

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To establish the position of Director of Foreign Assistance in the Department of State, and for other purposes

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KAINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish the position of Director of Foreign Assistance in the Department of State, 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 “Foreign Assistance Ac-
5 countability and Oversight Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) the strategic delivery of foreign assistance is
9 critical to supporting the United States’ interests
10 around the world;

1 (2) foreign assistance furthers United States’
2 national security priorities, advances United States’
3 values, and ensures the United States is the partner
4 of choice for areas such as defense procurement and
5 economic investment in cutting edge scientific re-
6 search;

7 (3) the administration of foreign assistance pro-
8 gramming should be—

9 (A) managed by a qualified, competent De-
10 partment of State official; and

11 (B) subject to strict congressional over-
12 sight pursuant to its constitutionally authorized
13 power of the purse; and

14 (4) section 1413 of the Foreign Affairs Reform
15 and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Division G of Public
16 Law 105–277; 22 U.S.C. 6563) codified into law the
17 status of the United States Agency for International
18 Development as an “independent establishment”
19 outside of the Department of State.

20 **SEC. 3. DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AT THE DE-**
21 **PARTMENT OF STATE.**

22 Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities
23 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended by adding at
24 the end the following:

25 “(p) DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—

1 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

2 “(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-
3 MITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional
4 committees’ means—

5 “(i) the Committee on Foreign Rela-
6 tions of the Senate;

7 “(ii) the Committee on Appropriations
8 of the Senate;

9 “(iii) the Committee on Foreign Af-
10 fairs of the House of Representatives; and

11 “(iv) the Committee on Appropria-
12 tions of the House of Representatives.

13 “(B) PERSONNEL DECISION.—The term
14 ‘personnel decision’ means any decision relating
15 to promotions, transfers, demotions, or dismis-
16 sals.

17 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in
18 the Department of State, a Director of Foreign As-
19 sistance (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Direc-
20 tor’), who—

21 “(A) shall report directly to the Deputy
22 Secretary of State for Management and Re-
23 sources; and

1 “(B) should not hold another position in
2 the United States Government while holding the
3 position of Director.

4 “(3) DUTIES.—The Director shall—

5 “(A) optimize the impact of foreign assist-
6 ance by—

7 “(i) strategically aligning foreign as-
8 sistance resources to the Secretary of
9 State’s overarching foreign policy goals;

10 “(ii) measuring effectiveness; and

11 “(iii) promoting evidence-based poli-
12 cies, including budget formulation, jus-
13 tification, and execution mechanisms;

14 “(B) serve as a resource for the Secretary
15 of State, the Deputy Secretary of State, the
16 Under Secretaries of State, the Administrator
17 of the United States Agency for International
18 Development, and the heads of other Federal
19 departments and agencies that implement
20 United States foreign assistance programs to
21 support the development of policies, plans, and
22 programs to achieve national security, foreign
23 policy, and development goals;

1 “(C) perform results-oriented functions re-
2 lated to United States foreign assistance, in-
3 cluding—

4 “(i) leading an integrated budget,
5 strategic planning, and performance pro-
6 cess as part of integrated interagency pro-
7 gram planning to amplify foreign assist-
8 ance;

9 “(ii) promoting monitoring and eval-
10 uation;

11 “(iii) increasing transparency;

12 “(iv) facilitating data analysis, infor-
13 mation management, and reporting; and

14 “(v) developing foreign assistance
15 policies through research and partnerships;

16 “(D) support interagency collaboration on
17 foreign assistance programs and policies of
18 other Federal agencies and entities, including
19 the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the
20 United States International Development Fi-
21 nance Corporation, the Department of the
22 Treasury, the United States Trade and Devel-
23 opment Agency, the Export-Import Bank of the
24 United States, and the Peace Corps;

1 “(E) create and direct, as part of inte-
2 grated interagency program planning to amplify
3 foreign assistance, consolidated policy, strategic,
4 and program plans, the operational budget, pro-
5 gram evaluation and results reporting from bu-
6 reaus and offices within the Department of
7 State and the United States Agency for Inter-
8 national Development.

9 “(4) APPOINTMENT; CONFIRMATION.—

10 “(A) APPOINTMENT.—The Director shall
11 be appointed by the President, by and with the
12 advice and consent of the Senate.

13 “(B) ACTING DIRECTOR.—No individual
14 may serve as Director in an acting capacity or
15 otherwise assume the responsibilities of the Di-
16 rector for more than 90 days without being con-
17 firmed to such position by the Senate.

18 “(5) PERSONNEL DECISIONS.—Any adverse
19 personnel decision made by the Director, or affecting
20 the Director or any staff member reporting to the
21 Director, including demotions, suspensions, fur-
22 loughs and reductions in force, shall require the ap-
23 proval of the Deputy Secretary of State for Manage-
24 ment and Resources.”.

1 **SEC. 4. TIMELY OBLIGATION OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.**

2 All funds appropriated by Congress to the Depart-
3 ment of State or to the United States Agency for Inter-
4 national Development, or that are otherwise under the di-
5 rection of the Director of Foreign Assistance, shall be
6 made available to be obligated not later than 90 days after
7 the date of the enactment of the related appropriations
8 Act.