

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4660

To amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to extend the authority to provide assistance to countries seeking to become eligible countries for purposes of that Act.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2004

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. HYDE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. FALCOMA, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE, Mr. WELLER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. MCCOLLUM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## A BILL

To amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to extend the authority to provide assistance to countries seeking to become eligible countries for purposes of that Act.

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. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
5 ings:

6 (1) On March 14, 2002, the President stated:

7 “America supports the international development

1 goals in the U.N. Millennium Declaration, and be-  
2 lieves that these goals are a shared responsibility of  
3 developed and developing countries.”.

4 (2) Section 201(b)(4) of H.R. 1950, as passed  
5 by the House of Representatives on July 16, 2003,  
6 states that it is the policy of the United States to  
7 support compacts of the Millennium Challenge Ac-  
8 count which, among other things, aim “to reduce  
9 poverty by significantly increasing the economic  
10 growth trajectory of beneficiary countries through  
11 investing in the productive potential of the people of  
12 such countries”.

13 (3) On May 10, 2004, the President recognized  
14 the link between global poverty and the national se-  
15 curity of the United States by stating: “In many na-  
16 tions, poverty remains chronic and desperate. Half  
17 the world’s people still live on less than \$2 a day.  
18 This divide between wealth and poverty, between op-  
19 portunity and misery, is far more than a challenge  
20 to our compassion. Persistent poverty and oppres-  
21 sion can spread despair across an entire nation, and  
22 they can turn nations of great potential into the re-  
23 cruiting grounds of terrorists.”.

1           (4) Section 602 of the Millennium Challenge  
2 Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7701) states that a purpose  
3 of that Act is “the elimination of extreme poverty”.

4           (5) The Report of the Committee on Inter-  
5 national Relations to accompany H.R. 2441 of the  
6 108th Congress (H. Rept. 108–205) states that  
7 “[f]or the Millennium Challenge Account to be suc-  
8 cessful as an incentive for future reform as well as  
9 a reward for past reform, it must offer opportunities  
10 for those low-income countries whose institutions do  
11 not yet meet all the eligibility criteria but who are  
12 demonstrating partial success in meeting the eligi-  
13 bility criteria”.

14           (6) The purpose of section 616 of the Millen-  
15 nium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7715), and  
16 the “threshold program” established pursuant to  
17 such section by the Millennium Challenge Corpora-  
18 tion, in consultation with the United States Agency  
19 for International Development, is to provide assist-  
20 ance to the low-income countries described in para-  
21 graph (5) in order to assist such countries to become  
22 eligible countries under the Act.

23           (7) Although the overall Millennium Challenge  
24 Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.) is authorized  
25 to be funded for both fiscal years 2004 and 2005,

1 the “threshold program” under section 616 of such  
2 Act is authorized to be funded only for fiscal year  
3 2004.

4 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to amend  
5 the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to authorize fund-  
6 ing of the “threshold program” under section 616 of such  
7 Act for the same duration as the authorization of funding  
8 for the overall Millennium Challenge Act of 2003.

9 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO**  
10 **CERTAIN CANDIDATE COUNTRIES.**

11 Section 616(d) of the Millennium Challenge Act of  
12 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7715(d)) is amended by striking “for fis-  
13 cal year 2004” and inserting “for a fiscal year”.

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