

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7703

To authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, prioritize disaster resilience, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2020

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself and Mr. ROONEY of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, prioritize disaster resilience, 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 “Caribbean Basin Secu-
5 rity Initiative Authorization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE**
2 **CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be ap-
4 propriated at least \$74,800,000 for each of fiscal years
5 2021 through 2025, to be derived from amounts author-
6 ized to be appropriated under the following provisions of
7 law, to carry out the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative
8 to achieve the purposes described in subsection (b):

9 (1) With respect to the Foreign Assistance Act
10 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.)—

11 (A) chapter 8 of part I (relating to inter-
12 national narcotics control and law enforcement
13 assistance);

14 (B) chapter 4 of part I (relating to the
15 economic support fund);

16 (C) chapters 8 and 9 of part I (relating to
17 anti-terrorism assistance and demining activi-
18 ties) and any other authorization under this Act
19 or any other Act to carry out programs,
20 projects, or activities using amounts made
21 available under for the “International Security
22 Assistance—Department of State—Non-
23 proliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and
24 Related Programs” account; and

1 (D) sections 103, 105, 106, and 214, sec-
2 tions 251 through 255, and chapter 10 of part
3 I (relating to development assistance).

4 (2) Section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act
5 (relating to foreign military financing; 22 U.S.C.
6 2763).

7 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes described in this sub-
8 section are the following:

9 (1) To promote citizen safety, security, and the
10 rule of law in the Caribbean through increased stra-
11 tegic engagement with the governments of bene-
12 ficiary countries and with elements of local civil soci-
13 ety, including the private sector, in such countries.

14 (2) To carry out the promotion of such safety,
15 security, and the rule of law through efforts includ-
16 ing the following:

17 (A) Capacity building for law enforcement
18 and military units, including professionalization,
19 anti-corruption and human rights training, vet-
20 ting, and community-based policing.

21 (B) Maritime and aerial security coopera-
22 tion, including assistance to strengthen Carib-
23 bean maritime and aerial interdiction oper-
24 ations capability and the provision of support

1 systems and equipment, training, and mainte-
2 nance.

3 (C) Border and port security cooperation,
4 including support to strengthen capacity for
5 screening and to intercept narcotics, weapons,
6 bulk cash, and other contraband at airports and
7 seaports.

8 (D) Support for justice sector reform and
9 strengthening of the rule of law, including ca-
10 pacity building for prosecutors, judges, and
11 other justice officials, and support to increase
12 the efficacy of criminal courts.

13 (E) Cybersecurity and cybercrime coopera-
14 tion, including capacity-building and support
15 for cybersecurity systems.

16 (F) Countering transnational criminal or-
17 ganizations and local gang activity, including
18 capacity-building, equipment, and support for
19 operations targeting the finances and illegal ac-
20 tivities of transnational criminal networks and
21 local gangs such as their recruitment of at-risk
22 youth, and the provision of assistance to popu-
23 lations vulnerable to being victims of extortion
24 and crime by criminal networks.

1 (G) Strengthening special prosecutorial of-
2 fices and providing technical assistance to com-
3 bat corruption, money laundering, financial
4 crimes, extortion, and human rights crimes, and
5 conduct asset forfeitures and criminal analysis.

6 (H) Strengthening the ability of the secu-
7 rity sector to respond to and become more resil-
8 ient in the face of natural disasters, including
9 by carrying out training exercises to ensure
10 critical infrastructure and ports are able to
11 come back online rapidly following disasters and
12 providing preparedness training to police and
13 first responders.

14 (I) Supporting training for civilian police
15 and appropriate security services in criminal in-
16 vestigations, best practices for citizen security,
17 and the protection of human rights.

18 (J) Improving community and law enforce-
19 ment cooperation to improve effectiveness and
20 professionalism of police and increase mutual
21 trust.

22 (K) Increasing economic opportunities for
23 at-risk youth and vulnerable populations, in-
24 cluding workforce development training and re-
25 medial education programs for at-risk youth.

1 (L) Improving juvenile justice sectors
2 through regulatory reforms, separating youth
3 from traditional prison systems, and improving
4 support and services in juvenile detention cen-
5 ters.

6 (3) To prioritize efforts to combat corruption
7 and include anti-corruption components to programs,
8 including by—

9 (A) strengthening national justice systems
10 and attorneys general and supporting inde-
11 pendent media and investigative reporting;

12 (B) supporting multilateral anti-corruption
13 mechanisms; and

14 (C) encouraging cooperative agreements
15 between the Department of State, other rel-
16 evant Federal departments and agencies, and
17 the attorneys general of relevant countries to
18 fight corruption in the Caribbean.

19 (4) To promote the rule of law in the Caribbean
20 and counter malign influence from authoritarian re-
21 gimes, including China and Russia, by:

22 (A) Monitoring security assistance from
23 authoritarian regimes and taking steps nec-
24 essary to ensure that this assistance does not

1 undermine or jeopardize U.S. security assist-
2 ance.

3 (B) Evaluating and, as appropriate, re-
4 stricting United States involvement in invest-
5 ment and infrastructure projects financed by
6 authoritarian regimes that might obstruct or
7 otherwise impact United States security assist-
8 ance to beneficiary countries.

9 (C) Monitoring and restricting equipment
10 and support from high risk vendors for tele-
11 communications infrastructure in beneficiary
12 countries.

13 (D) Countering disinformation by pro-
14 moting transparency and accountability from
15 beneficiary countries.

16 (E) Eliminating corruption linked to in-
17 vestment and infrastructure facilitated by au-
18 thoritarian regimes through support for invest-
19 ment screening, competitive tendering and bid-
20 ding processes, the implementation of invest-
21 ment law, and contractual transparency.

22 (5) To promote strategic engagement with the
23 governments of beneficiary countries through effec-
24 tive branding and messaging of United States assist-
25 ance and security cooperation, including by devel-

1 oping a public diplomacy strategy for educating citi-
2 zens of beneficiary countries about United States as-
3 sistance and security cooperation programs and ben-
4 efits.

5 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY TO IMPROVE DISASTER RESILIENCE.**

6 (a) PRIORITIZATION.—During the 5-year period be-
7 ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
8 retary of State shall, in consultation with the Adminis-
9 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
10 velopment and the President and Chief Executive Officer
11 of the Inter-American Foundation, prioritize efforts to in-
12 crease disaster response and resilience by carrying out
13 programs in beneficiary countries for the following pur-
14 poses:

15 (1) Encouraging coordination between bene-
16 ficiary countries and relevant Federal departments
17 and agencies to provide expertise and information
18 sharing.

19 (2) Supporting sharing of best practices on dis-
20 aster resilience including constructing resilient infra-
21 structure and rebuilding after natural disasters.

22 (3) Improving rapid-response mechanisms and
23 cross-government organizational preparedness for
24 natural disasters.

1 (b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
3 shall, in coordination with the Administrator of the United
4 States Agency for International Development and in con-
5 sultation with the President and Chief Economic Officer
6 of the Inter-American Foundation, submit to the appro-
7 priate congressional committees a strategy that incor-
8 porates specific, measurable benchmarks to achieve the
9 purposes described in subsection (a) and to inform citizens
10 of beneficiary countries about the extent and benefits of
11 United States assistance to such countries. In developing
12 such strategy, the Secretary of State shall also consult
13 with nongovernmental organizations in beneficiary coun-
14 tries and in the United States.

15 (c) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE.—The Secretary, in
16 coordination with the Administrator, shall annually submit
17 to the appropriate congressional committees a written de-
18 scription of the progress made as of the date of such sub-
19 mission in meeting the benchmarks included in the strat-
20 egy submitted pursuant to subsection (b).

21 **SEC. 4. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

22 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination
24 with the Administrator of the United States Agency for
25 International Development, shall submit to the appro-

1 piate congressional committees an implementation plan
2 that includes a timeline and stated objectives for actions
3 to be taken with respect to the Caribbean Basin Security
4 Initiative. The plan shall also include the following ele-
5 ments:

6 (1) A multi-year strategy with a timeline, over-
7 view of objectives, and anticipated outcomes for the
8 region and for each beneficiary country, with respect
9 to each program area described in section 2.

10 (2) Specific, measurable benchmarks to track
11 the progress of the Initiative towards accomplishing
12 the outcomes described pursuant to paragraph (1).

13 (3) A plan for the delineation of the roles to be
14 carried out by the Department of State, the United
15 States Agency for International Development, the
16 Department of Justice, the Department of Defense,
17 and any other Federal department or agency in car-
18 rying out the Initiative, to prevent overlap and unin-
19 tended competition between activities and resources.

20 (4) A plan to coordinate and track all activities
21 carried out under the Initiative between all relevant
22 Federal departments and agencies, in accordance
23 with the publication requirements described in sec-
24 tion 4 of the Foreign Aid Transparency and Ac-

1 countability Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–191; 22
2 U.S.C. 2394c).

3 (5) The results achieved during the previous
4 year—

5 (A) of monitoring and evaluation measures
6 to track the progress of the Initiative in accom-
7 plishing the benchmarks included pursuant to
8 paragraph (2); and

9 (B) of the implementation of the strategy
10 and plans described in paragraphs (1), (3), and
11 (4).

12 (6) A description of the process for co-locating
13 Caribbean Basin Security Initiative projects funded
14 by the United States Agency for International De-
15 velopment and the Bureau of International Nar-
16 cotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Depart-
17 ment of State, to ensure that crime prevention fund-
18 ing and enforcement funding are used in the same
19 localities as necessary.

20 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

22 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
23 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
24 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
2 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
3 of Representatives; and

4 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
5 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
6 Senate.

7 (2) BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES.—The term “ben-
8 eficiary countries” means the beneficiary countries
9 of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative.

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