

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 948

To express the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should field currently available weapons and other technologies, and use tactics and operational concepts, that provide suitable alternatives to anti-personnel mines and mixed anti-tank mine systems and that the United States should end its use of such mines and join the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines as soon as possible, to expand support for mine action programs including mine victim assistance, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2001

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. QUINN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LUTHER, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. FILNER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. MORELLA, Mrs. ROUKEMA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, and Mr. MOAKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To express the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should field currently available weapons and other technologies, and use tactics and operational concepts, that provide suitable alternatives to anti-personnel mines and mixed anti-tank mine systems and that the

United States should end its use of such mines and join the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines as soon as possible, to expand support for mine action programs including mine victim assistance, 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 “Landmine Elimination  
5 and Victim Assistance Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        Congress makes the following findings:

8            (1) The threat posed by tens of millions of  
9 unexploded landmines to innocent civilians is a glob-  
10 al problem requiring strong United States leadership  
11 in cooperation with other governments.

12            (2) Landmines continue to maim and kill thou-  
13 sands of people, mostly civilians, each year, and  
14 most mine victims lack the care and rehabilitation  
15 services they need.

16            (3) Landmines, which remain active for hours,  
17 days or years, impede the mobility and threaten the  
18 safety of United States Armed Forces, North Atlan-  
19 tic Treaty Organization forces, and other friendly  
20 forces in combat and other military operations.

1           (4) At least 139 countries have signed, and 110  
2 countries have ratified, the Convention on the Prohi-  
3 bition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and  
4 Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their De-  
5 struction (opened for signature at Ottawa, Canada,  
6 on December 3 and 4, 1997, and at the United Na-  
7 tions Headquarters beginning December 5, 1997).  
8 Many of these countries are former producers, ex-  
9 porters, and users of anti-personnel mines. World-  
10 wide adherence to the Convention would greatly re-  
11 duce the threat to future generations from anti-per-  
12 sonnel mines.

13           (5) It is United States Government policy that  
14 the United States will search aggressively for alter-  
15 natives to anti-personnel mines and mixed anti-tank  
16 mine systems and that the United States will join  
17 that convention if suitable alternatives are fielded by  
18 then.

19           (6) Since 1992, United States law has prohib-  
20 ited the export or transfer of anti-personnel mines.

21           (7) Since 1997, the United States has capped  
22 its inventory of anti-personnel mines and has not  
23 produced anti-personnel mines.

24           (8) The United States Government has contrib-  
25 uted hundreds of millions of dollars to the costly,

1 dangerous, and arduous task of humanitarian  
2 demining around the world.

3 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) the Department of Defense should field cur-  
6 rently available weapons and other technologies, and  
7 use tactics and operational concepts, that provide  
8 suitable alternatives to anti-personnel mines and  
9 mixed anti-tank mine systems; and

10 (2) the United States should end its use of such  
11 mines and join the Convention on the Prohibition of  
12 the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of  
13 Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction as  
14 soon as possible.

15 **SEC. 4. PERMANENT PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF ANTI-**  
16 **PERSONNEL LANDMINES.**

17 Section 1365(e) of the National Defense Authoriza-  
18 tion Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (22 U.S.C. 2778 note) is  
19 amended by striking “During” and all that follows  
20 through “1992—” and inserting “Beginning on October  
21 23, 1992—”.

22 **SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON MINE ACTION**  
23 **PROGRAMS.**

24 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
25 ment of this Act, the President shall establish an inter-

1 agency working group to develop a comprehensive plan for  
2 expanded mine action programs, including mine victim re-  
3 habilitation, social support, and economic reintegration.  
4 The working group shall be composed of the Secretaries  
5 of State, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs,  
6 Defense, and Education and the Administrator of the  
7 Agency for International Development. The comprehensive  
8 plan shall be developed in close consultation with relevant  
9 nongovernmental organizations. As part of the develop-  
10 ment of the comprehensive plan, the working group shall  
11 determine an estimated cost of carrying out the plan.

12 **SEC. 6. REPORT BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON AL-**  
13 **TERNATIVES TO MINES.**

14 (a) **REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.**—Not later than  
15 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
16 Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional de-  
17 fense committees a report describing actions taken by the  
18 Department of Defense to field currently available weap-  
19 ons and other technologies, and to use tactics and oper-  
20 ational concepts, that provide suitable alternatives to anti-  
21 personnel mines and mixed anti-tank mine systems.

22 (b) **CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DE-**  
23 **FINED.**—In this section, the term “congressional defense  
24 committees” means the following:

1           (1) The Committee on Armed Services and the  
2           Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

3           (2) The Committee on Armed Services and the  
4           Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
5           resentatives.

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