

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6669

To provide resources for United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully  
detained abroad.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 7, 2023

Mr. HILL (for himself and Ms. STEVENS) introduced the following bill; which  
was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide resources for United States nationals unlawfully  
or wrongfully detained abroad.

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 “Supporting Americans  
5 Wrongfully or Unlawfully Detained Abroad Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESOURCES FOR UNITED STATES NATIONALS UN-**  
2 **LAWFULLY OR WRONGFULLY DETAINED**  
3 **ABROAD.**

4 Section 302(d) of the Robert Levinson Hostage Re-  
5 covery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C.  
6 1741(d)) is amended—

7 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “RE-  
8 SOURCE GUIDANCE” and inserting “RESOURCES  
9 FOR UNITED STATES NATIONALS UNLAWFULLY OR  
10 WRONGFULLY DETAINED ABROAD”;

11 (2) in paragraph (1), by striking the paragraph  
12 heading and all that follows through “Not later  
13 than” and inserting the following:

14 “(1) RESOURCE GUIDANCE.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than”;

16 (3) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subpara-  
17 graphs (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) and clauses (i),  
18 (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v), respectively, and moving such  
19 clauses (as so redesignated) 2 ems to the right;

20 (4) by redesignating paragraph (2) as subpara-  
21 graph (B) and moving such subparagraph (as so re-  
22 designated) 2 ems to the right;

23 (5) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by  
24 paragraph (4), by striking “paragraph (1)” and in-  
25 serting “subparagraph (A)”;

26 (6) by adding at the end the following:

1           “(2) TRAVEL ASSISTANCE.—

2                   “(A) FAMILY ADVOCACY.—For the purpose  
3 of facilitating meetings between the United  
4 States Government and the family members of  
5 United States nationals unlawfully or wrong-  
6 fully detained abroad, the Secretary shall pro-  
7 vide financial assistance to cover the costs of  
8 travel to and from Washington, DC, including  
9 travel by air, train, bus, or other transit as ap-  
10 propriate, to any individual who—

11                           “(i) is—

12                                   “(I) a family member of a United  
13 States national unlawfully or wrong-  
14 fully detained abroad as determined  
15 by the Secretary under subsection (a);  
16 or

17                                   “(II) an appropriate individual  
18 who—

19   “(aa) is approved by the  
20 Special Presidential Envoy for  
21 Hostage Affairs; and

22   “(bb) does not represent in  
23 any legal capacity a United  
24 States national unlawfully or  
25 wrongfully detained abroad or

1 the family of such United States  
2 national;

3 “(ii) has a permanent address that is  
4 more than 50 miles from Washington, DC;  
5 and

6 “(iii) requests such assistance.

7 “(B) TRAVEL AND LODGING.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For each such  
9 United States national unlawfully or  
10 wrongfully detained abroad, the financial  
11 assistance described in subparagraph (A)  
12 shall be provided for not more than 2 trips  
13 per fiscal year, unless the Special Presi-  
14 dential Envoy for Hostage Affairs deter-  
15 mines that a third trip is warranted.

16 “(ii) LIMITATIONS.—Any trip de-  
17 scribed in clause (i) shall—

18 “(I) consist of not more than 2  
19 family members or other individuals  
20 approved in accordance with subpara-  
21 graph (A)(i)(II), unless the Special  
22 Presidential Envoy for Hostage Af-  
23 fairs determines that circumstances  
24 warrant an additional family member  
25 or other individual approved in ac-

1 cordance with subparagraph (A)(i)(II)  
2 and approves assistance to such third  
3 family member or other individual;  
4 and

5 “(II) not exceed more than 2  
6 nights lodging, which shall not exceed  
7 the applicable government rate.

8 “(C) RETURN TRAVEL.—If other United  
9 States Government assistance is unavailable,  
10 the Secretary may provide to a United States  
11 national unlawfully or wrongfully detained  
12 abroad as determined by the Secretary under  
13 subsection (a), United States assistance, as nec-  
14 essary, for return travel to the United States  
15 upon release of such United States national.

16 “(3) SUPPORT.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
18 seek to make available physical health services,  
19 mental health services, and other support as ap-  
20 propriate, including providing information on  
21 available legal or financial resources, to—

22 “(i) any United States national un-  
23 lawfully or wrongfully detained abroad;  
24 and

1           “(ii) any family member of such  
2 United States national.

3           “(B) LIMITATIONS.—

4           “(i) IN GENERAL.—For any support  
5 described in subparagraph (A) for an indi-  
6 vidual described in clause (i) or (ii) of such  
7 subparagraph that commences following  
8 the return of a United States national who  
9 was unlawfully or wrongfully detained  
10 abroad, such support shall be made avail-  
11 able for up to 5 years from the date on  
12 which any individual identified in subpara-  
13 graph (A) chooses to avail themselves of  
14 the support described in that subpara-  
15 graph, unless the Special Presidential  
16 Envoy for Hostage Affairs determines that  
17 circumstances warrant extending such sup-  
18 port.

19           “(ii) EXCEPTION.—The time limita-  
20 tion under clause (i) does not apply to any  
21 support provided during the pendency of  
22 the detention of a United States national  
23 unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad.

24           “(4) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Sec-  
25 retary shall notify the Committee on Foreign Rela-

1 tions of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Af-  
2 fairs of the House of Representatives, and the Com-  
3 mittees on Appropriations of the Senate and the  
4 House of Representatives of any amount spent above  
5 \$250,000 for any fiscal year to carry out paragraphs  
6 (2) and (3).

7 “(5) FUNDING.—Funds authorized to be appro-  
8 priated for the Department of State, which may in-  
9 clude funds made available for unforeseen emer-  
10 gencies arising in the diplomatic and consular serv-  
11 ice, may be used to provide the support authorized  
12 by this section.

13 “(6) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after  
14 the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall sub-  
15 mit to the Committees on Foreign Relations and Ap-  
16 propriations of the Senate and the Committee on  
17 Foreign Affairs and Appropriations of the House of  
18 Representatives a report that includes—

19 “(A) a detailed description of expenditures  
20 made pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3);

21 “(B) a detailed description of types of sup-  
22 port provided pursuant to paragraph (3), pro-  
23 vided that such description does not identify  
24 any individuals receiving any physical or mental

1 health support, in order to protect their privacy;  
2 and

3 “(C) the number and location of visits out-  
4 side of Washington, DC, during the prior fiscal  
5 year made by the Special Presidential Envoy  
6 for Hostage Affairs to family members of each  
7 United States national unlawfully or wrongfully  
8 detained abroad.

9 “(7) SUNSET.—The authority and requirements  
10 under paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) shall termi-  
11 nate on December 31, 2027.

12 “(8) FAMILY MEMBER DEFINED.—In this sub-  
13 section, the term ‘family member’ means a spouse,  
14 father, mother, child, brother, sister, grandparent,  
15 grandchild, aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, cousin, fa-  
16 ther-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-  
17 law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, step-  
18 mother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, step-  
19 sister, half brother, or half sister.”.

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