

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3938

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2021

Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BERA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MANNING, Ms. MENG, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. TITUS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. DEAN, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. CHU, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. ROSS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RYAN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CASE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BASS, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. WILD, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KAHELE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CROW, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LAMB, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KIND, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. JAYAPAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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:

8 (1) The United Nations Population Fund
9 (UNFPA) is the United Nations reproductive health
10 agency.

11 (2) UNFPA was founded with the leadership of
12 the United States 50 years ago and works in more
13 than 150 countries to end preventable maternal
14 deaths, the unmet need for contraception, and gen-
15 der-based violence and other harmful practices, in-
16 cluding female genital mutilation and child mar-
17 riage.

18 (3) UNFPA also ensures access to health care
19 and essential supplies for women and families im-
20 pacted by emergencies.

21 (4) All UNFPA programming is guided by
22 principles adopted by 179 governments, including

1 the United States, at the 1994 International Con-
2 ference for Population and Development. The prin-
3 ciples include that “reproductive health care pro-
4 grams should provide the widest range of services
5 without any form of coercion. All couples and indi-
6 viduals have the basic right to decide freely and re-
7 sponsibly the number and spacing of their children
8 and to have the information, education and means to
9 do so.”.

10 (5) UNFPA is currently working to address the
11 needs of the following:

12 (A) The 810 women and adolescent girls
13 who die each day from preventable causes re-
14 lated to pregnancy and childbirth, 99 percent of
15 which deaths occur in developing countries and
16 more than half of which occur in fragile and
17 humanitarian settings.

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

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

1 (D) The estimated 200,000,000 women
2 who have survived some form of female genital
3 mutilation.

4 (E) The estimated 15,000,000 girls who
5 are forcibly married before the age of 18 each
6 year.

7 (6) In recent years, the United States has been
8 the third-largest overall donor to UNFPA, and its
9 second-largest donor for humanitarian response.

10 (7) UNFPA, which works in three times as
11 many countries as the United States Agency for
12 International Development, extends the impact of
13 United States foreign assistance by reaching people
14 in politically unstable regions. UNFPA also plays a
15 pivotal role in meeting protection and health care
16 needs in countries experiencing humanitarian emer-
17 gencies like Syria, Yemen, and Iraq.

18 (8) Voluntary family planning is central to gen-
19 der equality and women's empowerment, and it is a
20 key factor in reducing poverty.

21 (9) UNFPA is responding to the needs of
22 women and girls affected by the COVID-19 out-
23 break by focusing on countries that have weak public
24 health and social support systems to limit potential
25 increases in unmet need for family planning, gender

1 based violence, female genital mutilation, and child
2 marriage.

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

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

5 (1) Improving the status of women around the
6 world is a critical component of the United States
7 foreign policy and development strategies.

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

12 (3) Access to voluntary contraception and re-
13 productive health care is necessary to improving the
14 status of women and ensuring this basic human
15 right.

16 (4) UNFPA is a key partner in improving the
17 status of women and expanding access to voluntary
18 family planning and reproductive health care serv-
19 ices throughout the world.

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

23 (6) Financial support for UNFPA is a crucial
24 part of the United States commitment to global
25 health, development, and human rights, and the

1 Government of the United States is committed to
2 providing core, development, and humanitarian fund-
3 ing to UNFPA.

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

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

10 (1) Ending preventable maternal deaths.

11 (2) Ending the unmet need for contraceptives
12 and promoting a human-rights-based approach to
13 family planning.

14 (3) Ending gender-based violence.

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

17 (5) Supporting United States national security
18 and humanitarian efforts by operating in areas
19 where medical infrastructure or services have been
20 destroyed or limited by natural disasters, armed con-
21 flict, or other humanitarian emergencies.

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