

COVID-19 International Response and Recovery Act
Section-by-Section

Title I - Enhancing Protection of American Citizens Abroad During a Pandemic

- Sec. 111 Provides for approximately \$15.7 million in FY21 funding for emergency evacuations of U.S. nationals during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sec. 112 Authorizes the Secretary of State to pay expenses related to evacuations of U.S. nationals on a non-reimbursable basis taking into account the financial need of such individuals.
- Sec. 113 Requires the Secretary of State to petition foreign governments to permit intra-country travel for U.S. nationals where countries have closed borders and/or airspace.
- Sec. 114 Requires explicit guidance for U.S. missions worldwide to protect U.S. nationals and maintain increased staffing of Consular Affairs Task Force 2 for 45 days after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sec. 115 Establishes a repatriation task force in response to certain epidemics and pandemics, requires a comprehensive approach to incident management for the National Passport Center and the National Visa Center during national emergencies, and provides increased staffing authority to the Department of State in such circumstances.
- Sec. 116 Requires a comprehensive after-action report on how to improve future performance of American Citizen Services during a global health crisis, and requires semi-annual worldwide remote drills for all consular systems and personnel.

Title II – Global Programming and Authorities

Subtitle A – United States Leadership and Multilateral Issues

- Sec. 201 Expresses the sense of Congress on the importance of robust U.S. leadership on COVID-19 response, including in multilateral fora like the G7, G20, United Nations, and international financial institutions.
- Sec. 202 Directs the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations to increase U.S. leadership and influence at the United Nations Security Council related to COVID-19. Restores U.S. funding to the World Health Organization (WHO) and requests a report on the Administration’s review of the WHO. Authorizes appropriation of approximately \$2.8 billion for timely payments to the United Nations system, as well as the payment of U.S. arrears to the WHO and the Pan American Health Organization.
- Sec. 203 Authorizes \$200 million to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, is a global coalition that coordinates efforts to development new vaccines to prevent and contain infectious diseases.
- Sec. 204 Authorizes the support of humanitarian and development assistance related to the COVID-19 response through U.S. combatant commands.
- Sec. 205 Directs the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to conduct a comprehensive assessment of foreign health systems in countries where the United States

is supporting health programs to ensure that U.S. government supported health programs improve a country's ability to detect, prevent, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks, such as COVID-19 and Ebola. Directs USAID to lead interagency efforts to work with relevant stakeholders to develop shared core indicators for strengthened health systems, and mandates the establishment of an interagency working group led by USAID to track progress on U.S. government activities related to health systems strengthening.

Sec. 206 Amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 to incorporate language on health systems strengthening.

Sec. 207 Authorization of \$1 billion for an immediate contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism.

Subtitle B – International Economic Pandemic Response

Sec. 211 Expresses the sense of Congress that U.S. foreign assistance and finance must improve resilience capacities to better the ability of people, institutions, and systems to cope with and recovery from shocks and stresses, such as COVID-19.

Sec. 212 Mandates that the U.S. Executive Director to the World Bank use the voice and vote of the United States to advocate for the establishment of a multi-donor trust fund to incentivize countries to develop and implement credible national action plans aimed at preventing, detecting, and responding to epidemics and pandemics.

Sec. 213 Expresses the sense of Congress that the DFC use its resources and authorities to help mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Sec. 214 Prohibits the transfer of sovereign loan guarantees to the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

Sec. 215 Establishes a new surge financing authority at the DFC that would allow the DFC the ability to expedite decisions and make strategic investments quickly, as necessary, to aid in COVID-19 reconstruction efforts.

Sec. 216 Expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should provide such sums as may be necessary for the Currency Exchange Fund to help promote stability in both foreign and domestic currencies.

Sec. 217 Expresses the sense of Congress that the President should enter into negotiations related to selling, reducing, or cancelling amounts owed to the United States for bilateral credit partners in immediate need of debt restructuring.

Sec. 218 Mandates clearing U.S. arrears to the World Bank.

Subtitle C – Refugee, Humanitarian, and Migration Provisions

Sec. 231 Directs the Administration to resume refugee resettlement operations and make appropriate adjustments to the annual allocation and ceiling to account for delays due to travel restrictions and the suspension of global refugee resettlement resulting from COVID-19. Extends visas and re-entry deadlines for refugees and Special Immigrant

Visa holders. Authorizes appropriation of over \$600 million for domestic refugee resettlement operations.

- Sec. 232 Requires the Administration to take specific steps to ensure safe and efficient humanitarian operations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requests a report on humanitarian access within significant countries impacted by the pandemic, and authorizes \$4.4 billion to address urgent humanitarian needs across the globe.
- Sec. 233 Strengthens programs and other activities to address gender-based violence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and restores U.S. funding to the United Nations Population Fund.
- Sec. 234 Recognizes violations of human rights occurring throughout the globe in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and authorizes funding for civil society and human rights defenders in countries where emergency measures have violated internationally recognized human rights. Requires the Department of State to report to Congress on possible human rights violations committed by countries receiving security assistance from the United States, as well as on human rights abuses during the COVID-19 pandemic for countries and territories including in the Department of State's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

Subtitle D – Other Regional Matters

- Sec. 241 Authorizes the use of appropriated funds for international disaster assistance in furtherance of health-related COVID-19 response efforts in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Sec. 242 Expresses the sense of Congress on the conditions faced by asylum seekers in Mexican border communities. Terminates the authorization for the Migrant Protection Protocols.
- Sec. 243 Limits deportations to countries with weak public health systems until the Department of Homeland Security implements a protocol to test foreign nationals for COVID-19 prior to removal.
- Sec. 244 Expresses the sense of Congress that the President should ensure that U.S. sanctions do not inhibit the delivery and availability of humanitarian relief for Iran, and that the Government of Iran should immediately release from prison all politically-held dual nationals who may be at risk for contracting COVID-19.
- Sec. 245 Expresses the sense of Congress that the President should ensure that U.S. sanctions do not inhibit the delivery and availability of humanitarian relief for Venezuela, and that the Maduro regime should permit the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- Sec. 246 Expresses the sense of Congress that the President should ensure that U.S. sanctions do not inhibit the delivery and availability of humanitarian relief for the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (DPRK), and that the Government of the DPRK should immediately release all political prisoners held at political prisons and reeducation camps who may be at increased risk for contracting COVID-19.
- Sec. 247 Expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should work closely with the European Union to lead an international response to the humanitarian and economic implications of COVID-19, calls upon the United States to coordinate with the European

Union on international humanitarian and development assistance efforts, encourages scientists from the United States and the European Union to work together to develop effective treatments and a vaccine, and calls for enhanced intelligence cooperation to counter Chinese and Russian disinformation efforts.

Sec. 248 Authorization for the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Director of an international financial institution to use the voice and vote of the United States to support assistance for Sudan related to Sudan's response or recovery from COVID-19.

Title III – United States Government Organization and Authorities

Subtitle A – Enhancing United States Government Response to Pandemics

Sec. 301 Mandates that USAID lead the international development response, the Department of State lead the diplomatic response, and CDC serve as the medical lead for pandemic outbreaks such as COVID-19.

Sec. 302 Establishes a Special Advisor to the President for Global Health Security who will chair a Global Health Security Agenda Interagency Review Council and coordinate the U.S. government response to global health security emergencies, as well as domestic and international efforts to implement the Global Health Security Agenda.

Sec. 303 Requires the Special Advisor to the President for Global Health Security to develop and report to Congress annually on a strategy to improve the ability of countries to prevent, detect, and respond to health crises including outbreaks of infectious diseases with epidemic and pandemic potential, such as COVID-19 and Ebola, and to collaborate with other countries to detect and mitigate outbreaks of infectious diseases with epidemic and pandemic potential early in order to prevent the spread of disease.

Sec. 304 Requires consultation with Congress before restricting travel to or from the United States.

Sec. 305 Expresses the sense of Congress that the United States and all of its officers and employees should consistently use the WHO-recommended term "COVID-19" in domestic and international contexts.

Subtitle B – Other United States Government Authorities

Sec. 311 Expresses the sense of Congress on expedited procurement of personal protective equipment for use by U.S. government personnel supporting U.S. citizens, and expedited COVID-19 testing for U.S. government personnel overseas.

Sec. 312 Requires a report on a comprehensive plan for risk mitigation procedures for overseas employees and first responders.

Sec. 313 Requires DHS to automatically extend the immigration status, period of lawful presence and employment authorization for foreign nationals currently in the U.S. with temporary protected status, deferred action, nonimmigrant status, or period of authorized stay during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Sec. 314 Expresses the sense of Congress on helping foreign assistance recipients mitigate effects from the loss of operations and economic disruption related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sec. 315 Expresses the sense of Congress that the spread of disinformation, myths, conspiracies, and misinformation on COVID-19 can result in consequences that harm public security and health.
- Sec. 316 Authorizes \$15 million for the United States Agency for Global Media for fiscal year 2021 to enhance reporting on COVID-19; expand efforts to counter disinformation on COVID-19; increase staff, resources, and training; and enhance and upgrade information technology to respond to the pandemic. Expresses the sense of Congress on activities carried out by Voice of America, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks.
- Sec. 317 Expresses the sense of Congress that the Global Engagement Center should be funded through the Department of State budget and continue to expose misinformation regarding COVID-19, and provides additional hiring authorities for a period of three years.
- Sec. 318 Adds the returned Peace Corps volunteers, whose service was cut short as a result of mandatory evacuation orders due to COVID-19, to the set of qualified workers named in the CARES Act eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.
- Sec. 319 Establishes parity with the Department of State and USAID for the U.S. Government's independent foreign affairs agencies with respect to modified leave and flexible work schedules, while precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 remain in place.
- Sec. 320 Allows the Millennium Challenge Corporation to extend mandatory timelines for delivering compacts due to potential COVID-19-related disruptions.
- Sec. 321 Requires an annual National Intelligence Estimate on global health security issues, including a congressional briefing.
- Sec. 322 Requires all Federal departments, agencies, and other Federal entities that receive funds for, or undertake any activity related to the COVID-19 response, to conduct their operations in accordance with the requirements of the Government in the Sunshine Act.