

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5185

To promote the empowerment of women in Afghanistan.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on International Relations

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## A BILL

To promote the empowerment of women in Afghanistan.

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 “Afghan Women Em-  
5 powerment Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

8           (1) Under the oppressive rule of the Taliban,  
9       the women of Afghanistan were denied the most  
10       basic human rights, including the rights to work, to  
11       an education, to health care, and to move freely.

1           (2) Women who attempted to assert their rights  
2           under the Taliban regime were subjected to beatings  
3           and imprisonments, and many suffer from the long-  
4           term consequences of such oppression.

5           (3) Women in Afghanistan have one of the  
6           highest mortality rates in the world, with an esti-  
7           mated 16,000 maternal deaths annually.

8           (4) Despite efforts by the United States Gov-  
9           ernment and the international community to improve  
10          the lives of women and girls in Afghanistan, many  
11          women and girls continue to lack access to basic  
12          services, including health care and education. Ap-  
13          proximately 80 percent of Afghan women are illit-  
14          erate.

15          (5) Today, women and girls in Afghanistan still  
16          face oppression resulting from violence and intimidat-  
17          ion by Taliban and other militia groups. In recent  
18          months, there has been a significant increase in the  
19          number of attacks against girls' schools in an at-  
20          tempt to prevent women and girls from regaining  
21          their rights and freedoms.

22          (6) The strengthening of institutions and non-  
23          governmental organizations that are led by women in  
24          Afghanistan is essential to building civil society and

1 holding the Government of Afghanistan accountable  
2 for protecting women’s rights and human rights.

3 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN AF-**  
4 **GHANISTAN.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) the protection of the rights of women and  
7 girls in Afghanistan and their full participation in  
8 the reestablishment of democracy are essential to the  
9 reconstruction of a stable and democratic Afghani-  
10 stan, and to achieve such a reconstruction, the  
11 United States Government must commit resources to  
12 advance the rights of women throughout Afghani-  
13 stan;

14 (2) the United States Government should pro-  
15 vide strong support for the Afghan Ministry of  
16 Women’s Affairs and the Afghan Independent  
17 Human Rights Commission, both of which were cre-  
18 ated by the Agreement on Provisional Agreements in  
19 Afghanistan Pending the Establishment of Perma-  
20 nent Governing Institutions, done in Bonn December  
21 5, 2001 (commonly known as the “Bonn Agree-  
22 ment”) to remedy past violations of women’s rights  
23 and human rights and to establish institutions and  
24 programs to ensure policies that advance such  
25 rights;

1           (3) the United States Government should make  
2           it a priority to provide assistance to Afghan-led non-  
3           governmental organizations, particularly Afghan  
4           women-led nonprofit organizations; and

5           (4) grants and assistance to Afghanistan shall  
6           be conditioned upon the Government of Afghanistan  
7           adhering to international standards for women’s  
8           rights and human rights.

9   **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

10          Section 103(a)(7) of the Afghanistan Freedom Sup-  
11          port Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7513(a)(7)) is amended—

12               (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking clauses (i)  
13               through (xii) and inserting the following:

14                       “(i) to provide equipment, medical  
15                       supplies, and other assistance to health  
16                       care facilities for the purpose of reducing  
17                       maternal and infant mortality and mor-  
18                       bidity;

19                       “(ii) to expand immunization pro-  
20                       grams for women and children;

21                       “(iii) to establish and expand pro-  
22                       grams to provide services to women and  
23                       girls suffering from posttraumatic stress  
24                       disorder, depression, and mental illness;

1 “(iv) to protect and provide services to  
2 vulnerable populations, including widows,  
3 orphans, and women head of households;

4 “(v) to establish primary and sec-  
5 ondary schools for girls that include math-  
6 ematics, science, and languages in their  
7 primary curriculum;

8 “(vi) to expand technical and voca-  
9 tional training programs to enable women  
10 to support themselves and their families;

11 “(vii) to maintain and expand adult  
12 literacy programs, including economic lit-  
13 eracy programs that promote the well-  
14 being of women and their families;

15 “(viii) to provide special educational  
16 opportunities for girls whose schooling was  
17 ended by the Taliban and who now face  
18 obstacles to participating in the normal  
19 education system, such as girls who are  
20 now married and girls who are older than  
21 the normal age for their classes;

22 “(ix) to develop and implement pro-  
23 grams to protect women and girls against  
24 sexual and physical abuse, abduction, traf-  
25 ficking, exploitation, and sex discrimina-

1                   tion in the delivery of humanitarian sup-  
2                   plies and services;

3                   “(x) to disseminate information  
4                   throughout Afghanistan on the rights of  
5                   women and on international standards for  
6                   human rights;

7                   “(xi) to provide information and as-  
8                   sistance to enable women to exercise prop-  
9                   erty, inheritance, and voting rights, and to  
10                  ensure equal access to the judicial system;

11                  “(xii) to support the work of women-  
12                  led and local nongovernmental organiza-  
13                  tions with demonstrated experience in de-  
14                  livering services to women and children in  
15                  Afghanistan;

16                  “(xiii) to monitor and investigate vio-  
17                  lations of women’s rights and to provide  
18                  legal assistance to women who have suf-  
19                  fered violations of their rights;

20                  “(xiv) to increase political and civil  
21                  participation of women in all levels of soci-  
22                  ety, including the criminal justice system;

23                  “(xv) to provide information and  
24                  training related to women’s rights and

1 human rights to military, police, and legal  
2 personnel; and

3 “(xvi) to provide assistance to the  
4 Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the Inde-  
5 pendent Human Rights Commission for  
6 programs to advance the status of  
7 women.”; and

8 (2) by restating subparagraph (B) to read as  
9 follows:

10 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—For each  
11 of the fiscal years 2007 through 2009—

12 “(i) \$5,000,000 is authorized to be  
13 appropriated to the President to be made  
14 available to the Afghan Ministry of Wom-  
15 en’s Affairs for the administration and  
16 conduct of its programs;

17 “(ii) \$10,000,000 is authorized to be  
18 appropriated to the President to be made  
19 available to the Afghan Independent  
20 Human Rights Commission for the admin-  
21 istration and conduct of its programs; and

22 “(iii) \$30,000,000 is authorized to be  
23 appropriated to the President for grants to  
24 Afghan women-led nonprofit organizations  
25 to support activities including the construc-

1           tion, establishment, and operation of  
2           schools for married girls and girls' orphan-  
3           ages, vocational training for women and  
4           girls, health care clinics for women and  
5           children, programs to strengthen Afghan  
6           women-led organizations and women's  
7           leadership, and to provide monthly finan-  
8           cial assistance to widows, orphans, and  
9           women head of households.''.

10 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ASSISTANCE.**

11           It is the sense of Congress that, in providing assist-  
12           ance under section 103(a)(7) of the Afghanistan Freedom  
13           Support Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7513(a)(7)), as amended  
14           by section 4, the President should—

15                   (1) condition the provision of such assistance on  
16                   the recipient adhering to international standards for  
17                   women's rights and human rights; and

18                   (2) ensure that Afghan women-led nongovern-  
19                   mental organizations throughout Afghanistan with  
20                   demonstrated experience in delivering services to Af-  
21                   ghan women and children receive grants without eth-  
22                   nic, religious, or any other discrimination.

23 **SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

24           (a) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days  
25           after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 6

1 months thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary of State and  
2 the Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-  
3 national Development shall jointly submit a report on the  
4 activities carried out under this Act to the Committee on  
5 Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations  
6 of the Senate and the Committee on International Rela-  
7 tions and the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
8 of Representatives.

9 (b) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under sub-  
10 section (a) shall include the amount of assistance provided  
11 under section 103(a)(7) of the Afghanistan Freedom Sup-  
12 port Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7513(a)(7)), as amended by  
13 section 4, to—

- 14 (1) the Afghan Ministry of Women’s Affairs;
- 15 (2) the Afghan Independent Human Rights  
16 Commission; and
- 17 (3) Afghan women-led nonprofit organizations.

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