

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To authorize assistance to support activities relating to the clearance of landmines, unexploded ordnance, and other explosive remnants of war in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, to recognize the refugee and immigrant communities that supported and defended the United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia in the 1960s and 1970s, including Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Americans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

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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.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Legacies of War Rec-
3 ognition and Unexploded Ordnance Removal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-**
7 **GRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
8 gress” means—

9 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
10 the Senate;

11 (B) the Committee on Armed Services of
12 the Senate;

13 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
14 the Senate;

15 (D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
16 the House of Representatives;

17 (E) the Committee on Armed Services of
18 the House of Representatives; and

19 (F) the Committee on Appropriations of
20 the House of Representatives.

21 (2) **ARMED FORCES.**—The term “Armed
22 Forces” means the United States Armed Forces.

23 (3) **UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE; UXO.**—The
24 terms “unexploded ordnance” and “UXO” have the
25 meaning given the term “unexploded ordnance” in
26 section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 3. RECOGNITION OF THE COMMUNITIES THAT SUP-**
2 **PORTED AND DEFENDED THE UNITED**
3 **STATES ARMED FORCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) During the conflict in Southeast Asia dur-
6 ing the 1960s and 1970s, many Hmong, Cham,
7 Cambodians, Iu Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and
8 Vietnamese people—

9 (A) supported the Armed Forces;

10 (B) rescued United States pilots shot down
11 in enemy-controlled territory and returned the
12 pilots to safety;

13 (C) gathered and provided intelligence to
14 the Armed Forces about enemy troop positions,
15 movement, and strength; and

16 (D) provided food, shelter, and support to
17 members of the Armed Forces.

18 (2) The national armed forces of Cambodia fa-
19 cilitated the evacuation of the United States Em-
20 bassy in Phnom Penh on April 12, 1975, by fighting
21 Khmer Rouge forces that advanced upon the capital.

22 (3) A tragic legacy of this conflict in Southeast
23 Asia is the lethal risk posed by landmines,
24 unexploded ordnance, and explosive remnants of war
25 in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia that still litter for-
26 ests, rice fields, villages, school grounds, roads, and

1 other populated areas, which hinders development
2 and efforts to reduce poverty.

3 (4) Vietnam remains one of the world's most
4 contaminated countries, with an estimated 800,000
5 tons of UXO left over from the conflict in Southeast
6 Asia that ended more than 40 years ago. Since
7 1975, UXO accidents have caused more than
8 105,000 casualties, including more than 38,000
9 deaths of Vietnamese civilians.

10 (5) In Laos, much of the country's land re-
11 mains contaminated with tens of millions of small,
12 unexploded cluster munitions. Since 1964, UXO and
13 other explosive remnants of war have injured or
14 killed more than 50,000 civilians in Laos.

15 (6) Cambodia has experienced one of the high-
16 est rates of landmine and UXO casualties in the
17 world. Since 1979, more than 64,000 Cambodians
18 have been injured or killed by landmines, UXO, or
19 other explosive remnants of war.

20 (7) The United States is the world's leading fi-
21 nancial supporter of demining and programs to re-
22 move UXO. Since 1993, the United States has pro-
23 vided more than \$4,200,000,000 in assistance for lo-
24 cating and destroying UXO and other explosive rem-
25 nants of war and related programs in more than 100

1 countries, including more than \$185,000,000 in
2 Vietnam, \$310,000,000 in Laos, and \$180,000,000
3 in Cambodia.

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

6 (1) the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu Mien,
7 Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese people de-
8 serve recognition for their support and defense of
9 the Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast
10 Asia; and

11 (2) the United States should continue to sup-
12 port activities to clear landmines, UXO, and other
13 explosive remnants of war and to provide related as-
14 sistance in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, while
15 strengthening people-to-people ties and reaffirming
16 the long-standing commitment of the United States
17 to Southeast Asia.

18 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE FOR VIETNAM,**
19 **LAOS, AND CAMBODIA.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide hu-
21 manitarian assistance to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia
22 for programs to support—

23 (1) the development or updating of national
24 surveys of landmines, UXO, and other explosive
25 remnants of war;

1 (2) the clearance of such landmines, UXO, and
2 other explosive remnants of war;

3 (3) stockpile management of small arms, light
4 weapons, and ammunition;

5 (4) capacity building, risk education, destruc-
6 tion, and physical security related to landmines,
7 UXO, and other explosive remnants of war; and

8 (5) survivors of incidents involving landmines,
9 UXO, and other explosive remnants of war, includ-
10 ing by providing medical assistance and prosthetic
11 devices related to landmines, UXO, and other explo-
12 sive remnants of war.

13 (b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the
14 President shall seek to consult, partner, and coordinate
15 with international organizations, civil societies, donor gov-
16 ernments, and other stakeholders, as the President deter-
17 mines appropriate, to leverage the expertise, financial sup-
18 port, and resources of such entities to minimize duplica-
19 tion of efforts and maximize the efficient and effective pro-
20 vision of assistance from the United States.

21 (c) REPORT AND BRIEFINGS.—

22 (1) REPORT.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the

1 clearance efforts in Vietnam, Laos, and
2 Cambodia;

3 (iii) estimates of how much—

4 (I) contaminated land has been
5 cleared;

6 (II) land that still contains land-
7 mines, UXO, and other explosive rem-
8 nants of war; and

9 (III) land that has not been as-
10 sessed for contamination;

11 (iv) data on the origin of any anti-
12 personnel mines cleared, to the extent pos-
13 sible;

14 (v) a description of collaboration be-
15 tween the United States and the govern-
16 ments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in-
17 cluding past and current progress in estab-
18 lishing nationwide contamination databases
19 in such countries to refine landmine, UXO,
20 and other explosive remnants of war loca-
21 tions and target clearance efforts; and

22 (vi) an assessment of the efforts of
23 the Department of State to work with the
24 Government of the Lao People's Demo-
25 cratic Republic regarding the repatriation

1 of, and the efforts to reintegrate into Lao-
2 tian society, those of Hmonh, Lao, Khmu,
3 lu Mien, or Yao descent who arrived in the
4 United States as refugees, but have since
5 been removed from the United States.

6 (2) BRIEFINGS.—The President shall provide
7 an annually briefing to the appropriate committees
8 of Congress regarding the activities undertaken pur-
9 suant to this section for each year for which
10 amounts are authorized to be appropriated under
11 subsection (d).

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to the President
14 \$100,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025 through
15 2029 to carry out this section.