the initial grant, was re-
10 turned to the United States taxpayer. The balance
11 of the remaining assets, with the consent of Con-
12 gress and with the approval of the Government of
13 Poland, was transferred to the Polish-American
14 Freedom Foundation established by the Fund to
15 further support the system transformation in Po-
16 land.

17 (5) Subsequent funds included the following:

18 (A) The Hungarian-American Enterprise
19 Fund, capitalized at \$63,000,000 with an even-
20 tual net asset base of \$28,000,000.

21 (B) The Czech and Slovak-American En-
22 terprise Fund, capitalized at \$58,000,000 with
23 an eventual net asset base of \$6,000,000.

1 (C) The Bulgarian-American Enterprise
2 Fund, capitalized at \$54,000,000 with an even-
3 tual net asset base of \$404,000,000.

4 (D) The Baltic-American Enterprise Fund,
5 capitalized at \$50,000,000 with an eventual net
6 asset base of \$62,000,000.

7 (E) The Romanian-American Enterprise
8 Fund, capitalized at \$58,000,000 with an even-
9 tual net asset base of \$150,000,000.

10 (F) The Albanian-American Enterprise
11 Fund, capitalized at \$30,000,000 with an even-
12 tual net asset base of \$171,000,000.

13 (G) The Western New Independent States
14 Enterprise Fund, capitalized at \$139,000,000
15 with an eventual net asset base of \$90,000,000.

16 (H) The Central Asian-American Enter-
17 prise Fund, capitalized at \$105,000,000 with
18 an eventual net asset base of \$17,000,000.

19 (I) The United States-Russia Investment
20 Fund, capitalized at \$307,000,000 with an
21 eventual net asset base of \$297,000,000.

22 (6) Overall, the 10 funds received capital of
23 \$1,105,000,000, and created total net assets of
24 \$1,612,000,000, for a return on the initial invest-
25 ment of 144 percent. Six of these funds returned a

1 portion of their public-sourced capital to the United
2 States Treasury and established charitable legacy
3 foundations, whose collective capital totals
4 \$652,000,000. These foundations allow for develop-
5 ment activities to continue long after the initial
6 funds have been closed.

7 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President is authorized
8 to designate a private, nonprofit organization (to be
9 known as the “Syrian-American Enterprise Fund”) to re-
10 ceive funds and support made available under this section
11 after making the certification in section 203(a) and deter-
12 mining that such organization has been established for the
13 purposes specified in subsection (c). The President should
14 make such designation only after consultation with the
15 leadership of each House of Congress.

16 (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Syrian-Amer-
17 ican Enterprise Fund are—

18 (1) to help support sustainable, equitable, and
19 broad-based economic growth that generates busi-
20 ness and job creation and improves the livelihoods of
21 the people of Syria;

22 (2) to promote the private sector and entrepre-
23 neurship in Syria, while considering the development
24 impact of investments and profitability of those in-
25 vestments, particularly in small- and medium-sized

1 enterprises, and joint ventures with participants
2 from the United States and Syria;

3 (3) to promote policies and practices conducive
4 to strengthening the private sector in Syria through
5 measures including loans, microloans, equity invest-
6 ments, insurance, guarantees, grants, feasibility
7 studies, technical assistance, training for businesses
8 receiving investment capital, and other measures;

9 (4) to promote good corporate governance and
10 transparency in Syria, foster competition, catalyze
11 productivity improvements in existing businesses,
12 and strengthen local capital markets; and

13 (5) to promote security through the creation of
14 viable private business, which support job creation in
15 the private sector in Syria, and to further the cre-
16 ation of a middle class in Syria.

17 (d) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

18 (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Syrian-American En-
19 terprise Fund shall be governed by a Board of Di-
20 rectors, which shall be comprised of 6 private citi-
21 zens of the United States and 3 private citizens of
22 Syria, appointed by the President of the United
23 States.

24 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Board
25 of Directors shall be selected from among people

1 who have had successful business careers in private
2 equity, banking, or finance that is similar to the ex-
3 perience of individuals who previously served on the
4 Board of Directors of a successful Enterprise Fund
5 established by the United States Government on or
6 after January 1, 1990.

7 (e) GRANTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may use
9 funds appropriated for the Department of State, for-
10 eign operations, and related programs, notwith-
11 standing any other provision of law to carry out the
12 purposes specified in subsection (c) through the Syr-
13 ian-American Enterprise Fund.

14 (2) ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.—
15 Grants awarded under this section may only be used
16 for programs and projects that support the purposes
17 set forth in subsection (c).

18 (3) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Grants may not be
20 awarded to the Syrian-American Enterprise
21 Fund under this section unless the Fund agrees
22 to comply with the requirements under this sec-
23 tion.

24 (B) GRANT AGREEMENT.—The grant
25 agreement between the United States Agency

1 for International Development and the Syrian-
2 American Enterprise Fund shall state that the
3 Fund shall end its reinvestment cycle not later
4 than 15 years after the Fund commences oper-
5 ations, unless the Secretary of State, in con-
6 sultation with the Administrator of the United
7 States Agency for International Development,
8 and after consultation with the appropriate con-
9 gressional committees, determines that the
10 Fund should be extended.

11 (C) PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING
12 AND TERRORIST FINANCING.—The grant agree-
13 ment between the United States Agency for
14 International Development and the Syrian-
15 American Enterprise Fund shall state that the
16 Fund shall comply with procedures specified by
17 the Secretary of State to ensure that grant
18 funds are not provided by the Fund to or
19 through any individual, private or government
20 entity, or educational institution that advocates,
21 plans, sponsors, engages in, or has engaged in,
22 money laundering or terrorist activity or, with
23 respect to a private entity or educational insti-
24 tution, that has as a principal officer of the en-
25 tity's governing board or governing board of

1 trustees any individual that has been deter-
2 mined to be involved in or advocating money
3 laundering or terrorist activity or determined to
4 be a member of a designated foreign terrorist
5 organization.

6 (D) DISPOSITION OF ASSETS.—The assets
7 of the Syrian-American Enterprise Fund at the
8 time the Fund is dissolved shall be returned to
9 the General Fund of the United States Treas-
10 ury and used to reduce the debt of the United
11 States. In the event the assets of the Fund ex-
12 ceed the total amount appropriated or otherwise
13 made available to the Fund by the United
14 States Government, any such excess funds may
15 be contributed to a charitable foundation for ac-
16 tivities consistent with the purposes specified in
17 subsection (c).

18 (f) NOTIFICATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days be-
20 fore designating an organization to operate as the
21 Syrian-American Enterprise Fund pursuant to sub-
22 section (a), the President shall provide the informa-
23 tion described in paragraph (2) to the Chairman and
24 Ranking Member of the appropriate congressional
25 committees.

1 (2) INFORMATION.—The information described
2 in this paragraph is—

3 (A) the identity of the organization to be
4 designated to operate as the Syrian-American
5 Enterprise Fund pursuant to subsection (b);

6 (B) the names and qualifications of the in-
7 dividuals who will comprise the initial Board of
8 Directors; and

9 (C) the procedures referred to in sub-
10 section (e)(3)(C) that will apply to the Syrian-
11 American Enterprise Fund for purposes of cur-
12 tailing money-laundering and terrorist financing
13 activities.

14 (g) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—

15 (1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not later
16 than 1 year after the Fund commences operations,
17 and annually thereafter until the Fund is dissolved,
18 the Fund shall submit to the appropriate congres-
19 sional committees and make publicly available a re-
20 port detailing the administrative expenses of the
21 Fund.

22 (2) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
24 every 3 years thereafter until the Fund is dissolved,
25 the Comptroller General of the United States shall

1 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
2 a report assessing the activities of the Fund in—

3 (A) achieving the stated goals of promoting
4 private sector investment and employment in
5 Syria; and

6 (B) identifying those institutional or regu-
7 latory constraints that inhibit a more effective
8 application of Fund resources.

9 (h) OPERATION PROVISIONS.—

10 (1) APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—Subsections
11 (d)(5), (g), (h), (i), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of
12 section 201 of the Support for East European De-
13 mocracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5421)
14 shall apply with respect to the Syrian-American En-
15 terprise Fund in the same manner as such provi-
16 sions apply to Enterprise Funds designated pursu-
17 ant to subsection (d) of such section.

18 (2) REINVESTMENT.—Returns on investments
19 of the Syrian-American Enterprise Fund and other
20 payments to the Fund may be reinvested in projects
21 carried out by the Fund without further appropria-
22 tion by Congress.

23 (i) BEST PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES.—To the
24 maximum extent practicable, the Board of Directors of the
25 Syrian-American Enterprise Fund should adopt the best

1 practices and procedures used by Enterprise Funds, in-
2 cluding those for which funding has been made available
3 pursuant to section 201 of the Support for East European
4 Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5421).

5 (j) EXPERIENCE OF OTHER ENTERPRISE FUNDS.—

6 In implementing this section, the President shall ensure
7 that the Articles of Incorporation of the Syrian-American
8 Enterprise Fund (including provisions specifying the re-
9 sponsibilities of the Board of Directors of the Fund), the
10 terms of United States Government grant agreements
11 with the Fund, and United States Government oversight
12 of the Fund are, to the maximum extent practicable, con-
13 sistent with the Articles of Incorporation of, the terms of
14 grant agreements with, and the oversight of the Enter-
15 prise Funds established pursuant to section 201 of the
16 Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of
17 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5421) and comparable provisions of law.

18 (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
20 appropriated to the President \$100,000,000, to be
21 drawn from amounts made available for Economic
22 Support Fund assistance, to provide funding for
23 grants to the Syrian-American Enterprise Fund,
24 which shall be used for the purposes specified in
25 subsection (b).

1 (2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
2 priated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain
3 available until expended.

4 **SEC. 302. ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO STIMULATE ECO-**
5 **NOMIC GROWTH IN SYRIA.**

6 (a) REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY OF SYRIA FOR THE
7 GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.—Not later
8 than 90 days after the President makes the certification
9 under section 203(a), the United States Trade Represent-
10 ative shall conduct a review of the eligibility of Syria to
11 be designated as a beneficiary developing country under
12 section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2462).

13 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TRADE AND INVEST-
14 MENT AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA.—It is the sense of Con-
15 gress that the United States Trade Representative should,
16 after the date the President makes the certification under
17 section 203(a), initiate negotiations with the Government
18 of Syria with respect to a trade and investment agreement
19 between Syria and the United States.

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