

Keeping Women and Girls Safe from the Start Act

Section-by-Section

Led by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

SECTION 1: *Short Title.* This Act may be cited as the “Keeping Women and Girls Safe from the Start Act of 2021.”

SECTION 2: *Findings.* Includes congressional findings related to the types of gender-based violence faced by displaced, refugee and stateless women and girls in humanitarian settings and the varied forms of assistance that are required to meet their compounding needs.

SECTION 3: *Statement of Policy Objectives.* Establishes a policy to prevent, mitigate, and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies around the world by building the skills of humanitarian actors and improving coordination in emergency response; supporting activities to provide support to survivors of gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts; advancing the leadership and participation of women and girls in emergency response efforts; and promoting transparency and accountability for programs supported by U.S. Government assistance.

SECTION 4: *Safe from the Start Authority.* Authorizes the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator to carry out activities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies, including training and other capacity building for humanitarian personnel; deployment of gender advisors; development of technical skills of local organizations; use of standards, guidelines, and best practices to address gender-based violence; and expansion of empowerment activities such as economic opportunities, education, and women’s leadership and participation.

SECTION 5: *Reports Required.* Requires a report not later than one year after enactment and annually thereafter providing analysis of data and research regarding key drivers of gender-based violence in emergencies and a detailed description of programs supported by the Safe from the Start program.

SECTION 6: *Funding Authorization.* This bill would authorize the greater of such sums as may be necessary to carry out the activities delineated in this act or the amount expended in FY2021 to carry our Safe from the Start programs.