

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, to enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, to prioritize natural disaster resilience, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, to enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, to prioritize natural disaster resilience, 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 This Act may be cited as the “Caribbean Basin Secu-
5 rity Initiative Authorization Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

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

7 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
8 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
9 of Representatives.

10 (2) BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES.—The term “ben-
11 eficiary countries” means the beneficiary countries
12 of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative.

13 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE**
14 **CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

15 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State
17 and the United States Agency for International Develop-
18 ment \$74,800,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
19 2027 to carry out the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative
20 to achieve the purposes described in subsection (b).

21 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes described in this sub-
22 section are the following:

23 (1) To promote citizen safety, security, and the
24 rule of law in the Caribbean through increased stra-
25 tegic engagement with—

1 (A) the governments of beneficiary coun-
2 tries; and

3 (B) elements of local civil society, including
4 the private sector, in such countries.

5 (2) To carry out the promotion of such safety,
6 security, and the rule of law through efforts includ-
7 ing the following:

8 (A) Capacity building for law enforcement
9 and military units, including professionalization,
10 anti-corruption and human rights training, vet-
11 ting, and community-based policing.

12 (B) Maritime and aerial security coopera-
13 tion, including—

14 (i) assistance to strengthen maritime
15 and aerial interdiction operations capa-
16 bility in the Caribbean; and

17 (ii) the provision of support systems
18 and equipment, training, and maintenance.

19 (C) Border and port security cooperation,
20 including support to strengthen capacity for
21 screening and to intercept narcotics, weapons,
22 bulk cash, and other contraband at airports and
23 seaports.

24 (D) Support for justice sector reform and
25 strengthening of the rule of law, including ca-

1 capacity building for prosecutors, judges, and
2 other justice officials, and support to increase
3 the efficacy of criminal courts.

4 (E) Cybersecurity and cybercrime coopera-
5 tion, including capacity building and support
6 for cybersecurity systems.

7 (F) Countering transnational criminal or-
8 ganizations and local gang activity, including
9 through—

10 (i) capacity building and the provision
11 of equipment and support for operations
12 targeting the finances and illegal activities
13 of transnational criminal networks and
14 local gangs, such as their recruitment of
15 at-risk youth; and

16 (ii) the provision of assistance to pop-
17 ulations vulnerable to being victims of ex-
18 tortion and crime by criminal networks.

19 (G) Strengthening special prosecutorial of-
20 fices and providing technical assistance—

21 (i) to combat corruption, money laun-
22 dering, human trafficking, financial crimes,
23 extortion, and human rights crimes; and

24 (ii) to conduct asset forfeitures and
25 criminal analysis.

1 (H) Strengthening the ability of the secu-
2 rity sector to respond to and become more resil-
3 ient in the face of natural disasters, including
4 by—

5 (i) carrying out training exercises to
6 ensure critical infrastructure and ports are
7 able to come back online rapidly following
8 natural disasters; and

9 (ii) providing preparedness training to
10 police and first responders.

11 (I) Supporting training for civilian police
12 and appropriate security services in criminal in-
13 vestigations, best practices for citizen security,
14 and the protection of human rights.

15 (J) Improving community and law enforce-
16 ment cooperation to improve the effectiveness
17 and professionalism of police and increase mu-
18 tual trust.

19 (K) Increasing economic opportunities for
20 at-risk youth and vulnerable populations, in-
21 cluding through workforce development training
22 and remedial education programs for at-risk
23 youth.

24 (L) Improving juvenile justice sectors
25 through regulatory reforms, separating youth

1 from traditional prison systems, and improving
2 support and services in juvenile detention cen-
3 ters.

4 (3) To prioritize efforts to combat corruption
5 and include anti-corruption components in programs
6 in the Caribbean, including by—

7 (A) strengthening national justice systems
8 and attorneys general;

9 (B) supporting independent media and in-
10 vestigative reporting;

11 (C) supporting multilateral anti-corruption
12 mechanisms;

13 (D) increasing the capacity of national law
14 enforcement services to carry out anti-corrup-
15 tion investigations; and

16 (E) encouraging cooperative agreements
17 among the Department of State, other relevant
18 Federal departments and agencies, and the at-
19 torneys general of relevant countries.

20 (4) To promote the rule of law in the Caribbean
21 and counter malign influence from authoritarian re-
22 gimes, including China, Iran, Cuba, and Russia,
23 by—

24 (A) monitoring security assistance from
25 authoritarian regimes and taking steps nec-

1 essary to ensure that such assistance does not
2 undermine or jeopardize United States security
3 assistance;

4 (B) evaluating and, as appropriate, re-
5 stricting the involvement of the United States
6 in investment and infrastructure projects fi-
7 nanced by authoritarian regimes that might ob-
8 struct or otherwise impact United States secu-
9 rity assistance to beneficiary countries;

10 (C) monitoring and restricting equipment
11 and support from high-risk vendors of tele-
12 communications infrastructure in beneficiary
13 countries;

14 (D) countering disinformation by pro-
15 moting transparency and accountability from
16 beneficiary countries; and

17 (E) eliminating corruption linked to invest-
18 ment and infrastructure facilitated by authori-
19 tarian regimes through support for investment
20 screening, competitive tendering and bidding
21 processes, the implementation of investment
22 law, and contractual transparency.

23 (5) To promote strategic engagement with the
24 governments of beneficiary countries through the ef-
25 fective branding and messaging of United States se-

1 security assistance and cooperation, including by de-
2 veloping a public diplomacy strategy for informing
3 citizens of beneficiary countries about the benefits to
4 their respective countries of United States security
5 assistance and cooperation programs.

6 **SEC. 4. EFFORTS AND STRATEGY TO INCREASE NATURAL**
7 **DISASTER RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE.**

8 (a) **PRIORITIZATION.**—During the 5-year period be-
9 ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of
11 the United States Agency for International Development,
12 the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Inter-
13 American Foundation, and the Chief Executive Officer of
14 the United States International Development Finance
15 Corporation, shall prioritize efforts to increase natural dis-
16 aster response and resilience by carrying out programs in
17 beneficiary countries for the following purposes:

18 (1) Encouraging coordination between bene-
19 ficiary countries and relevant Federal departments
20 and agencies to provide expertise and information
21 sharing.

22 (2) Supporting the sharing of best practices on
23 natural disaster resilience, including on constructing
24 resilient infrastructure and rebuilding after natural
25 disasters.

1 (3) Improving rapid-response mechanisms and
2 cross-government organizational preparedness for
3 natural disasters.

4 (b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
6 in coordination with the Administrator of the United
7 States Agency for International Development and in con-
8 sultation with the President and Chief Economic Officer
9 of the Inter-American Foundation, the Chief Executive
10 Officer of the United States International Development
11 Finance Corporation, and nongovernmental organizations
12 in beneficiary countries and in the United States, shall
13 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a
14 strategy that incorporates specific, measurable bench-
15 marks—

16 (1) to achieve the purposes described in sub-
17 section (a); and

18 (2) to inform citizens of beneficiary countries
19 about the extent and benefits of United States as-
20 sistance to such countries.

21 (c) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE.—The Secretary of
22 State, in coordination with the Administrator of the
23 United States Agency for International Development, shall
24 annually submit to the appropriate congressional commit-
25 tees a written description of the progress made as of the

1 date of such submission in meeting the benchmarks in-
2 cluded in the strategy submitted under subsection (b).

3 **SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
6 in coordination with the Administrator of the United
7 States Agency for International Development, shall submit
8 to the appropriate congressional committees an implemen-
9 tation plan that includes a timeline and stated objectives
10 for actions to be taken with respect to the Caribbean
11 Basin Security Initiative.

12 (b) ELEMENTS.—The plan submitted under sub-
13 section (a) shall include the following elements:

14 (1) A multi-year strategy with a timeline, over-
15 view of objectives, and anticipated outcomes for the
16 region and for each beneficiary country, with respect
17 to each purpose described in section 3.

18 (2) Specific, measurable benchmarks to track
19 the progress of the Caribbean Basin Security Initia-
20 tive toward accomplishing the outcomes included
21 under paragraph (1).

22 (3) A plan for the delineation of the roles to be
23 carried out by the Department of State, the United
24 States Agency for International Development, the
25 Department of Justice, the Department of Defense,

1 and any other Federal department or agency in car-
2 rying out the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, to
3 prevent overlap and unintended competition between
4 activities and resources.

5 (4) A plan to coordinate and track all activities
6 carried out under the Caribbean Basin Security Ini-
7 tiative among all relevant Federal departments and
8 agencies, in accordance with the publication require-
9 ments described in section 4 of the Foreign Aid
10 Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016 (22
11 U.S.C. 2394c).

12 (5) An assessment of steps taken, as of the
13 date on which the plan is submitted, to increase re-
14 gional coordination and collaboration between bene-
15 ficiary countries and Haiti, and a framework for in-
16 creasing such coordination and collaboration.

17 (6) The results achieved during the 1-year pe-
18 riod preceding the submission of the plan with re-
19 spect to—

20 (A) monitoring and evaluation measures to
21 track the progress of the Caribbean Basin Se-
22 curity Initiative in accomplishing the bench-
23 marks included under paragraph (2); and

24 (B) the implementation of the strategy and
25 plans described in paragraphs (1), (3), and (4).

1 (7) A description of the process for co-locating
2 projects of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative
3 funded by the United States Agency for Inter-
4 national Development and the Bureau of Inter-
5 national Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of
6 the Department of State to ensure that crime pre-
7 vention funding and enforcement funding are used
8 in the same localities as necessary.