

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3169

To authorize assistance for individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and warfare, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 2001

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. GILMAN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FORD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FALEOMAVEAGA, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. LEE, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. QUINN, Ms. SOLIS, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. PITTS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## A BILL

To authorize assistance for individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and warfare, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “International Dis-  
3 ability and Victims of Landmines, Civil Strife and Warfare  
4 Assistance Act of 2001”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
7 ing:

8 (1) According to the World Health Organiza-  
9 tion (WHO), between 7 percent and 10 percent of  
10 the world’s population, or almost 500,000,000 peo-  
11 ple, live with disabilities. About 80 percent of these  
12 individuals live in developing countries, where only 1  
13 percent to 2 percent have access to the necessary re-  
14 habilitation services, and many face numerous phys-  
15 ical and social barriers that inhibit their full partici-  
16 pation in their communities.

17 (2) Factors contributing to the number of indi-  
18 viduals with disabilities include war and other forms  
19 of violence, inadequate medical care, and natural  
20 and other disasters.

21 (3)(A) According to the International Com-  
22 mittee of the Red Cross, there are tens of millions  
23 of landmines in over 60 countries around the world,  
24 and it has estimated that as many as 24,000 people  
25 are maimed or killed each year by landmines, mostly

1 civilians, resulting in amputations and disabilities of  
2 various kinds.

3 (B) While the United States Government in-  
4 vests more than \$100,000,000 in mine action pro-  
5 grams annually, including funding for mine aware-  
6 ness and demining training programs, only about  
7 ten percent of these funds go to directly aid land-  
8 mine victims.

9 (C) The Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund, ad-  
10 ministered by the United States Agency for Inter-  
11 national Development, has provided essential pros-  
12 thetics and rehabilitation for landmine and other  
13 war victims in developing countries who are disabled  
14 and has provided long-term sustainable improve-  
15 ments in quality of life for victims of civil strife and  
16 warfare, addressing such issues as barrier-free acces-  
17 sibility, reduction of social stigmatization, and in-  
18 creasing economic opportunities.

19 (D) Enhanced coordination is needed among  
20 Federal agencies that carry out assistance programs  
21 in foreign countries for victims of landmines and  
22 other victims of civil strife and warfare to make bet-  
23 ter use of interagency expertise and resources.

24 (4) According to a review of Poverty and Dis-  
25 ability commissioned by the World Bank, “disabled

1 people have lower education and income levels than  
2 the rest of the population. They are more likely to  
3 have incomes below poverty level than the non-dis-  
4 abled population, and they are less likely to have  
5 savings and other assets . . . [t]he links between  
6 poverty and disability go two ways—not only does  
7 disability add to the risk of poverty, but conditions  
8 of poverty add to the risk of disability.”.

9 (5) Numerous international human rights con-  
10 ventions and declarations recognize the need to pro-  
11 tect the rights of individuals regardless of their sta-  
12 tus, including those individuals with disabilities,  
13 through the principles of equality and non-discrimi-  
14 nation.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-  
16 ize assistance for individuals with disabilities, including  
17 victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and  
18 warfare.

19 **SEC. 3. INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES AND WAR VICTIMS**  
20 **ASSISTANCE.**

21 The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151  
22 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 134 the fol-  
23 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 135. INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES AND WAR VIC-**  
2 **TIMS ASSISTANCE.**

3 “(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The President, acting  
4 through the Administrator of the United States Agency  
5 for International Development, is authorized to furnish as-  
6 sistance to individuals with disabilities, including victims  
7 of civil strife and warfare, in foreign countries.

8 “(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—The programs established pursu-  
9 ant to subsection (a) may include activities such as the  
10 following:

11 “(1) Development of local capacity to provide  
12 medical and rehabilitation services for individuals  
13 with disabilities, including victims of civil strife and  
14 warfare, in foreign countries, such as—

15 “(A) support for and training of medical  
16 professionals, including surgeons, nurses, and  
17 physical therapists, to provide effective emer-  
18 gency and other medical care and for the devel-  
19 opment of training manuals relating to first aid  
20 and other medical treatment;

21 “(B) support for sustainable prosthetic  
22 and orthotic services; and

23 “(C) psychological and social rehabilitation  
24 of such individuals, together with their families  
25 as appropriate, for the reintegration of such in-  
26 dividuals into local communities.

1           “(2) Support for policy reform and advocacy ef-  
2           forts related to the needs and abilities of individuals  
3           with disabilities, including victims of civil strife and  
4           warfare.

5           “(3) Coordination of programs established pur-  
6           suant to subsection (a) with existing programs for  
7           individuals with disabilities, including victims of civil  
8           strife and warfare.

9           “(4) Support for establishment of appropriate  
10          entities in foreign countries to coordinate programs,  
11          projects, and activities related to assistance for indi-  
12          viduals with disabilities, including victims of civil  
13          strife and warfare.

14          “(5) Support for primary, secondary, and voca-  
15          tional education, public awareness and training pro-  
16          grams and other activities that help prevent war-re-  
17          lated injuries and assist individuals with disabilities,  
18          including victims of civil strife and warfare, with  
19          their reintegration into society and their ability to  
20          make sustained social and economic contributions to  
21          society.

22          “(c) PRIORITY.—To the maximum extent feasible, as-  
23          sistance under this section shall be provided through non-  
24          governmental organizations, and, as appropriate, through  
25          governments to establish appropriate norms, standards,

1 and policies related to rehabilitation and issues affecting  
2 individuals with disabilities, including victims of civil strife  
3 and warfare.

4 “(d) FUNDING.—Amounts made available for a fiscal  
5 year to carry out the other provisions of this part (includ-  
6 ing chapter 4 of part II of this Act) are authorized to  
7 be made available for such fiscal year to carry out this  
8 section and are authorized to be provided notwithstanding  
9 any other provision of law.”.

10 **SEC. 4. RESEARCH, PREVENTION, AND ASSISTANCE RE-**  
11 **LATED TO INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES**  
12 **AND LANDMINE AND OTHER WAR VICTIMS.**

13 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
15 Human Services, acting through the Director of the  
16 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is  
17 authorized—

18 (A) to conduct programs in foreign coun-  
19 tries related to individuals with disabilities, in-  
20 cluding victims of landmines and other victims  
21 of civil strife and warfare;

22 (B) to provide grants to nongovernmental  
23 organizations for the purpose of carrying out  
24 research, prevention, public awareness and as-  
25 sistance programs in foreign countries related

1 to individuals with disabilities, including victims  
2 of landmines and other victims of civil strife  
3 and warfare.

4 (2) APPROVAL OF SECRETARY OF STATE.—Ac-  
5 tivities under programs established pursuant to  
6 paragraph (1) may be carried out in foreign coun-  
7 tries only after consultation with the Administrator  
8 of the United States Agency for International Devel-  
9 opment, and upon approval for such activities in  
10 such countries by the Secretary of State.

11 (b) ACTIVITIES.—Programs established pursuant to  
12 subsection (a) may include the following activities:

13 (1) Research on trauma, physical, psychological,  
14 and social rehabilitation, and continuing medical  
15 care related to individuals with disabilities, including  
16 victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife  
17 and warfare, including—

18 (A) conducting research on psychological  
19 and social factors that lead to successful recov-  
20 ery;

21 (B) developing, testing, and evaluating  
22 model interventions that reduce post-traumatic  
23 stress and promote health and well-being;

1           (C) developing basic instruction tools for  
2           initial medical response to traumatic injuries;  
3           and

4           (D) developing basic instruction manuals  
5           for patients and healthcare providers, including  
6           for emergency and follow-up care, proper ampu-  
7           tation procedures, and reconstructive surgery.

8           (2) Facilitation of peer support networks for in-  
9           dividuals with disabilities, including victims of land-  
10          mines and other victims of civil strife and warfare,  
11          in foreign countries, including—

12           (A) establishment of organizations at the  
13           local level, administered by such individuals, to  
14           assess and address the physical, psychological,  
15           economic and social rehabilitation and other  
16           needs of such individuals, together with their  
17           families as appropriate, for the purpose of eco-  
18           nomic and social reintegration into local com-  
19           munities; and

20           (B) training related to the implementation  
21           of such peer support networks, including train-  
22           ing of outreach workers to assist in the estab-  
23           lishment of organizations such as those de-  
24           scribed in subparagraph (A) and assistance to

1 facilitate the use of the networks by such indi-  
2 viduals.

3 (3) Sharing of expertise from limb-loss and dis-  
4 ability research centers in the United States with  
5 similar centers and facilities in war-affected coun-  
6 tries, including promoting increased health for indi-  
7 viduals with limb loss and limb deficiency and epide-  
8 miological research on secondary medical conditions  
9 related to limb loss and limb deficiency.

10 (4) Developing a database of best practices to  
11 address the needs of the war-related disabled  
12 through comprehensive examination of support ac-  
13 tivities related to such disability and access to med-  
14 ical care and supplies.

15 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
16 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of  
17 Health and Human Services to carry out this section such  
18 sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2002  
19 through 2004.

20 **SEC. 5. EXPERTISE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
21 **AFFAIRS.**

22 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized—

23 (1) to provide advice and expertise on pros-  
24 thetics, orthotics, physical and psychological rehabili-  
25 tation and treatment, and disability assistance to

1 other Federal departments and agencies, including  
2 providing for temporary assignment on a non-reim-  
3 bursable basis of appropriate Department of Vet-  
4 erans Affairs personnel, with respect to the imple-  
5 mentation of programs to provide assistance to vic-  
6 tims of landmines and other victims of civil strife  
7 and warfare in foreign countries and landmine re-  
8 search and health-related programs, including pro-  
9 grams established pursuant to section 135 of the  
10 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section  
11 3 of this Act) and programs established pursuant to  
12 section 4 of this Act; and

13 (2) to provide technical assistance to private  
14 voluntary organizations on a reimbursable basis with  
15 respect to the planning, development, operation, and  
16 evaluation of such landmine assistance, research,  
17 and prevention programs.

18 **SEC. 6. INTERAGENCY GROUP.**

19 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall  
20 establish and chair an interagency group to ensure coordi-  
21 nation of all Federal programs that furnish assistance to  
22 victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and  
23 warfare, and conduct landmine research, demining and  
24 prevention programs.

1           (b) OTHER MEMBERS.—Members of the interagency  
2 group shall include, but not be limited to, representatives  
3 from—

4           (1) the United States Agency for International  
5 Development;

6           (2) the Department of Health and Human  
7 Services;

8           (3) the Department of Education;

9           (4) the Department of Defense; and

10          (5) the Department of Veterans Affairs.

11          (c) PUBLIC MEETINGS.—At least once each calendar  
12 year, the interagency group should hold a public meeting  
13 in order to afford an opportunity for any person to present  
14 views regarding the activities of the United States Govern-  
15 ment with respect to assistance to victims of landmines  
16 and other victims of civil strife and warfare and related  
17 programs. The Secretary of State shall maintain a record  
18 of each meeting and shall make the record available to  
19 the public.

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