

[~117H3938]

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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize contributions to the United Nations Population Fund, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. HOULAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize contributions to the United Nations Population
Fund, 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 “Support UNFPA
5 Funding Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The United Nations Population Fund
2 (UNFPA) is the United Nations reproductive health
3 agency.

4 (2) UNFPA was founded with the leadership of
5 the United States and works in more than 150 coun-
6 tries to end preventable maternal deaths, the unmet
7 need for contraception, and gender-based violence
8 and other harmful practices, including female genital
9 mutilation and child marriage.

10 (3) UNFPA also ensures access to health care
11 and essential supplies for women and families im-
12 pacted by emergencies.

13 (4) All UNFPA programming is guided by
14 principles adopted by 179 governments, including
15 the United States, at the 1994 International Con-
16 ference for Population and Development. The prin-
17 ciples include that “reproductive health care pro-
18 grams should provide the widest range of services
19 without any form of coercion. All couples and indi-
20 viduals have the basic right to decide freely and re-
21 sponsibly the number and spacing of their children
22 and to have the information, education and means to
23 do so.”.

24 (5) UNFPA is currently working to address the
25 needs of the following:

1 (A) The 800 women and adolescent girls
2 who die each day from preventable causes re-
3 lated to pregnancy and childbirth, most of
4 which occur in developing countries and more
5 than half of which occur in fragile and humani-
6 tarian settings.

7 (B) The more than 218,000,000 women of
8 reproductive age in low- and middle-income
9 countries who want to avoid pregnancy and are
10 not using a modern contraceptive method.

11 (C) The estimated 1 in 3 women who expe-
12 rience gender-based violence.

13 (D) The estimated 200,000,000 women
14 who have survived some form of female genital
15 mutilation.

16 (E) The estimated 12,000,000 girls who
17 are forcibly married before the age of 18 each
18 year.

19 (6) UNFPA, which works in three times as
20 many countries as the United States Agency for
21 International Development, extends the impact of
22 United States foreign assistance by reaching people
23 in politically unstable regions. UNFPA also plays a
24 pivotal role in meeting protection and health care

1 needs in countries experiencing humanitarian emer-
2 gencies like Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Yemen.

3 (7) Voluntary family planning is central to
4 global health, gender equality and women's em-
5 powerment, and it is a key factor in reducing pov-
6 erty.

7 (8) UNFPA continues to rebuild health systems
8 following the COVID-19 outbreak by supporting
9 frontline health workers who help to limit potential
10 increases in maternal deaths, unmet need for family
11 planning, gender based violence, female genital muti-
12 lation, and child marriage.

13 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

14 It is the policy of the United States as follows:

15 (1) Improving the status of women around the
16 world is a critical component of the United States
17 foreign policy and development strategies.

18 (2) The right of every person to determine free-
19 ly whether, when, and with whom to have children,
20 and to attain the highest standard of sexual and re-
21 productive health, is a basic human right.

22 (3) Access to voluntary contraception and re-
23 productive health care is necessary to improving the
24 status of women and ensuring this basic human
25 right.

1 (4) UNFPA is a key partner to the United
2 States in improving the status of women and ex-
3 panding access to voluntary family planning and re-
4 productive health care services throughout the world.

5 (5) UNFPA helps ensure that family planning
6 and reproductive health programs are voluntary and
7 centered on protecting human rights.

8 (6) Financial support for UNFPA is a crucial
9 part of the United States commitment to global
10 health, development, and human rights, and the
11 Government of the United States is committed to
12 providing core, development, and humanitarian fund-
13 ing to UNFPA.

14 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There is authorized to be appropriated an annual
16 contribution for each of the five fiscal years beginning
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act to support the
18 core functions and programs of the United Nations Popu-
19 lation Fund (UNFPA), which may include the following:

20 (1) Ending preventable maternal deaths.

21 (2) Ending the unmet need for contraceptives
22 and promoting a human-rights-based approach to
23 family planning.

24 (3) Ending gender-based violence.

1 (4) Ending other harmful practices, such as
2 child marriage and female genital mutilation.

3 (5) Supporting United States national security
4 and humanitarian efforts by operating in areas
5 where medical infrastructure or services have been
6 destroyed or limited by natural disasters, armed con-
7 flict, or other humanitarian emergencies.