

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2049

To reduce the amount of foreign assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras based on the number of unaccompanied alien children who are nationals or citizens of such countries and who in the preceding fiscal year are placed in Federal custody by reason of their immigration status.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2019

Mr. BURGESS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To reduce the amount of foreign assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras based on the number of unaccompanied alien children who are nationals or citizens of such countries and who in the preceding fiscal year are placed in Federal custody by reason of their immigration status.

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 “Unaccompanied Alien
5 Children Assistance Control Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Gang violence, poverty, and corruption are
4 the main drivers of illegal immigration from El Sal-
5 vador, Guatemala, and Honduras to the United
6 States.

7 (2) According to an independent task force re-
8 port by the Atlantic Council's Latin America Cen-
9 ter—

10 (A) systemic corruption stagnates eco-
11 nomic growth;

12 (B) eight in ten poll respondents see cor-
13 ruption as widespread;

14 (C) citizens in El Salvador, Guatemala,
15 and Honduras do not trust the government in-
16 stitutions responsible for curtailing corruption;
17 and

18 (D) investigations have revealed massive
19 networks dedicated to co-opting public funds for
20 the personal enrichment of government officials.

21 (3) There exists the potential for foreign assist-
22 ance from the United States to be misused by cen-
23 tral government officials in El Salvador, Guatemala,
24 and Honduras in order to reduce the success of anti-
25 corruption efforts.

1 (4) Systemic corruption in El Salvador, Guate-
2 mala, and Honduras undermines efforts to address
3 the driving causes of illegal immigration into the
4 United States from such countries.

5 (5) The United States provided more than
6 \$2,600,000,000 in foreign assistance to Central
7 American countries during fiscal years 2015 through
8 2018, and Congress appropriated over \$500,000,000
9 in such assistance for fiscal year 2019.

10 (6) For the past 5 fiscal years, 225,463 unac-
11 companied alien children from El Salvador, Guate-
12 mala, and Honduras were referred to the Office of
13 Refugee Resettlement (ORR) of the Department of
14 Health and Human Services, an average of 45,092
15 per year.

16 (7) On average, providing care for unaccom-
17 panied alien children in ORR custody costs \$500 per
18 child, per day.

19 (8) In fiscal year 2018, the average length of
20 stay in ORR custody for an unaccompanied alien
21 child was 60 days.

22 (9) On average, the total cost of care for an un-
23 accompanied alien child in ORR custody is \$30,000
24 per child and \$1,352,760,000 per year for all chil-
25 dren.

1 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION OF AMOUNT OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**
2 **TO EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, AND HON-**
3 **DURAS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall reduce from
5 amounts made available under the Foreign Assistance Act
6 of 1961 or any other Act and allocated for a covered coun-
7 try for a fiscal year an amount equal to—

8 (1) the number of unaccompanied alien children
9 who—

10 (A) are nationals or citizens of the covered
11 country; and

12 (B) in the preceding fiscal year are placed
13 in Federal custody by reason of their immigra-
14 tion status; multiplied by

15 (2) \$30,000.

16 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

17 (1) the term “covered country” means El Sal-
18 vador, Guatemala, or Honduras; and

19 (2) the term “unaccompanied alien child” has
20 the meaning given the term in section 462(g)(2) of
21 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
22 279(g)(2)).

23 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act takes effect on the
24 date of the enactment of this Act and applies with respect
25 to amounts made available under the Foreign Assistance

- 1 Act of 1961 or any other Act for fiscal year 2020 and
- 2 each subsequent fiscal year.

