



Conventional Weapons Destruction and Legacy of Senator Patrick Leahy Act

Introduced in the Senate by: Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.); Cory Booker (D-N.J.); Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.); Patty Murray (D-Wash.); Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.); Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.)

Introduced in the House by: Representative Ami Bera (D-CA-06)

Background:

Landmines and other unexploded ordnance (UXO) pose grave threats to civilian populations globally and hinder recovery efforts in wartime and after conflicts occur. Senator Leahy's tireless advocacy for humanitarian causes, including UXO eradication and assistance for UXO victims, was instrumental in addressing these challenges. As a result, the United States has been the world's leading advocate and supporter of conventional weapons destruction.

Legislation:

The *Conventional Weapons Destruction and Legacy of Senator Patrick Leahy Act* clarifies and strengthens assistance efforts related to humanitarian demining and the elimination or securing of conventional weapons. The bill builds upon Senator Leahy's legacy and the United States' longstanding commitment to humanitarian causes. The bill:

- Acknowledges Senator Leahy's instrumental role in championing humanitarian causes, including efforts to rid the world of landmines.
- Recognizes the grave threats posed by landmines and other explosive remnants of war to the safety, health, and lives of civilian populations.
- Emphasizes the importance of ensuring the safe return of affected populations to their land, facilitating agricultural productivity, and integrating demining efforts with broader assistance programs.
- Highlights the significant assistance provided by the United States in conventional weapons destruction globally, exceeding \$4.6 billion since 1993, aiding over 120 countries.
- Amends the *Department of State Authorities Act of 2006* to clarify the purposes of assistance related to humanitarian demining and conventional weapons elimination or securing activities. The Act provides a framework for more effective and coordinated assistance efforts, ensuring that resources are directed towards initiatives that have a tangible impact on humanitarian and security outcomes.

Supporting Organizations:

The *Conventional Weapons Destruction and Legacy of Senator Patrick Leahy Act* is endorsed by the HALO Trust and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) America.