

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1340

AN ACT

To authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Ebola Eradication Act
3 of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) The current Ebola outbreak in the Demo-
7 cratic Republic of the Congo, which began in August
8 2018 in eastern Congo, is the second largest in his-
9 tory and has resulted in over 1,600 cases and 1,000
10 deaths.

11 (2) Despite the use of preventive tools and new
12 therapeutics, insecurity and community resistance to
13 response efforts remain major obstacles to ending
14 the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Re-
15 public of the Congo, and the outbreak continues to
16 spread.

17 (3) Hospitals, health clinics, and Ebola clinics
18 have been repeatedly attacked by armed actors.

19 (4) On February 28, 2019, Doctors Without
20 Borders suspended its work in Ebola epicenters after
21 two treatment centers were attacked.

22 (5) On April 19, 2019, Dr. Richard Valery
23 Mouzoko Kiboung, an epidemiologist from Cameroon
24 deployed by the World Health Organization to east-
25 ern Congo to help stop the outbreak, was killed in
26 an attack on Butembo University Hospital.

(6) Healthcare workers responding to Ebola have expressed concerns about their ability to continue working on the response given the complex security situation.

(7) If the outbreak is not brought under control, it risks spreading across the border to neighboring countries and endangering millions of people.

(8) The Administration released a November 29, 2018, Presidential Memorandum implementing aid restrictions to most countries on Tier III of the 2018 Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report that fully restricted non-humanitarian, non-trade related aid to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

(9) Paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 110(d) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(4) and (5)) authorize the continuation of assistance in Tier III countries if such assistance is determined to be in the national interest of the United States.

(10) Section 110(d)(5)(B) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(5)(B)) states, “The President shall exercise the [waiver] authority under paragraph (4) when necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vulnerable populations, including women and children.”.

1 (11) The President has not exercised the waiver
 2 authority provided for in section 110(d)(5)(B) of the
 3 Trafficking in Victims Protection Act of 2000 in re-
 4 lation to health, education, or community outreach
 5 activities essential to the success of the Ebola re-
 6 sponse in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

7 (12) It is in the national interest of the United
 8 States to help control and end the current Ebola
 9 outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
 10 before it spreads.

11 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO ADDRESS THE EBOLA OUT-**
 12 **BREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF**
 13 **THE CONGO.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 110 of
 15 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.
 16 7107), and subject to the availability of appropriations,
 17 the Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
 18 national Development shall immediately provide assist-
 19 ance, including targeted foreign assistance under chapters
 20 1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
 21 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.; 22 U.S.C. 2293 et seq.) for global
 22 health and activities necessary to respond to the threat
 23 posed by Ebola, and under chapter 4 of part II of the
 24 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.),
 25 to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan,

1 and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that
2 began in August 2018, including water and sanitation in-
3 frastructure, global health activities, public messaging and
4 other critical activities necessary for ending the outbreak.
5 Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate
6 both to address the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak
7 and conduct activities necessary for an effective response.
8 Activities to expand and improve access to communities
9 heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be
10 prioritized under this section.

11 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
13 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
14 velopment shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Rela-
15 tions of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs
16 of the House of Representatives a report—

17 (1) describing the actions the Administrator has
18 taken and plans to take under section 3(a) to end
19 the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic
20 of the Congo; and

1 (2) proposing any additional legal authorities
2 required to improve the response to the Ebola out-
3 break in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Passed the Senate September 23, 2019.

Attest:

Secretary.

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