

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide clarification of assistance related to safeguarding and the elimination of landmines, other explosive remnants of war, and conventional arms.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. WELCH (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To provide clarification of assistance related to safeguarding and the elimination of landmines, other explosive remnants of war, and conventional arms.

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 “Conventional Weapons  
5 Destruction and Legacy of Senator Patrick Leahy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Landmines and other unexploded ordnance  
9 threaten the safety, health, and lives of civilian pop-

1       ulations and create humanitarian and development  
2       challenges that have serious and lasting social, eco-  
3       nomic, and security consequences for affected popu-  
4       lations.

5               (2) During his 48 years serving in the Senate,  
6       Senator Patrick Leahy, of Vermont, was a leading  
7       voice in United States foreign policy and cham-  
8       pioned numerous humanitarian causes, including  
9       working to rid the world of the scourge of landmines  
10       and other explosive remnants of war.

11              (3) Senator Leahy's legacy on this issue in-  
12       cludes numerous achievements, including in 1989  
13       what was later named the Patrick J. Leahy War  
14       Victims Fund which provides medical and other as-  
15       sistance to victims of landmines and other war-re-  
16       lated disabilities, section 1365 of the National De-  
17       fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (Pub-  
18       lic Law 102-484; 22 U.S.C. 2778 note) (commonly  
19       referred to as the "Landmine Export Moratorium  
20       Act"), which prohibits the export and transfer of  
21       antipersonnel landmines, and working to make the  
22       United States the world leader in humanitarian  
23       demining funding—all of which have saved countless  
24       lives and made real improvements in the livelihoods  
25       of people recovering from conflict.

1           (4) The United States has provided more than  
2           \$4,600,000,000 in conventional weapons destruction  
3           assistance to more than 120 countries and areas  
4           since 1993, including humanitarian demining and  
5           weapons security programs by the Department of  
6           State, the Department of Defense, and the United  
7           States Agency for International Development.

8           (5) Conventional weapons destruction assistance  
9           has saved countless lives around the world, improves  
10          stability and prosperity by clearing landmines and  
11          other explosive remnants of war and returning land  
12          to productive use, builds trust and deepens relation-  
13          ships with key partners to accelerate achievement of  
14          broader United States foreign policy objectives, plays  
15          an important role in addressing other global issues  
16          and United States interests, including food security  
17          and combatting displacement and migration, and  
18          provides employment opportunities to women.

19          (6) United States humanitarian demining pro-  
20          grams, notably those devoted to clearing unexploded  
21          bombs and other munitions from the Vietnam War,  
22          have played a crucial role in building new partner-  
23          ships in regions of geopolitical importance.

24          (7) Globally, in fiscal year 2022, it is estimated  
25          that approximately—

1 (A) 200,100 explosive remnants of war  
2 were destroyed, allowing for 60,200 acres of  
3 land to be cleared and returned to public use;

4 (B) 37,500 landmines and 9,000 impro-  
5 vised explosive devices were destroyed; and

6 (C) 53,700 civilian survivors of explosive  
7 remnants of war injuries were provided assist-  
8 ance and 3,400,000 civilians were provided life-  
9 saving risk education to help avoid injury.

10 (8) Many countries lack the equipment and  
11 technical capacity to properly manage government-  
12 held weapons and ammunition stockpiles, and con-  
13 ventional weapons destruction assistance enhances  
14 United States and international security by destroy-  
15 ing and securing small arms and light weapons, in-  
16 cluding man-portable air defense systems  
17 (MANPADS), at risk of accidental explosions as well  
18 as proliferation to terrorists, insurgents, and other  
19 violent non-state actors.

20 (9) In fiscal year 2022, approximately 14,100  
21 small arms and light weapons, 223 MANPADS and  
22 anti-tank guided missiles systems (ATGMs), and  
23 3,900 metric tons of ammunition were destroyed.

1 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE RELATING TO**  
2 **SAFEGUARDING AND ELIMINATION OF CON-**  
3 **VENTIONAL WEAPONS.**

4 The Department of State Authorities Act of 2006  
5 (Public Law 109–472) is amended by inserting after sec-  
6 tion 11 (22 U.S.C. 2349bb–6) the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 11A. PURPOSES OF ASSISTANCE FOR HUMANITARIAN**  
8 **DEMINING AND ELIMINATION OR SECURING**  
9 **OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.**

10 “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

11 “(1) Landmines and other explosive remnants  
12 of war threaten populations after conflicts end, and  
13 humanitarian demining is a fundamental part of re-  
14 covery from conflict.

15 “(2) Clearing the land of explosive remnants of  
16 war provides quantifiable threat reduction and al-  
17 lows affected persons to return to their homes and  
18 utilize the land.

19 “(3) Agriculture is disproportionately impacted  
20 by unexploded ordnance, endangering farmers and  
21 exacerbating food security. Subsistence farming,  
22 larger-scale agriculture, grazing, and other related  
23 activities are improved through humanitarian  
24 demining.

25 “(4) Decontaminated land can be returned to  
26 use for critical infrastructure development, and

1 many other uses that enhance sustainable recovery  
2 and development.

3 “(5) Risk education bolsters the life-saving ben-  
4 efits of humanitarian demining activities, helping to  
5 minimize preventable injuries through community  
6 engagement, which in turn creates local buy-in and  
7 awareness of this vital assistance being provided by  
8 the United States.

9 “(6) Many countries lack the equipment, re-  
10 sources and facilities, and technical capacity to prop-  
11 erly manage weapons and ammunition stockpiles.  
12 Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) or  
13 Physical Security and Stockpile Management  
14 (PSSM) programs are security sector partnerships  
15 based on the shared objectives of preventing the di-  
16 version of weapons, ammunition, and explosives, as  
17 well as unplanned explosions.

18 “(7) These projects include armory and muni-  
19 tions store construction and rehabilitation, and other  
20 security improvements, weapons and ammunition  
21 disposal, stockpile management training and guide-  
22 lines, needs assessments, stockpile risk assessments,  
23 mitigation and management plans, and marking and  
24 record-keeping.

1           “(8) This assistance, provided to a range of se-  
2           curity forces including local police, is focused on pro-  
3           viding necessary equipment and technical expertise  
4           in a sustainable way, allowing partners to establish,  
5           implement, and train in WAM/PSSM best practices  
6           and compliance, as well as conduct their own safe  
7           disposal of obsolete weapons, ammunition, and mu-  
8           nitions.

9           “(9) These programs not only reduce instability  
10          and civilian harm from armed violence caused by  
11          weapons diversion, but also provide the United  
12          States with key security partnerships. By reducing  
13          armed violence and instability, these programs can  
14          play a crucial role in addressing the root causes of  
15          migration and forced displacement, of particular in-  
16          terest to the United States as it pertains to its  
17          southern border.

18          “(10) Risk education expands the scope of  
19          WAM/PSSM programs beyond the principal partner-  
20          ships, providing training to local police and commu-  
21          nities on safer and more secure weapons storage and  
22          salvage through community engagement that also  
23          saves lives and creates buy-in and awareness of this  
24          vital assistance that is being provided by the United  
25          States.

1           “(b) PURPOSES OF HUMANITARIAN DEMINING AND  
2 CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ELIMINATION OR SECURING  
3 ACTIVITIES.—

4           “(1) HUMANITARIAN DEMINING ACTIVITIES.—  
5       The purposes of the activities authorized in section  
6       11(b)(1) are—

7           “(A) to ensure the return of affected popu-  
8       lations to the safe access to their homes and  
9       land;

10          “(B) to enable affected populations to safe-  
11       ly and productively utilize land for agriculture;

12          “(C) to clear threats from land to permit  
13       and encourage critical infrastructure and other  
14       development;

15          “(D) to educate affected populations about  
16       the dangers of landmines and other unexploded  
17       ordnance as well as United States efforts to  
18       provide the lifesaving benefits of humanitarian  
19       demining activities; and

20          “(E) to integrate humanitarian demining  
21       and related activities with other assistance to  
22       ensure effective recovery from conflict.

23          “(2) CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS ELIMINATION  
24       OR SECURING ACTIVITIES.—The purposes of the ac-  
25       tivities authorized in section 11(b)(3) are—

1           “(A) to ensure the safe securing and diver-  
2           sion prevention of weapons, ammunition, and  
3           explosives in the stores of foreign partners;

4           “(B) to build the capacity of the security  
5           sectors of foreign partners to properly eliminate  
6           or manage weapons and ammunition stockpiles  
7           through WAM, PSSM, and related programs;

8           “(C) to educate local police and other offi-  
9           cials and the wider population at the local level  
10          on safer and more secure weapons storage and  
11          salvage as well as United States efforts to pro-  
12          vide the lifesaving benefits of conventional  
13          weapons elimination, securing, and manage-  
14          ment;

15          “(D) to establish and strengthen security  
16          cooperation with foreign partners to reduce  
17          armed violence and instability in support of im-  
18          portant United States national security and for-  
19          eign policy objectives; and

20          “(E) to integrate conventional weapons  
21          elimination and securing and related activities  
22          with other assistance to ensure effective recov-  
23          ery from conflict.”.