

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Global Partnerships Act of 2012

Overview:

Today, more than ever, our health, security, and prosperity depend on a world in which basic human needs are met, fundamental rights and freedoms are respected, conflicts are resolved peacefully and the world's resources are used wisely. There is no escaping our obligations to help foster this environment. Not only are we morally bound to do so, but our economic and political interests demand that we address widespread poverty and chaos in the world.

Aid is not a gift. The United States provides foreign assistance because it serves our interests. Helping countries become more democratic, more stable, more capable of defending themselves and better at pulling themselves out of poverty is just as important for us as it is for them. Our task therefore, is to make sure that we provide this assistance in the most efficient and effective way possible.

The Global Partnerships Act of 2012 replaces the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, which serves as the foundation for U.S. international aid programs, as well as the Arms Export Control Act, which contains additional authorities for arms sales and military assistance. This bill modernizes the full spectrum of overseas programs, from development to democracy to security assistance.

Why This Reform Is Needed:

Currently, our foreign aid is governed by an architecture developed during the Cold War to address the problems of the 20th century. To address the challenges of the 21st century while navigating this tight budget environment, we must undertake a wholesale reform of our system for delivering foreign assistance to make it more efficient, more effective, and better at serving America's interests abroad.

Purposes Of Assistance:

- Reducing Global Poverty and Alleviating Human Suffering
- Advancing Peace and Mitigating Conflict
- Supporting Human Rights and Democracy
- Building and Reinforcing Strategic Partnerships
- Countering Transnational Threats
- Sustaining the Global Environment
- Expanding Prosperity Through Trade and Investment

Key Reforms:

- Increases effectiveness
- Strengthens accountability and oversight
- Eliminates duplication and waste
- Slashes red tape
- Improves transparency
- Makes aid more efficient
- Leverages private investments