

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5710

To authorize the provision of assistance on an emergency basis for countries affected by or at risk of being affected by the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease to effectively address such outbreak at its source, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Ms. BASS, and Mr. MEADOWS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the provision of assistance on an emergency basis for countries affected by or at risk of being affected by the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease to effectively address such outbreak at its source, 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 “Ebola Emergency Re-
5 sponse Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) the current outbreak of the Ebola virus dis-
2 ease in West Africa poses severe health, economic,
3 and security threats to the countries affected by the
4 outbreak of the Ebola virus disease, the United
5 States, and the broader international community;
6 and

7 (2) the whole-of-government response taken by
8 the United States provides unique capabilities that
9 are critical to effectively helping contain the Ebola
10 virus disease in West Africa, yet the United States
11 alone will not succeed in containing the Ebola virus
12 disease.

13 **SEC. 3. STATEMENTS OF POLICY.**

14 It shall be the policy of the United States to—

15 (1) support a robust international response to
16 the Ebola virus disease in West Africa by under-
17 taking a range of activities to immediately help de-
18 tect, contain, treat, and deter the further spread of
19 the disease;

20 (2) support the efforts of governments of af-
21 fected countries and of local, regional, and inter-
22 national nongovernmental organizations and civil so-
23 ciety organizations working on the front lines of the
24 response to the Ebola virus disease; and

1 (3) work with appropriate security sector per-
2 sonnel engaged in the response to the Ebola virus
3 disease in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, as well
4 as with civil society, regional organizations, and the
5 United Nations to enhance border security and cre-
6 ate a secure operating environment for health work-
7 ers and other responders and the communities they
8 are serving, including by repurposing, as necessary
9 and appropriate, existing United States security as-
10 sistance provided to the affected countries to address
11 immediate border security and law enforcement
12 needs.

13 **SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE OUT-**
14 **BREAK OF THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE.**

15 In carrying out the policy under section 3, the Presi-
16 dent shall—

17 (1) seek to coordinate with the governments of
18 countries of Africa affected by or at risk of being af-
19 fected by the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease,
20 other donors, the private sector, regional and inter-
21 national financial institutions, local, regional, and
22 international organizations, civil society, and local,
23 regional, and nongovernmental organizations, par-
24 ticularly organizations that possess experience in
25 emergency relief and infection control, to devise and

1 implement a coherent, comprehensive strategy to
2 control the Ebola virus disease and assist affected
3 populations, utilizing all necessary and appropriate
4 assets and capabilities of the United States Govern-
5 ment; and

6 (2) direct the United States Permanent Rep-
7 resentative to the United Nations to use the voice,
8 vote, and influence of the United States at the
9 United Nations to—

10 (A) ensure that the United Nations Mis-
11 sion in Liberia is fully protecting individuals
12 under its care from exploitation and abuse, in-
13 cluding by soldiers serving under its command,
14 and, within its capabilities and in the context of
15 its mandate to help solidify peace and stability
16 while protecting civilians in Liberia, plays an
17 active role in the emergency response, including
18 by providing logistics and engineering support,
19 as well as securing border crossings, state insti-
20 tutions, and treatment facilities, as necessary
21 and appropriate; and

22 (B) ensure that the United Nations Mis-
23 sion for the Ebola Emergency Response
24 (UNMEER) plays an effective role in aligning
25 donors around a single strategic operating plan

1 to detect, contain, treat, and deter the further
2 spread of Ebola, and that the associated costs
3 for its work are offset by decreases elsewhere in
4 the general budget of the United Nations.

5 **SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE**
6 **OUTBREAK OF THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE.**

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of law, and consistent with the authorities of sec-
9 tion 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
10 2292), the President is authorized to provide assistance
11 on an emergency basis to countries directly affected by
12 or at imminent risk of being affected by the outbreak of
13 the Ebola virus disease to effectively address such out-
14 break, by supporting the activities described in subsection
15 (b).

16 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Activities supported
17 by assistance under subsection (a) are the following:

18 (1) The construction, staffing, and equipping of
19 patient isolation and treatment facilities in sufficient
20 numbers to treat infected persons at the most appro-
21 priate locations.

22 (2) The construction and equipping of labora-
23 tories in sufficient numbers to ensure accurate test-
24 ing for the Ebola virus disease and other infectious

1 diseases, as necessary and appropriate, in as rapid
2 a time frame as possible.

3 (3) The provision of vital medical supplies and
4 equipment necessary to contain the outbreak.

5 (4) The recruitment and training of local and
6 international staff on effective disease identification,
7 isolation, contact tracing, and care with respect to
8 the Ebola virus disease, especially the proper use of
9 universal precautions, personal protective equipment,
10 and other infection control measures, to minimize
11 transmission.

12 (5) The recruitment, training, and equipping of
13 safe burial teams, as necessary, to reduce trans-
14 mission of the Ebola virus disease.

15 (6) The provision of medical evacuations, on a
16 reimbursable basis, for medical and other personnel
17 engaged in the response to the Ebola virus disease
18 who become infected with the disease, as necessary
19 and appropriate.

20 (7) The development of an effective public in-
21 formation campaign to help limit the transmission of
22 the Ebola virus disease, utilizing all appropriate
23 means of communication, including digital, print,
24 broadcast communication, and communications
25 through local health care workers, media, schools,

1 civil society organizations, and faith-based and tradi-
2 tional leaders.

3 (8) The development and deployment of Ebola
4 diagnostics and surveillance tools, as well as vaccines
5 and treatments as they become available and to the
6 extent possible that such vaccines and treatments
7 adhere to strictly enforced informed consent proto-
8 cols.

9 (9) The provision of emergency food assistance,
10 water and sanitation, shelter, and support for or-
11 phans and vulnerable children in communities af-
12 fected by the Ebola virus disease.

13 (10) The provision of technical assistance to
14 strengthen border control, including enhanced health
15 screening at exit and entry points in the region, to
16 be complemented by appropriate health screening at
17 United States ports of entry.

18 (11) Activities related to sustainable post-out-
19 break economic recovery and ensuring the stability
20 of countries affected by the Ebola virus disease.

21 (c) ALLOCATION AND REIMBURSEMENT AMONG
22 AGENCIES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section,
24 the President, acting through the Administrator of
25 the United States Agency for International Develop-

1 ment, is authorized to utilize the services and facili-
2 ties of, or procure commodities from, any agency of
3 the United States Government on a non-reimburs-
4 able basis, subject to the written consent of the head
5 of such other agency, and notwithstanding any pro-
6 vision of law relating to limitations on the use of au-
7 thorities or funding of such other agency.

8 (2) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Ad-
9 ministrator shall notify the appropriate committees
10 not later than 15 days after the date on which the
11 authority under paragraph (1) is utilized. Such noti-
12 fication shall include the name of the other agency,
13 the value of such services or facilities utilized, or
14 commodities procured, the affected appropriations
15 accounts, and a justification for the utilization of the
16 authority under paragraph (1).

17 **SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT**
18 **TO AVOID ECONOMIC COLLAPSE AND ASSIST**
19 **WITH POST-CRISIS COUNTRIES DIRECTLY AF-**
20 **FECTED BY THE OUTBREAK OF THE EBOLA**
21 **VIRUS DISEASE.**

22 It is the sense of Congress that the President should
23 work with other donors, including international financial
24 institutions, to encourage such other donors to help the
25 governments of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone miti-

1 gate the risks of economic collapse and related civil unrest
2 by providing appropriate access to emergency grants and
3 financing tools, as necessary and appropriate, to address
4 fiscal issues that are the direct result of the Ebola virus
5 disease crisis, and to assist with post-crisis economic re-
6 covery.

7 **SEC. 7. REPORT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
9 date on which the President determines that the Ebola
10 epidemic in West Africa has been effectively contained, the
11 President shall submit to the appropriate congressional
12 committees a report that assesses the United States co-
13 ordination and response to the Ebola epidemic, including
14 how the authorities provided pursuant to this Act were
15 utilized and lessons learned that may have applications in
16 response to future epidemics.

17 (b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
18 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
19 mittees” means—

20 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
21 Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Com-
22 mittee on Armed Services, and the Committee on
23 Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

24 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
25 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-

1 sions, the Committee on Armed Services, and the
2 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

3 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Presi-
5 dent to carry out section 491 of the Foreign Assistance
6 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292) \$1,801,000,000 for fiscal
7 year 2015.

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