

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the use of funds for comprehensive reproductive health care services, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the use of funds for comprehensive reproductive health care services, 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 “Abortion is Health
5 Care Everywhere Act of 2022”.

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

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

1 (1) International agreements have recognized
2 reproductive rights for more than 25 years, and the
3 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development
4 Goals reiterated the centrality of reproductive rights
5 to gender equality.

6 (2) Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that
7 when people, including young women and adolescent
8 girls, gender nonconforming individuals, and
9 transgender men, are able to control their reproduc-
10 tive lives, there are enormous social and economic
11 benefits, not just for the individual and their family,
12 but for entire communities.

13 (3) Countries that prioritize reproductive
14 health, rights, and justice and human rights are
15 more likely to have better overall health throughout
16 their countries.

17 (4) Health system cost is reduced when abor-
18 tion is widely available and integrated with other
19 types of health care.

20 (5) Without access to safe abortion care, people
21 risk their lives to end their pregnancies. At least
22 24,100 people in low- and middle-income countries
23 die every year from complications from unsafe abor-
24 tions.

1 (6) Ninety-seven percent of unsafe abortions
2 occur in developing countries in Africa, Asia, and
3 Latin America. In low- and middle-income countries,
4 the annual cost of post-abortion care for all who
5 need is estimated to be \$4,000,000,000. The major-
6 ity of this cost is attributed to treating complications
7 from abortions provided in unsafe conditions.

8 (7) Restricting abortion does not reduce either
9 the need for or number of abortions. Abortion rates
10 are similar in countries where it is highly restricted
11 by law and where it is broadly legal.

12 (8) When abortions are performed in accord-
13 ance with World Health Organization guidelines and
14 standards, there is minimal risk of severe complica-
15 tions or death.

16 (9) United States law restricting United States
17 foreign assistance funding from being used to pro-
18 vide safe abortion services has the effect of harming
19 people who seek to terminate their pregnancies in
20 several ways, including by blocking access to services
21 and erecting barriers to providers obtaining the
22 training and equipment needed to deliver care to
23 those in need.

24 (10) Since the enactment of section 104(f)(1) of
25 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.

1 2151b(f)(1)) (commonly referred to as the “Helms
2 amendment”) in 1973, dozens of governments across
3 the globe have liberalized abortion laws and policies.

4 (11) In countries where the United States sup-
5 ports family planning and reproductive health care
6 and in which abortion is legal on, at least some
7 grounds, support for safe abortion could avert more
8 than 19,000,000 unsafe abortions and 17,000 ma-
9 ternal deaths each year.

10 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
11 gress that—

12 (1) abortion is a critical component of sexual
13 and reproductive health care and should be acces-
14 sible and affordable for all people;

15 (2) all people have the right to make their own
16 choices about their sexual and reproductive health,
17 and to access quality and affordable sexual and re-
18 productive health care; and

19 (3) as part of their commitment to prevent un-
20 safe abortions and preventable deaths and to ensure
21 that all people have access to comprehensive sexual
22 and reproductive health care and can exercise their
23 right to full control over their sexuality and repro-
24 duction, developing countries and donor governments
25 must work collaboratively to deploy funding, align

1 policies, and mobilize expertise to make safe abortion
2 services available to those seeking to terminate preg-
3 nancies.

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

5 It is the policy of the United States Government—

6 (1) to recognize safe abortion as a critical com-
7 ponent of comprehensive maternal and reproductive
8 health care and include safe abortion services as
9 part of foreign assistance programs funded by the
10 United States Government;

11 (2) to make safe abortion widely available and
12 integrated with other types of health care; and

13 (3) to work to end unsafe abortion and to pro-
14 mote safe abortion services by providing funding and
15 collaborating with affected governments and service
16 providers to provide training, commodities and
17 equipment, and access to safe abortion services.

18 **SEC. 4. USE OF FUNDS FOR COMPREHENSIVE REPRODUC-**

19 **TIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**

20 Section 104 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
21 (22 U.S.C. 2151b) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (f)—

23 (A) by striking paragraph (1); and

24 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and

25 (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

1 (2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
2 section (h); and

3 (3) by inserting after subsection (f), as amend-
4 ed, the following:

5 “(g) USE OF FUNDS FOR COMPREHENSIVE REPRO-
6 DUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—Notwithstanding
7 any other provision of law, funds made available to carry
8 out this part may be used to provide comprehensive repro-
9 ductive health care services, including abortion services,
10 training, and equipment.”.