

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1340

To authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 2019

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ebola Eradication Act
5 of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The current Ebola outbreak in the Demo-
9 cratic Republic of the Congo, which began in August

1 2018 in eastern Congo, has resulted in 1,554 total
2 cases, and 1,029 deaths.

3 (2) Despite the use of preventive tools and new
4 therapeutics, insecurity and community resistance to
5 response efforts remain major obstacles to ending
6 the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Re-
7 public of the Congo, and the outbreak continues to
8 spread.

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

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

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

19 (6) In the wake of Dr. Kiboung's death,
20 healthcare workers responding to Ebola have threat-
21 ened to go on strike unless the Government of the
22 Democratic Republic of the Congo takes steps to im-
23 prove security.

24 (7) The Administration released a November
25 29, 2018, Presidential Memorandum implementing

1 aid restrictions to most countries on Tier 3 of the
 2 2018 Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report that fully
 3 restricted non-humanitarian, non-trade related aid to
 4 the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

5 (8) Section 110(d)(5)(B) of the Trafficking Vic-
 6 tims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.
 7 7107(d)(5)(B)) states, “The President shall exercise
 8 the [waiver] authority under paragraph (4) when
 9 necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on vul-
 10 nerable populations, including women and children.”.

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

17 (10) The United States is a critical partner in
 18 helping the Government of the Democratic Republic
 19 of the Congo end the current outbreak.

20 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO ADDRESS THE EBOLA OUT-**
 21 **BREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF**
 22 **THE CONGO.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
 24 sion of law, the Administrator of the United States Agency
 25 for International Development is authorized to provide as-

1 sistance for efforts to combat the Ebola outbreak in the
2 Democratic Republic of the Congo and, to the extent nec-
3 essary, in other countries, including assistance intended
4 to lower community resistance to interventions that the
5 Administrator assesses will facilitate efforts to combat the
6 Ebola outbreak.

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

13 (1) describing the actions the Administrator has
14 taken and plans to take under section 3(a) to end
15 the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic
16 of the Congo; and

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

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