

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2878

To codify in statute the establishment of the Office of Global Women's Issues and the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To codify in statute the establishment of the Office of Global Women's Issues and the Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, 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. OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES AND THE**
4 **WOMEN'S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROS-**
5 **PERITY INITIATIVE.**

6 Chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act
7 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by adding
8 at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 138. OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN’S ISSUES AND THE**
2 **WOMEN’S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROS-**
3 **PERITY INITIATIVE.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall es-
5 tablish, in the Office of the Secretary of State, the Office
6 of Global Women’s Issues (referred to in this section as
7 the ‘Office’).

8 “(b) PURPOSE; DUTIES.—

9 “(1) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Office is to
10 advance equal opportunity for women and the status
11 of women and girls in United States foreign policy.

12 “(2) DUTIES.—In carrying out the purpose de-
13 scribed in paragraph (1), the Office—

14 “(A)(i) shall advise the Secretary of State
15 and provide input on all activities, policies, pro-
16 grams, and funding relating to equal oppor-
17 tunity for women and the advancement of
18 women and girls internationally to all bureaus
19 and offices of the Department of State; and

20 “(ii) may, as appropriate, provide to the
21 international programs of other Federal agen-
22 cies input on all activities, policies, programs,
23 and funding relating to equal opportunity for
24 women and the advancement of women and
25 girls internationally;

1 “(B)(i) shall work to ensure that efforts to
 2 advance equal opportunity for women and men
 3 and women’s and girls’ empowerment are fully
 4 integrated into the programs, structures, proc-
 5 esses, and capacities of all bureaus and offices
 6 of the Department of State; and

7 “(ii) may, as appropriate, work to ensure
 8 that efforts to advance equal opportunity for
 9 women and men and women’s and girls’ em-
 10 powerment are fully integrated into the inter-
 11 national programs of other Federal agencies;

12 “(C) shall implement the Women’s Global
 13 Development and Prosperity Initiative, in ac-
 14 cordance with subsection (c); and

15 “(D) may not engage in any activities not
 16 described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

17 “(c) WOMEN’S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROS-
 18 PERITY INITIATIVE.—

19 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State
 20 shall establish the Women’s Global Development and
 21 Prosperity Initiative (referred to in this subsection
 22 as the ‘Initiative’) to carry out the activities de-
 23 scribed in paragraphs (2) through (4).

24 “(2) WOMEN PROSPERING IN THE WORK-
 25 FORCE.—The Initiative shall advance women in the

1 workforce by improving their access to quality voca-
 2 tional education and skills training, which will en-
 3 able them to secure jobs in their local economies.

4 “(3) WOMEN SUCCEEDING AS ENTRE-
 5 PRENEURS.—The Initiative shall promote women’s
 6 entrepreneurship and increasing access to capital, fi-
 7 nancial services, markets, technical assistance, and
 8 mentorship.

9 “(4) WOMEN ENABLED IN THE ECONOMY.—
 10 The Initiative shall identify and reduce the binding
 11 constraints in economic and property laws and prac-
 12 tices that prevent women’s full and free participation
 13 in the global economy and promote foundational
 14 legal reforms, including—

15 “(A) ensuring that women can fully par-
 16 ticipate in the workforce and engage in eco-
 17 nomic activities by—

18 “(i) ending impunity for violence
 19 against women;

20 “(ii) ensuring that women have the
 21 authority to sign legal documents, such as
 22 contracts and court documents; and

23 “(iii) addressing unequal access to
 24 courts and administrative bodies for

1 women, whether officially or through lack
2 of proper enforcement;

3 “(B) ensuring women’s equal access to
4 credit and capital to start and grow their busi-
5 nesses, savings, and investments, including pro-
6 hibiting discrimination in access to credit on
7 the basis of sex or marital status;

8 “(C) lifting restrictions on women’s right
9 to own, manage, and make decisions relating to
10 the use of property, including repealing limita-
11 tions on inheritance and ensuring the ability to
12 transfer, purchase, or lease such property;

13 “(D) addressing constraints on women’s
14 freedom of movement, including sex-based re-
15 strictions on obtaining passports and identifica-
16 tion documents; and

17 “(E) promoting the free and equal partici-
18 pation of women in the economy with regard to
19 working hours, occupations, and occupational
20 tasks.

21 “(d) SUPERVISION.—The Office shall be headed by
22 an Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues and
23 the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initia-
24 tive (referred to in this section as the ‘Ambassador’), who
25 shall—

1 “(1) be appointed by the President, with the
2 advice and consent of the Senate;

3 “(2) report directly to the Secretary; and

4 “(3) have the rank and status of Ambassador-
5 at-Large.

6 “(e) COORDINATION.—United States Government ef-
7 ferts to advance women’s economic empowerment globally
8 shall be closely aligned and coordinated with the Initiative.

9 “(f) ABORTION NEUTRALITY.—

10 “(1) PROHIBITIONS.—The Office, the Initiative,
11 and the Ambassador may not—

12 “(A) lobby other countries, including
13 through multilateral mechanisms and foreign
14 nongovernmental organizations—

15 “(i) to change domestic laws or poli-
16 cies with respect to abortion; or

17 “(ii) to include abortion as a pro-
18 grammatic requirement of any foreign ac-
19 tivities; or

20 “(B) provide Federal funding appropriated
21 for foreign assistance to pay for or to promote
22 abortion.

23 “(2) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FUNDS.—
24 Amounts appropriated for the Office or the Initiative
25 may not be used—

1 “(A) to lobby other countries, including
2 through multilateral mechanisms and foreign
3 nongovernmental organizations—

4 “(i) to change domestic laws or poli-
5 cies with respect to abortion; or

6 “(ii) to include abortion as a pro-
7 grammatic requirement of any foreign ac-
8 tivities; or

9 “(B) to provide Federal foreign assistance
10 funding to pay for or to promote abortion.

11 “(3) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sub-
12 section may be construed to prevent—

13 “(A) the funding of activities for the pur-
14 pose of treating injuries or illnesses caused by
15 legal or illegal abortions; or

16 “(B) agencies or officers of the United
17 States from engaging in activities in opposition
18 to policies of coercive abortion or involuntary
19 sterilization.

20 “(g) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the
21 date of the enactment of this section, and not less fre-
22 quently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of State
23 shall—

24 “(1) submit a written report to the Committee
25 on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on

1 Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on
 2 Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and
 3 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
 4 Representatives that describes the implementation of
 5 this section, including—

6 “(A) measures taken to ensure compliance
 7 with subsection (f); and

8 “(B) with respect to funds appropriated
 9 pursuant to subsection (h)—

10 “(i) amounts awarded to prime recipi-
 11 ents and subrecipients since the end of the
 12 previous reporting period; and

13 “(ii) descriptions of each program for
 14 which such funds are used; and

15 “(2) make such report publicly available.

16 “(h) FUNDING.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be reserved to
 18 carry out this section, from funds made available for
 19 development assistance programs of the United
 20 States Agency for International Development,
 21 \$200,000,000, for each of the fiscal years 2022
 22 through 2026, which shall be—

23 “(A) deposited into the Women’s Global
 24 Development and Prosperity Fund (W–GDP);

1 “(B) administered by the United States
2 Agency for International Development;

3 “(C) expended solely for the purpose, du-
4 ties, and activities set forth in subsections (b)
5 and (c); and

6 “(D) expended, to the greatest extent prac-
7 ticable, in support of removing legal barriers to
8 women’s economic freedom in accordance with
9 the findings of the W–GDP Women’s Economic
10 Freedom Index report published by the Council
11 of Economic Advisers in February 2020.

12 “(2) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding para-
13 graph (1), amounts reserved under paragraph (1)
14 for fiscal year 2023, or for any later fiscal year, may
15 not be obligated or expended unless the most recent
16 report submitted pursuant to subsection (g)(1) in-
17 cludes the information required under subpara-
18 graphs (A) and (B) of subsection (g)(1).

19 “(3) OVERSIGHT.—The expenditure of amounts
20 reserved under paragraph (1) shall be jointly over-
21 seen by—

22 “(A) the United States Agency for Inter-
23 national Development;

24 “(B) the Ambassador; and

1 “(C) the Initiative.”.

