

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4516

To require the Secretary of State to ensure that commodities procured for the purpose of foreign assistance are made available to intended beneficiaries before such commodities expire, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2025

Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. MENG, Mr. AMO, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to ensure that commodities procured for the purpose of foreign assistance are made available to intended beneficiaries before such commodities expire, 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 “Saving Lives and Tax-
5 payer Dollars Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Foreign assistance commodities, including
2 food, medicine, family planning products, and vac-
3 cines, provide critical support to people who are re-
4 covering from the aftermath of natural disasters,
5 fleeing conflict or war, residing in refugee camps, or
6 living in developing communities with limited access
7 to health care.

8 (2) United States investments in global health
9 bolster economic growth for partner countries,
10 produce returns on investment for the United States
11 economy, create an estimated 600,000 jobs in the
12 United States, and generated an estimated
13 \$104,000,000,000 in economic activity during the
14 15-year period between 2007 and 2022.

15 (3) Reliable access to vaccines and medications,
16 including pre-exposure prophylaxis and antiretroviral
17 drugs to prevent the spread of HIV and vaccines to
18 prevent the transmission of communicable diseases
19 such as polio and drug-resistant tuberculosis, makes
20 everyone safer.

21 (4) United States food assistance benefits
22 United States farmers, ranchers, and agribusinesses,
23 while addressing global food insecurity. United
24 States farmers annually supply an estimated 40 per-

1 cent of all international food assistance, which is val-
2 ued at approximately \$2,000,000,000.

3 (5) Greater access to family planning products
4 and services has the potential to prevent up to 30
5 percent of the 295,000 annual maternal deaths and
6 save the lives of approximately 1,400,000 children
7 who are younger than 5 years old.

8 (6) The voluntary destruction of foreign assist-
9 ance commodities intended for beneficiaries at risk
10 of food insecurity and famine, sexual violence, ma-
11 ternal and infant death and disease is unethical and
12 contrary to United States interests and moral obli-
13 gations.

14 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON THE DESTRUCTION OF FOREIGN**
15 **ASSISTANCE PRODUCTS AND COMMODITIES.**

16 Section 102 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
17 (22 U.S.C. 2151–1) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
19 following:

20 “(18) Perishable and nonperishable foreign as-
21 sistance commodities and products, including medi-
22 cine, vaccines, medical devices, food, and food com-
23 modities that are procured, managed, controlled, or
24 held in warehouses, ships, shipping containers, or
25 any other storage facility, by the United States Gov-

1 ernment or by a foreign assistance implementing
2 partner of the United States Government shall be
3 made available to intended beneficiaries, including
4 through donation, for their intended purpose and be-
5 fore the date on which such commodities and prod-
6 ucts spoil or expire.”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(d)(1) If any commodity is in the possession or con-
9 trol of a foreign assistance implementing partner of the
10 United States, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Ag-
11 riculture, or the Administrator of the United States Agen-
12 cy for International Development, as appropriate, shall, on
13 an expedited basis, release such funds as may be necessary
14 to ensure the delivery or donation of the commodity to
15 the intended beneficiaries before the date the commodity
16 spoils or expires.

17 “(2) No commodity may be destroyed unless every
18 effort has been made to sell, donate, or otherwise make
19 the commodity available (whichever is more likely to en-
20 sure the commodity will be received and used by the in-
21 tended beneficiaries) before the date the commodity spoils
22 or expires.

23 “(3)(A) Not later than 90 days after the date of the
24 enactment of the Saving Lives and Taxpayer Dollars Act,
25 and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordi-

1 nation with the Administrator of the United States Agen-
2 cy for International Development and the Secretary of Ag-
3 riculture, as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate
4 congressional committees a report that describes any com-
5 modity that, during the year prior to the date of the sub-
6 mission of the report expired, spoiled, or was destroyed
7 prior to the delivery of such commodity to an intended
8 beneficiary.

9 “(B) Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall
10 include, for each expired, spoiled, or destroyed commodity
11 described—

12 “(i) a description of all negotiations, plans, and
13 efforts to make the commodity available to the in-
14 tended beneficiaries;

15 “(ii) the reason the commodity was not made
16 available to the intended beneficiaries;

17 “(iii) the intended purpose of the commodity;

18 “(iv) a list of the geographic locations of all in-
19 tended beneficiaries of the commodity, by country or
20 region, as appropriate;

21 “(v) the procured and market value of the com-
22 modity; and

23 “(vi) the cost incurred to destroy or dispose of
24 the commodity.

25 “(4) In this subsection—

1 “(A) the term ‘appropriate congressional com-
2 mittees’ means—

3 “(i) the Committee on Appropriations and
4 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
5 of Representatives; and

6 “(ii) the Committee on Appropriations and
7 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
8 ate.

9 “(B) the term ‘commodity’ means a perishable
10 or nonperishable commodity or product (including
11 medicine, vaccines, medical devices, food, and food
12 commodities) that is procured, managed, controlled,
13 or held in warehouses, ships, shipping containers, or
14 any other storage facility, by the United States Gov-
15 ernment or by a foreign assistance implementing
16 partner of the United States Government for the
17 purpose of providing foreign assistance.”.

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