

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 898

To restore funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for
Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2025

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr.
VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Re-
lations

A BILL

To restore funding for the United Nations Relief and Works
Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

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 “UNRWA Funding
5 Emergency Restoration Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 Congress—

1 (1) recognizes that preventing further erosion
2 of civilian conditions in Gaza remains in the stra-
3 tegic and moral interests of the United States;

4 (2) supports UNRWA's unique and indispen-
5 sable contribution to immediately addressing urgent
6 humanitarian needs in Gaza, especially in mitigating
7 and stopping the spread of famine and disease;

8 (3) reaffirms the imperative of UNRWA's con-
9 tinued provision of humanitarian and human devel-
10 opment services to Palestinian refugees in all its cur-
11 rent fields of operation, including Jordan, Lebanon,
12 Syria, Gaza, and the West Bank (including East Je-
13 rusalem);

14 (4) urges the Government of Israel to assist
15 UNRWA in its neutrality efforts by providing
16 names, information, and evidence UNRWA can use
17 to aggressively pursue allegations related to staff
18 violations of UNRWA's neutrality policies;

19 (5) urges the President—

20 (A) to join United States allies in restoring
21 funding to UNRWA in response to the respon-
22 sible actions taken by the United Nations and
23 the commitments made by UNRWA toward ad-
24 ditional accountability and transparency; and

1 (B) to ensure continued funding to
2 UNRWA is assessed based on UNRWA's ongoing
3 execution of the recommendations of the
4 Independent Review Group, led by Catherine
5 Colonna;

6 (6) recognizes the implementation of some of
7 the Independent Review Group's recommendations
8 will require United Nations member state cooperation,
9 including additional funding;

10 (7) urges the United States and Israel to assist
11 UNRWA in its implementation efforts of the Independent
12 Review Group's recommendations; and

13 (8) supports appropriating critical funds to
14 UNRWA for fiscal year 2025 and beyond.

15 **SEC. 3. RESTORATION OF FUNDING FOR UNRWA.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the enactment
17 of this Act—

18 (1) title III of division G of the Further Consolidated
19 Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law
20 118–47) is hereby repealed;

21 (2) section 308 of the Israel Security Supplemental
22 Appropriations Act, 2024 (division A of Public
23 Law 118–50) is hereby repealed; and

1 (3) the Secretary of State shall, notwith-
2 standing any other provision of law and as soon as
3 practicable—

4 (A) resume the provision of funding to
5 UNRWA under current authorities of the De-
6 partment of State; and

7 (B) provide funding to UNRWA consistent
8 with the Secretary’s waiver for lifesaving hu-
9 manitarian aid; and

10 (4) the President shall rescind the Executive
11 order entitled “Withdrawing the United States From
12 and Ending Funding to Certain United Nations Or-
13 ganizations and Reviewing United States Support to
14 All International Organizations” of February 4,
15 2025 (90 Fed. Reg. 9275).

16 (b) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter
18 through December 31, 2028, the Secretary of State shall
19 submit a report to the appropriate congressional commit-
20 tees of jurisdiction describing the steps UNRWA is taking
21 to implement the recommendations made by the Inde-
22 pendent Review Group, led by Catherine Colonna.

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