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(Original Signature of Member)

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.**

To address the impending humanitarian crisis and security breakdown as a result of the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries, and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq, by increasing directed accountable assistance to these populations and their host countries, increasing border security, and facilitating the resettlement of Iraqis at risk.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To address the impending humanitarian crisis and security breakdown as a result of the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries, and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq, by increasing directed accountable assistance to these populations and their host countries, increasing border security, and facilitating the resettlement of Iraqis at risk.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Iraqi Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of  
4 2007”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 Congress finds the following:

10 (1) Since the beginning of the war in Iraq, according to the Office of the United Nations High  
11 Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than  
12 2,000,000 Iraqis have fled their homes for neighboring countries to avoid sectarian and other violence.  
15

16 (2) According to the UNHCR, there are  
17 2,200,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in  
18 Iraq, many lacking adequate food, shelter, and other  
19 basic services;

20 (3) The security situation within Iraq reduces  
21 access to the Iraqi population by Iraqi Government  
22 agencies and humanitarian aid providers and greatly  
23 limits the provision of aid.

24 (4) The dispersion of Iraqi refugees in poor  
25 urban areas of host countries makes it exceedingly

1       difficult for humanitarian agencies to identify and  
2       reach these populations.

3           (5) Iraq itself hosts more than 43,000 refugees  
4       from other countries, many of whom were refugees  
5       prior to 2003 and have been displaced in Iraq for a  
6       second time, including many Palestinians.

7           (6) Palestinian refugee camps in Iraq near the  
8       Syrian and Jordanian borders remain in dire need of  
9       humanitarian assistance.

10          (7) Many Iraqis have put their lives and those  
11       of their families at risk by working for the United  
12       States Government, United States companies, and  
13       nongovernmental organizations.

14          (8) Since March 2003, the United States Gov-  
15       ernment has admitted 1,459 Iraqi refugees, while  
16       Jordan, a resource-poor country, has accepted an es-  
17       timated 750,000, Syria an estimated 1,500,000, and  
18       other countries neighboring Iraq have received hun-  
19       dreds of thousands more.

20          (9) Current United States policies governing  
21       the processing of refugees constrain the Department  
22       of Homeland Security from expediting the screening  
23       procedures and increasing the number of Iraqi refu-  
24       gees accepted into the United States.

1           (10) The massive flow of Iraqi refugees into  
2 neighboring host countries has overwhelmed existing  
3 social, economic, and security capacities of such  
4 countries.

5           (11) The Government of Jordan and the Gov-  
6 ernment of Syria require immediate assistance to  
7 adequately assist Iraqi refugee populations, to en-  
8 sure an effective degree of security within their re-  
9 spective countries, and safeguard their borders.

10          (12) Increasing destitution and poverty among  
11 displaced populations provide fertile ground for ex-  
12 tremist ideologies to take root.

13          (13) The Iraq Study group predicted that “[a]  
14 humanitarian catastrophe could follow as more refu-  
15 gees are forced to relocate across the country and  
16 the region.”.

17          (14) The humanitarian crisis in Iraq threatens  
18 to destabilize the entire region and other areas as  
19 well, including Central Asia and Europe.

20          (15) Jordan estimates that it needs more than  
21 \$1,000,000,000 in emergency assistance and Syria  
22 estimates it needs more than \$250,000,000 in simi-  
23 lar assistance to adequately provide for the refugee  
24 populations they are hosting, ensure an effective de-

1       gree of security within their respective countries,  
2       and safeguard their borders.

3           (16) The United States policy is to admit at  
4       least half of the refugees referred by the UNHCR.  
5       In 2007, UNHCR referred more than 9,500 cases to  
6       the United States. The United States pledged to re-  
7       settle 7,000 Iraqi refugees in 2007, later reduced to  
8       2,000, a commitment which has yet to be met.

9       **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10       It is the sense of Congress that—

11           (1) Iraqi refugees and IDPs will have an impact  
12       on the security of the region and the short and long-  
13       term effects of their displacement must be consid-  
14       ered within overall United States Iraq policy;

15           (2) the United States must demonstrate its  
16       commitment to resettle Iraqi refugees and to work  
17       with other governments, including the member states  
18       of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in  
19       Europe, to encourage them to do the same; and

20           (3) the United States should express its grati-  
21       tude and support to host countries for providing hu-  
22       manitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees, as well as to  
23       those countries that have already resettled Iraqi ref-  
24       ugees.

1 **SEC. 4. STATEMENTS OF POLICY.**

2 The following shall be the policies of the United  
3 States:

4 (1) To spearhead efforts to provide for the re-  
5 lief of Iraqi refugees and IDPs, to take the lead in  
6 funding assistance requests from the UNHCR and  
7 other humanitarian agencies, and to assist in the re-  
8 settlement of Iraqi refugees, particularly those who  
9 have risked their lives and the lives of their families  
10 to assist the United States in Iraq.

11 (2) To develop immediately a comprehensive  
12 program to support the host countries and meet the  
13 needs of the growing Iraqi refugee and IDP popu-  
14 lations, and appoint a high-level coordinator to en-  
15 sure expeditious and effective implementation of  
16 such a program.

17 (3) To work with the Government of Iraq to  
18 help it improve its capacity and ability to provide re-  
19 lief for internally displaced persons in all commu-  
20 nities throughout the country and to provide assist-  
21 ance to Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries.

22 (4) To commit to working with international  
23 partners, including the United Nations, donor coun-  
24 tries, international financial institutions, and inter-  
25 national and indigenous nongovernmental organiza-  
26 tions to assist in providing for the emergency, me-

1 dium, and long-term humanitarian needs of Iraqi  
2 refugees and IDPs.

3 **SEC. 5. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR IRAQI REFUGEES**  
4 **AND IDPS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each country con-  
6 taining a significant population of Iraqi refugees or IDPs,  
7 including Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Iran, and Lebanon,  
8 the Secretary of State shall provide bilateral assistance to  
9 such countries, as appropriate, or funding to international  
10 aid organizations and nongovernmental organizations in  
11 accordance with subsection (b) that are working in such  
12 countries, to provide such refugees and IDPs with human-  
13 itarian assistance, including adequate food, shelter, clean  
14 drinking water, sanitation, health care, education, and se-  
15 curity.

16 (b) ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING.—Assistance and  
17 funding under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of—

18 (1) contributions to the UNHCR that are not  
19 less than 50 percent of the amount requested by the  
20 UNHCR for 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 for aid to  
21 Iraqi refugees;

22 (2) contributions to the International Federa-  
23 tion of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and other  
24 nongovernmental organizations working in such  
25 countries to provide aid to Iraqi refugees; and

1           (3) contributions and technical assistance to  
2           relevant ministries of the Government of Iraq, con-  
3           tingent on matching Government of Iraq funding of  
4           assistance programs for IDPs and Iraqi refugees in  
5           neighboring countries, together with appropriate  
6           monitoring mechanisms.

7           (c) SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO IDPs.—The  
8           Secretary of State shall make every effort to ensure that  
9           the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable IDP popu-  
10          lations, including women, children, and religious and other  
11          minorities, are met, including increased resources to im-  
12          prove the registration capabilities of nongovernmental or-  
13          ganizations for such IDPs, adequate food, shelter, clean  
14          drinking water, sanitation, health care, education, and se-  
15          curity .

16          (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
17          authorized to be appropriated \$700,000,000 for each of  
18          fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 to carry out this sec-  
19          tion. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this authorization  
20          shall be in addition to amounts otherwise available for  
21          such purposes.

22       **SEC. 6. IMPROVED BORDER SECURITY.**

23          (a) SECURITY SCREENING OF REFUGEES.—

24               (1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable but  
25               not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-

1       ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department  
2       of Homeland Security, in cooperation with the Sec-  
3       retary of State, shall establish a program to assist  
4       in improving the capacity of Jordanian border police,  
5       immigration officers, and other individuals who are  
6       responsible for Jordanian border security functions  
7       in the security screening of Iraqi refugees to deter-  
8       mine the eligibility of such refugees for acceptance  
9       in Jordan.

10           (2) SCOPE OF ASSISTANCE.—The program de-  
11       scribed in paragraph (1) shall be extended to ports  
12       of entry at Jordanian land, sea, and air borders and  
13       may include the following subject matter areas:

14           (A) Police and border guard training, in  
15       order to conduct threat assessments of each ref-  
16       ugee, detect threat items and contraband in the  
17       possession or on the person of a refugee, and  
18       identify any linkages of a refugee to terrorists  
19       or terrorist organizations.

20           (B) Travel documentation authentication,  
21       including equipment and training, in order to  
22       aid in the verification of the authenticity of  
23       passports and other travel documents presented  
24       by refugees.

1           (C) Technology, including biometric equip-  
2           ment for capturing a unique biometric of each  
3           refugee to be matched with their biographic  
4           data, and the establishment of a database for  
5           such information, and remotely-piloted aircraft,  
6           cameras, and sensors for border surveillance,  
7           including the collection of intelligence to  
8           counter smuggling and other criminal activities  
9           along the borders.

10           (D) Personnel, for the purpose of inter-  
11           dicting the illegal movement of people, weapons,  
12           and other contraband across the border, includ-  
13           ing an increase in the number of border police  
14           and officers providing investigative support to  
15           border security functions.

16           (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
17           are authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 to carry  
18           out this section.

19           **SEC. 7. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS.**

20           (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
21           sion of law, for purposes of the Immigration and Nation-  
22           ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), the Secretary of Home-  
23           land Security may provide an alien described in subsection  
24           (b) with the status of a special immigrant under section

1 101(a)(27) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), if the  
2 alien—

3 (1) is otherwise eligible to receive an immigrant  
4 visa; and

5 (2) is otherwise admissible to the United States  
6 for permanent residence.

7 (b) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—

8 (1) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—An alien is described  
9 in this subsection if the alien—

10 (A) is a national of Iraq;

11 (B) was employed by, or worked for or  
12 with, the United States Government, United  
13 States companies, or nongovernmental organi-  
14 zations in Iraq on or after March 19, 2003, for  
15 a period of not less than one year; and

16 (C) fears reprisal, persecution, injury, or  
17 death to the alien or the alien's family due to  
18 the employment or work of the alien referred to  
19 in subparagraph (B).

20 (2) SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.—An alien is de-  
21 scribed in this subsection if the alien is—

22 (A) the spouse or child of a principal alien  
23 described in paragraph (1); and

24 (B) is following or accompanying to join  
25 the principal alien in the United States.

1 (c) BENEFITS.—Aliens provided special immigrant  
2 status under this section shall be eligible for the same re-  
3 settlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other  
4 benefits as refugees admitted under section 207 of the Im-  
5 migration and Naturalization Act (8 U.S.C. 1157).

6 (d) PROTECTION OF ALIENS.—The Secretary of  
7 State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant  
8 Federal agencies, shall provide an alien described in this  
9 section who is applying for a special immigrant visa with  
10 protection or the immediate removal from Iraq if the Sec-  
11 retary determines that such alien fears reprisal, persecu-  
12 tion, injury, or death to the alien or the alien's family due  
13 to the employment or work of the alien referred to in para-  
14 graph (1)(B).

15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
16 authorized to be appropriated \$500,000,000 for each of  
17 fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 to carry out this sec-  
18 tion. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this authorization  
19 shall be in addition to amounts otherwise available for  
20 such purposes.

21 **SEC. 8. EXPEDITED PROCESSING OF IRAQI REFUGEES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-  
24 land Security, in cooperation with the Secretary of State,  
25 shall make every effort to streamline the screening and

1 security investigations processes for assessing the eligi-  
2 bility of Iraqi applicants for refugee status in the United  
3 States.

4 (b) PRIORITIZATION.—In carrying out subsection (a),  
5 the Secretary shall—

6 (1) give priority to Iraqis who—

7 (A) were employed by the United States  
8 Government, United States companies, and  
9 nongovernmental organizations; or

10 (B) are members of particularly vulnerable  
11 refugee populations, including Iraqis from eth-  
12 nically mixed families and Iraqis who are mem-  
13 bers of religious or other minority groups; and

14 (2) increase by 100 percent the number of per-  
15 sonnel of the Department of Homeland Security who  
16 conduct security reviews of Iraqi applicants for ref-  
17 ugee status in the United States.

18 (c) NUMBERS.—For each of fiscal years 2008, 2009,  
19 and 2010, up to 20,000 Iraqis may be accepted into the  
20 United States as refugees under this section.

21 **SEC. 9. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.**

22 The Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Sec-  
23 retary of Homeland Security, shall work with the inter-  
24 national community, including the United Nations, the  
25 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the

1 European Union, the Organization of American States,  
2 the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and others  
3 to establish mechanisms to provide—

4 (1) financial assistance to Iraqi refugee and  
5 IDP populations through bilateral assistance to host  
6 governments or through international organizations  
7 that are working directly with such refugee and in-  
8 ternally displaced populations;

9 (2) technical and financial assistance to inter-  
10 national organizations in order to process refugees;  
11 and

12 (3) increased attention to and advocacy on be-  
13 half of Iraqi refugees and IDPs by continuing to  
14 strongly support the work of the UNHCR and its  
15 donor conferences.

16 **SEC. 10. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

17 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
18 ment of this Act and every six months thereafter, the Sec-  
19 retary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign  
20 Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House  
21 of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-  
22 tions and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate  
23 a report regarding implementation of this Act, including—

24 (1) assistance and funding to host countries  
25 and international aid organizations and nongovern-

1        mental organizations pursuant to section 5, and ac-  
2        countability reports regarding how such funds are  
3        being expended;

4            (2) measures taken by the United States to in-  
5        crease its capabilities to process Iraqi refugees for  
6        resettlement and the number of Iraqi refugees reset-  
7        tled under sections 7 and 8; and

8            (3) an evaluation of the effectiveness of meas-  
9        ures implemented by agencies of the Government of  
10       Iraq to provide direct assistance to IDPs and Iraqi  
11       refugees in neighboring countries.