

Bowen
HB

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H. R. 4939

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2016

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

_____, _____), _____

Reported by Mr. CORKER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

AN ACT

To increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community in the United States, and the private sector and civil society in both the United States and the Caribbean, 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 “United States Carib-*

5 *bean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016”.*

1 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 Congress declares that it is the policy of the United
3 States to increase engagement with the governments of
4 the Caribbean region, the Caribbean diaspora community
5 in the United States, and the private sector and civil soci-
6 ety in both the United States and the Caribbean in a con-
7 certed effort to—

8 (1) enhance diplomatic relations between the
9 United States and the Caribbean region;

10 (2) increase economic cooperation between the
11 United States and the Caribbean region;

12 (3) support regional economic, political, and se-
13 curity integration efforts in the Caribbean region;

14 (4) encourage sustainable economic develop-
15 ment and increased regional economic diversification
16 and global competitiveness;

17 (5) reduce levels of crime and violence, curb the
18 trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law,
19 and improve citizen security;

20 (6) improve energy security by increasing access
21 to diverse, reliable, affordable, and sustainable
22 power;

23 (7) advance cooperation on democracy and
24 human rights in the Caribbean region and at multi-
25 lateral fora; and

1 (8) continue support for public health advances
2 and cooperation on health concerns and threats to
3 the Caribbean region.

4 **SEC. 8. STRATEGY.**

5 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination
7 with the Administrator of the United States Agency for
8 International Development (USAID), shall submit to the
9 appropriate congressional committees a multi-year strat-
10 egy for United States engagement with the Caribbean re-
11 gion that—

12 (1) identifies Department of State and USAID
13 efforts, in coordination with other executive branch
14 agencies, to prioritize United States policy towards
15 the Caribbean region;

16 (2) outlines an approach to broaden Depart-
17 ment of State and USAID outreach to the Carib-
18 bean diaspora community in the United States to
19 promote their involvement and participation in the
20 economic development and citizen security of the
21 Caribbean region;

22 (3) outlines an approach to partner with the
23 governments of the Caribbean region to improve cit-
24 izen security, reduce the trafficking of illicit drugs,
25 strengthen the rule of law, and improve the effective-

1 ness and sustainability of the Caribbean Basin Secur-
2 rity Initiative;

3 (4) establishes a comprehensive, integrated,
4 multi-year strategy to encourage the efforts of the
5 Caribbean region to implement regional and national
6 strategies that improve energy security by increasing
7 access to diverse, reliable, affordable, and sustain-
8 able power, including significant renewable energy
9 resources within the Caribbean region such as bio-
10 mass, geothermal, hydropower, solar, tidal, waste-to-
11 energy, and wind, and by taking advantage of the
12 ongoing energy revolution in the United States;

13 (5) outlines an approach to improve diplomatic
14 engagement with the governments of the Caribbean
15 region, including with respect to key votes on human
16 rights and democracy at the United Nations and the
17 Organization of American States;

18 (6) develops an approach to assisting Caribbean
19 countries in the diversification of their economies,
20 the reduction of legal, technical, and administrative
21 barriers that prevent the free flow of foreign direct
22 investment and trade to and from each country and
23 within the Caribbean region, and support for the
24 training and employment of youth and citizens in
25 marginalized communities; and

1 (7) reflects the input of other executive branch
2 agencies, as appropriate.

3 **SEC. 4. BRIEFINGS.**

4 The Secretary of State shall provide annual briefings
5 to the appropriate congressional committees that review
6 Department of State efforts to implement the strategy for
7 United States engagement with the Caribbean region in
8 accordance with section 3.

9 **SEC. 5. PROGRESS REPORT.**

10 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
11 of this Act and biennially thereafter for the following 4
12 years, the President shall transmit to the appropriate con-
13 gressional committees a report on progress made toward
14 to implementing the strategy for United States engage-
15 ment with the Caribbean region in accordance with section
16 3.

17 **SEC. 6. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT**

18 **ON CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

19 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
20 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
21 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
22 a report that contains the following:

23 (1) An evaluation of the Caribbean Basin Secu-
24 rity Initiative (CBSI) and the extent to which the

1 CBSI has met Department of State and USAID
2 benchmarks.

3 (2) An accounting of CBSI funding appro-
4 priated, obligated, and expended from fiscal year
5 2010 through fiscal year 2016.

6 (3) A breakdown of yearly CBSI assistance pro-
7 vided to each CBSI country.

8 (4) A description of how CBSI is coordinated
9 with other security assistance programs in the West-
10 ern Hemisphere, particularly the Merida Initiative
11 and the Central America Regional Security Initia-
12 tive, and the role of the Department of State's Sen-
13 for Coordinator for the Citizen Security Initiatives in
14 the Western Hemisphere in such coordination.

15 (5) A description of all United States security
16 assistance provided to the Caribbean region, exclu-
17 sive of assistance through CBSI.

18 (6) Recommendations for legislative and execu-
19 tive action to make CBSI more effective and effi-
20 cient, as appropriate.

21 **SEC. 7. GAO REPORT ON DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT IN**
22 **THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN.**

23 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
24 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States

1 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
2 a report that contains the following:

3 (1) An evaluation of United States diplomatic
4 outreach from the United States embassy in Bar-
5 bados to the countries of Antigua and Barbuda,
6 Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St.
7 Vincent, and the Grenadines:

8 (2) A list of visits over the previous 5 years of
9 personnel at the United States embassy in Barbados
10 to the countries of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica,
11 St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, and
12 the Grenadines:

13 (3) A description of how personnel at the
14 United States embassy in Barbados have engaged
15 with government officials and civil society organiza-
16 tions in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts
17 and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, and the Gren-
18 adines over the previous 5 years:

19 (4) A description of how personnel at the
20 United States embassy in Grenada have engaged
21 with government officials and civil society organiza-
22 tions over the previous 5 years:

23 **SEC. 8. REPORTING COST OFFSET.**

24 Paragraph (4) of section 601(e) of the Foreign Serv-
25 ice Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4001(e)) is amended in the

1 matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the fol-
2 lowing:” and all that follows through “A workforce plan”
3 and inserting “a workforce plan” and adjusting the mar-
4 gins accordingly.

5 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
8 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
10 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
11 Foreign Relations of the Senate.

12 (2) **CARRIBBEAN REGION.**—The term “Caribbean
13 region” means the Caribbean Basin Security Initia-
14 tive beneficiary countries.

15 (3) **SECURITY ASSISTANCE.**—The term “secu-
16 rity assistance” has the meaning given such term in
17 section 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of
18 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)).

19 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

20 *This Act may be cited as the “United States–Carib-*
21 *bean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016”.*

22 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

23 *Congress declares that it is the policy of the United*
24 *States to increase engagement with the governments of the*
25 *Caribbean region and with civil society, including the pri-*

1 *vate sector, in both the United States and the Caribbean,*
2 *in a concerted effort to—*
3 (1) *enhance diplomatic relations between the*
4 *United States and the Caribbean region;*
5 (2) *increase economic cooperation between the*
6 *United States and the Caribbean region;*
7 (3) *support regional economic, political, and se-*
8 *curity integration efforts in the Caribbean region;*
9 (4) *encourage enduring economic development*
10 *and increased regional economic diversification and*
11 *global competitiveness;*
12 (5) *reduce levels of crime and violence, curb the*
13 *trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law,*
14 *and improve citizen security;*
15 (6) *improve energy security by increasing access*
16 *to diverse, reliable, and affordable power;*
17 (7) *advance cooperation on democracy and*
18 *human rights at multilateral fora;*
19 (8) *continue support for public health advances*
20 *and cooperation on health concerns and threats to the*
21 *Caribbean region; and*
22 (9) *expand Internet access throughout the region,*
23 *especially to countries lacking the appropriate infra-*
24 *structure.*

1 SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

2 *Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment*
3 *of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the*
4 *Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-*
5 *national Development (USAID), shall submit to the appro-*
6 *private congressional committees a multi-year strategy for*
7 *United States engagement to support the efforts of interested*
8 *nations in the Caribbean region that—*

9 *(1) identifies Department of State and USAID*
10 *priorities, in coordination with other executive branch*
11 *agencies, for United States policy towards the Carib-*
12 *bean region;*

13 *(2) outlines an approach to partner with govern-*
14 *ments of the Caribbean region to improve citizen se-*
15 *curity, reduce the trafficking of illicit drugs, strength-*
16 *en the rule of law, and improve the effectiveness and*
17 *longevity of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative;*

18 *(3) establishes a comprehensive, integrated,*
19 *multi-year strategy to encourage efforts of the Carib-*
20 *bean region to implement regional and national*
21 *strategies that improve energy security, by increasing*
22 *access to all available sources of energy, including by*
23 *taking advantage of the indigenous energy sources of*
24 *the Caribbean and the ongoing energy revolution in*
25 *the United States;*

1 (4) outlines an approach to improve diplomatic
2 engagement with the governments of the Caribbean re-
3 gion, including with respect to key votes on human
4 rights and democracy at the United Nations and the
5 Organization of American States;

6 (5) Describes how the United States can develop
7 an approach to supporting Caribbean countries in ef-
8 forts they are willing to undertake with their own re-
9 sources to diversify their economies;

10 (6) describes ways to ensure the active participa-
11 tion of citizens of the Caribbean in existing program
12 and initiatives administered by the Department of
13 State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs;
14 and

15 (7) reflects the input of other executive branch
16 agencies, as appropriate.

17 **SEC. 4. BRIEFINGS.**

18 The Secretary of State shall offer to the appropriate
19 congressional committees annual briefings that review De-
20 partment of State efforts to implement the strategy for
21 United States engagement with the Caribbean region in ac-
22 cordance with section 3.

23 **SEC. 5. PROGRESS REPORT.**

24 Not later than 2 years after the submission of the strat-
25 egy required under section 3, the President shall submit to

1 the appropriate congressional committees a report on
2 progress made toward implementing the strategy.

3 **SEC. 6. REPORTING COST OFFSET.**

4 Section 601(c)(4) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980
5 (22 U.S.C. 4001(c)(4)) is amended by striking “the fol-
6 lowing:” and all that follows through “(B) A workforce
7 plan” and inserting “a workforce plan”.

8 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

9 *In this Act:*

10 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**

11 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional commit-
12 **tees”** means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
13 House of Representatives and the Committee on For-
14 **eign Relations of the Senate.**

15 (2) **CARIBBEAN REGION.**—The term “Caribbean
16 **region”** means the Caribbean Basin Security Initia-
17 **tive beneficiary countries.**

18 (3) **SECURITY ASSISTANCE.**—The term “security
19 **assistance”** has the meaning given such term in sec-
20 **tion 502B(d)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961**
21 **(22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(2)).**