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(Original Signature of Member)

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To support diplomatic and development resourcing to the  
Indo-Pacific, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BERA (for himself and Mr. CHABOT) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ -  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To support diplomatic and development resourcing to the  
Indo-Pacific, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Indo-  
5 Pacific Engagement Act”

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The Indo-Pacific region is home to some 60  
9 percent of the world’s population.

1           (2) The Indo-Pacific region contains some of the  
2 most dynamic and rapidly growing economies in the  
3 world.

4           (3) A free and open Indo-Pacific is essential to  
5 American security and prosperity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

6           (4) The United States has made significant  
7 commitments of diplomatic and foreign assistance  
8 resources to the region over the past century, which  
9 have supported shared growth and prosperity.

10          (5) A sustained and enhanced commitment is  
11 required to advance American interests in the 21<sup>st</sup>  
12 century.

13          (6) Historically, independent cost assessments  
14 have served as effective tools to enhance public  
15 debate over resource allocation and have helped  
16 Congress make more informed decisions.

17          (7) The importance and urgency of enhancing  
18 U.S. engagement in the Indo-Pacific is such that  
19 similar tools are required to ensure a proper level of  
20 engagement with the region.

21 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

22          (a) IN GENERAL.—At the same time as the submission  
23 of the budget of the President (submitted to Congress  
24 pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code)  
25 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, the Assistant

1 Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific  
2 Affairs, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of  
3 State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs,  
4 and Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Asia of the  
5 United States Agency for International Development  
6 (USAID), shall submit to the congressional foreign affairs  
7 committees a report assessing the resources and activities  
8 required to achieve the policy objectives described in  
9 subsection (c).

10 (b) CRITERIA.—The report required in subsection (a)  
11 shall be developed in accordance with the following  
12 criteria:

13 (1) It shall reflect the objective, autonomous, and  
14 independent assessment of the activities, resources,  
15 and costs required to achieve objectives detailed in  
16 subsection (c) by the principals, the subordinate and  
17 parallel offices providing input into the assessment,  
18 and ultimately by the Assistant Secretary of State for  
19 East Asian and Pacific Affairs as the final decision-  
20 making authority on the contents of the final report.

21 (2) It shall cover a period of five fiscal years,  
22 beginning with the fiscal year following the fiscal  
23 year in which the report is submitted.

1           (3) It shall incorporate input from U.S.  
2           Ambassadors in the Indo-Pacific region provided  
3           explicitly for the required report.

4           (4) It may include information gathered through  
5           consultation with program offices and subject matter  
6           experts in relevant functional bureaus, as deemed  
7           necessary by the principals.

8           (5) It shall not be subject to fiscal guidance or  
9           global strategic tradeoffs associated with the annual  
10          President's budget request.

11          (c) POLICY OBJECTIVES.—The report required in  
12          subsection (a) shall assess the activities and resources  
13          required to achieve the following policy objectives:

14               (1) Implement the Interim National Security  
15               Strategic Guidance, or the most recent National  
16               Security Strategy, with respect to the Indo-Pacific  
17               region.

18               (2) Implement the 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy, or  
19               successor documents, that set forth the U.S.  
20               government strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region.

21               (3) Implement the State-USAID Joint Strategic  
22               Plan with respect to the Indo-Pacific region.

23               (4) Enhance meaningful diplomatic and  
24               economic relations with allies and partners in the

1 Indo-Pacific and demonstrate an enduring U.S.  
2 commitment to the region.

3 (5) Secure and advance U.S. national interests in  
4 the Indo-Pacific, including through countering the  
5 malign influence of the Government of the People's  
6 Republic of China.

7 (d) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report  
8 required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

9 (1) A description of the Bureaus' bilateral and  
10 multilateral goals for the period covered in the report  
11 that the principals deem necessary to accomplish the  
12 objectives outlined in subsection (c), disaggregated  
13 by country and forum.

14 (2) A timeline with annual benchmarks for  
15 achieving the objectives described in subsection (c).

16 (3) An assessment of the sufficiency of U.S.  
17 diplomatic personnel and facilities currently available  
18 in the Indo-Pacific region to achieve the objectives  
19 outlined in subsection (c), through consultation with  
20 U.S. embassies in the region. The assessment shall  
21 include:

22 (A) A list, in priority order, of locations in  
23 the Indo-Pacific region that require additional  
24 diplomatic personnel or facilities;

1 (B) A description of locations where the  
2 United States may be able to collocate  
3 diplomatic personnel at allied or partner  
4 embassies and consulates;

5 (C) A discussion of embassies or consulates  
6 where diplomatic staff could be reduced within  
7 the Indo-Pacific region, where appropriate;

8 (D) A detailed description of the fiscal and  
9 personnel resources required to fill gaps  
10 identified.

11 (4) A detailed plan to expand U.S. diplomatic  
12 engagement and foreign assistance presence in the  
13 Pacific Island nations within the next five years,  
14 including a description of “quick impact” programs  
15 that can be developed and implemented within the  
16 first fiscal year of the period covered in the report.

17 (5) A discussion of the resources needed to  
18 enhance U.S. strategic messaging and spotlight  
19 coercive PRC behavior.

20 (6) A detailed description of the resources and  
21 policy tools needed to expand the United States’  
22 ability to offer high-quality infrastructure projects in  
23 strategically significant parts of the Indo-Pacific  
24 region, with a particular focus on expanding  
25 investments in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.

1           (7) a gap assessment of security assistance by  
2 country, and of the resources needed to fill those  
3 gaps.

4           (8) a description of the resources and policy tools  
5 needed to facilitate continued private sector  
6 investment in partner countries in the Indo-Pacific.

7           (9) a discussion of any additional bilateral or  
8 regional assistance resources needed to achieve the  
9 objectives outlined in subsection (c), as deemed  
10 necessary by the principals.

11       (e) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a)  
12 shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may include  
13 a classified annex.

14       (f) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than February 1 each  
15 year, the Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific  
16 Affairs shall make the report available to the Secretary of  
17 State, the Administrator of the USAID, the Deputy  
18 Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of State for  
19 Management and Resources, the Deputy Administrator for  
20 Policy and Programming, the Deputy Administrator for  
21 Management and Resources, the Under Secretary of State  
22 for Political Affairs, the Director of the Office of Foreign  
23 Assistance at the Department of State, the Director of the  
24 Bureau of Foreign Assistance at the USAID, and the  
25 Director of Policy Planning.

1 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

2 (1) INDO-PACIFIC REGION—The term “Indo-  
3 Pacific region” means the countries under the  
4 jurisdiction of the Bureau for East Asian and Pacific  
5 Affairs, as well as the countries of Bangladesh,  
6 Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

7 (2) FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES.—The  
8 term “foreign affairs committees” means the  
9 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of  
10 Representatives; the Committee on Foreign Relations  
11 of the Senate; the Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
12 Operations, Related Programs of the Committee on  
13 Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and  
14 the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and  
15 Related Programs of the Committee on  
16 Appropriations of the Senate.

17 (3) PRINCIPALS.—The term “principals” means  
18 the Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East  
19 Asian and Pacific Affairs, the Assistant Secretary of  
20 State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian  
21 Affairs, and the Assistant Administrator for the  
22 Bureau for Asia of the United States Agency for  
23 International Development.