

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1777

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 5, 2001

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SPECTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
3 ing:

4 (1)(A) According to the International Com-  
5 mittee of the Red Cross, there are tens of millions  
6 of landmines in over 60 countries around the world,  
7 and it has estimated that as many as 24,000 people  
8 are maimed or killed each year by landmines, mostly  
9 civilians, resulting in amputations and disabilities of  
10 various kinds.

11 (B) While the United States Government in-  
12 vests more than \$100,000,000 in mine action pro-  
13 grams annually, including funding for mine aware-  
14 ness and demining training programs, only about  
15 ten percent of these funds go to directly aid land-  
16 mine victims.

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

1           (D) Enhanced coordination is needed among  
2 Federal agencies that carry out assistance programs  
3 in foreign countries for victims of landmines and  
4 other victims of civil strife and warfare to make bet-  
5 ter use of interagency expertise and resources.

6           (2) According to a review of Poverty and Dis-  
7 ability commissioned by the World Bank, “disabled  
8 people have lower education and income levels than  
9 the rest of the population. They are more likely to  
10 have incomes below poverty level than the non-dis-  
11 abled population, and they are less likely to have  
12 savings and other assets . . . [t]he links between  
13 poverty and disability go two ways—not only does  
14 disability add to the risk of poverty, but conditions  
15 of poverty add to the risk of disability.”.

16           (3) Numerous international human rights con-  
17 ventions and declarations recognize the need to pro-  
18 tect the rights of individuals regardless of their sta-  
19 tus, including those individuals with disabilities,  
20 through the principles of equality and non-discrimi-  
21 nation.

22           (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-  
23 ize assistance for individuals with disabilities, including  
24 victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and  
25 warfare.

1 **SEC. 3. INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES AND WAR VICTIMS**  
2 **ASSISTANCE.**

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

6 **“SEC. 135. INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES AND WAR VIC-**  
7 **TIMS ASSISTANCE.**

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

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

16 “(1) Development of local capacity to provide  
17 medical and rehabilitation services for individuals  
18 with disabilities, including victims of civil strife and  
19 warfare, in foreign countries, such as—

20 “(A) support for and training of medical  
21 professionals, including surgeons, nurses, and  
22 physical therapists, to provide effective emer-  
23 gency and other medical care and for the devel-  
24 opment of training manuals relating to first aid  
25 and other medical treatment;

1           “(B) support for sustainable prosthetic  
2           and orthotic services; and

3           “(C) psychological and social rehabilitation  
4           of such individuals, together with their families  
5           as appropriate, for the reintegration of such in-  
6           dividuals into local communities.

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

11          “(3) Coordination of programs established pur-  
12          suant to subsection (a) with existing programs for  
13          individuals with disabilities, including victims of civil  
14          strife and warfare.

15          “(4) Support for establishment of appropriate  
16          entities in foreign countries to coordinate programs,  
17          projects, and activities related to assistance for indi-  
18          viduals with disabilities, including victims of civil  
19          strife and warfare.

20          “(5) Support for primary, secondary, and voca-  
21          tional education, public awareness and training pro-  
22          grams and other activities that help prevent war-re-  
23          lated injuries and assist individuals with disabilities,  
24          including victims of civil strife and warfare, with  
25          their reintegration into society and their ability to

1       make sustained social and economic contributions to  
2       society.

3       “(c) PRIORITY.—To the maximum extent feasible, as-  
4       sistance under this section shall be provided through non-  
5       governmental organizations, and, as appropriate, through  
6       governments to establish appropriate norms, standards,  
7       and policies related to rehabilitation and issues affecting  
8       individuals with disabilities, including victims of civil strife  
9       and warfare.

10       “(d) FUNDING.—Amounts made available for a fiscal  
11       year to carry out the other provisions of this part (includ-  
12       ing chapter 4 of part II of this Act) are authorized to  
13       be made available for such fiscal year to carry out this  
14       section and are authorized to be provided notwithstanding  
15       any other provision of law.”.

16       **SEC. 4. RESEARCH, PREVENTION, AND ASSISTANCE RE-**  
17                               **LATED TO INTERNATIONAL DISABILITIES**  
18                               **AND LANDMINE AND OTHER WAR VICTIMS.**

19       (a) AUTHORIZATION.—

20               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
21       Human Services, acting through the Director of the  
22       Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is  
23       authorized—

24                       (A) to conduct programs in foreign coun-  
25       tries related to individuals with disabilities, in-

1 including victims of landmines and other victims  
2 of civil strife and warfare;

3 (B) to provide grants to nongovernmental  
4 organizations for the purpose of carrying out  
5 research, prevention, public awareness and as-  
6 sistance programs in foreign countries related  
7 to individuals with disabilities, including victims  
8 of landmines and other victims of civil strife  
9 and warfare.

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

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

19 (1) Research on trauma, physical, psychological,  
20 and social rehabilitation, and continuing medical  
21 care related to individuals with disabilities, including  
22 victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife  
23 and warfare, including—

1 (A) conducting research on psychological  
2 and social factors that lead to successful recovery;  
3

4 (B) developing, testing, and evaluating  
5 model interventions that reduce post-traumatic  
6 stress and promote health and well-being;

7 (C) developing basic instruction tools for  
8 initial medical response to traumatic injuries;  
9 and

10 (D) developing basic instruction manuals  
11 for patients and healthcare providers, including  
12 for emergency and follow-up care, proper ampu-  
13 tation procedures, and reconstructive surgery.

14 (2) Facilitation of peer support networks for in-  
15 dividuals with disabilities, including victims of land-  
16 mines and other victims of civil strife and warfare,  
17 in foreign countries, including—

18 (A) establishment of organizations at the  
19 local level, administered by such individuals, to  
20 assess and address the physical, psychological,  
21 economic and social rehabilitation and other  
22 needs of such individuals, together with their  
23 families as appropriate, for the purpose of eco-  
24 nomic and social reintegration into local com-  
25 munities; and

1           (B) training related to the implementation  
2           of such peer support networks, including train-  
3           ing of outreach workers to assist in the estab-  
4           lishment of organizations such as those de-  
5           scribed in subparagraph (A) and assistance to  
6           facilitate the use of the networks by such indi-  
7           viduals.

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

15          (4) Developing a database of best practices to  
16          address the needs of the war-related disabled  
17          through comprehensive examination of support ac-  
18          tivities related to such disability and access to med-  
19          ical care and supplies.

20          (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
21          are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of  
22          Health and Human Services to carry out this section such  
23          sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2002  
24          through 2004.

1 **SEC. 5. EXPERTISE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
2 **AFFAIRS.**

3 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized—

4 (1) to provide advice and expertise on pros-  
5 thetics, orthotics, physical and psychological rehabili-  
6 tation and treatment, and disability assistance to  
7 other Federal departments and agencies, including  
8 providing for temporary assignment on a non-reim-  
9 bursable basis of appropriate Department of Vet-  
10 erans Affairs personnel, with respect to the imple-  
11 mentation of programs to provide assistance to vic-  
12 tims of landmines and other victims of civil strife  
13 and warfare in foreign countries and landmine re-  
14 search and health-related programs, including pro-  
15 grams established pursuant to section 135 of the  
16 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (as added by section  
17 3 of this Act) and programs established pursuant to  
18 section 4 of this Act; and

19 (2) to provide technical assistance to private  
20 voluntary organizations on a reimbursable basis with  
21 respect to the planning, development, operation, and  
22 evaluation of such landmine assistance, research,  
23 and prevention programs.

24 **SEC. 6. INTERAGENCY GROUP.**

25 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of State shall  
26 establish and chair an interagency group to ensure coordi-

1 nation of all Federal programs that furnish assistance to  
2 victims of landmines and other victims of civil strife and  
3 warfare, and conduct landmine research, demining and  
4 prevention programs.

5 (b) OTHER MEMBERS.—Members of the interagency  
6 group shall include, but not be limited to, representatives  
7 from—

8 (1) the United States Agency for International  
9 Development;

10 (2) the Department of Health and Human  
11 Services;

12 (3) the Department of Education;

13 (4) the Department of Defense; and

14 (5) the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

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