

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To recognize the refugee and immigrant communities from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam including the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Americans who supported and defended the Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia, authorize assistance to support activities relating to clearance of unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war, 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

To recognize the refugee and immigrant communities from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam including the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Americans who supported and defended the Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia, authorize assistance to support activities relating to clearance of unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war, 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,*

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. RECOGNITION OF THE HMONG, CHAM, CAMBODIAN,**
5 **IU-MIEN, KHMU, LAO, MONTAGNARD, AND VI-**
6 **ETNAMESE COMMUNITIES WHO SUPPORTED**
7 **AND DEFENDED THE ARMED FORCES IN**
8 **SOUTHEAST ASIA.**

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

10 (1) Many Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien,
11 Khmu, Lao, Montagnard and Vietnamese—

12 (A) fought and died with United States
13 Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast
14 Asia in the 1960s and 1970s;

15 (B) rescued United States pilots shot down
16 in enemy-controlled territory and returned the
17 pilots to safety;

18 (C) gathered and provided to the United
19 States Armed Forces intelligence about enemy
20 troop positions, movement, and strength; and

21 (D) provided food, shelter, and support to
22 the United States Armed Forces.

23 (2) The National Armed Forces of Cambodia
24 facilitated the evacuation of the United States Em-
25 bassy in Phnom Penh on April 12, 1975, by con-

1 continuing to fight Khmer Rouge forces as they ad-
2 vanced upon the capital.

3 (3) The unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Viet-
4 nam, Laos, and Cambodia that still litter forests,
5 rice fields, villages, school grounds, roads, and other
6 populated areas hinder development and poverty re-
7 duction efforts.

8 (4) Vietnam remains one of the world's most
9 contaminated countries, with an estimated 800,000
10 tons of UXO left over from the conflict in Southeast
11 Asia that ended more than 40 years ago. Since
12 1975, mine and UXO accidents have caused more
13 than 105,000 casualties, including more than 38,000
14 deaths of Vietnamese civilians.

15 (5) In Laos, much of the country's land re-
16 mains contaminated with tens of millions of small,
17 unexploded cluster munitions. Since 1964, explosive
18 remnants of war have injured or killed more than
19 50,000 civilians in Laos.

20 (6) Cambodia has experienced one of the high-
21 est rates of landmine and UXO casualties in the
22 world. Over 64,000 Cambodians have been killed or
23 injured by UXO and other explosive remnants of
24 war since 1979.

1 (7) The United States is the world's leading fi-
2 nancial supporter of demining and UXO removal
3 programs. Since 1993, the United States has worked
4 to locate and destroy UXO and other explosive rem-
5 nants of war in more than 100 countries, including
6 in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

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

9 (1) the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien,
10 Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Ameri-
11 cans deserve recognition for their support and de-
12 fense of the United States Armed Forces during the
13 conflict in Southeast Asia; and

14 (2) the United States should continue to sup-
15 port activities to clear UXO and other explosive rem-
16 nants of war in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and
17 strengthen people-to-people ties and reaffirm Amer-
18 ica's long-standing commitment to Southeast Asia.

19 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE FOR VIETNAM,**
20 **LAOS, AND CAMBODIA.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to
22 provide humanitarian assistance for programs to support
23 the activities described in subsection (b).

1 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Activities that may be
2 supported by assistance under subsection (a) include the
3 following:

4 (1) Developing national surveys of unexploded
5 ordnance (UXO) and other explosive remnants of
6 war in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

7 (2) Providing for clearance of such UXO and
8 other explosive remnants of war.

9 (3) Providing assistance for capacity building,
10 risk education, and assistance to survivors, including
11 medical assistance and prosthetic devices, in Viet-
12 nam, Laos, and Cambodia related to both UXO and
13 other explosive remnants of war.

14 (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the
15 President shall seek to consult, partner, and coordinate
16 with international organizations, civil society, donor gov-
17 ernments, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to lever-
18 age their expertise, financial support, and resources to
19 minimize duplication of efforts and maximize the efficient
20 and effective provision of United States assistance.

21 (d) BRIEFINGS.—

22 (1) ANNUAL BRIEFINGS.—The President shall
23 provide annual briefings to the appropriate commit-
24 tees of Congress on activities undertaken in accord-
25 ance with this section.

1 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
2 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-
3 priate committees of Congress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
5 the Committee on Armed Services, and the
6 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
7 and

8 (B) the Committee of Foreign Affairs, the
9 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
10 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives.

12 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry
14 out this section \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
15 through 2026.