

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4660

AN ACT

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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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. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

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

4 (1) On March 14, 2002, the President stated:
5 “America supports the international development
6 goals in the U.N. Millennium Declaration, and be-
7 lieves that these goals are a shared responsibility of
8 developed and developing countries.”.

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

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

1 they can turn nations of great potential into the re-
2 cruiting grounds of terrorists.”.

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

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

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

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

6 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO**
7 **CERTAIN CANDIDATE COUNTRIES.**

8 Section 616(d) of the Millennium Challenge Act of
9 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7715(d)) is amended by striking “for fis-
10 cal year 2004” and inserting “for a fiscal year”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 21, 2004.

Attest:

Clerk.