

International Children with Disabilities Protection Act of 2022

According to UNICEF, there are at least 240 million children with disabilities globally, many of whom are left abandoned in institutions. Currently, there is no focused U.S. program to advance support for disabled children’s specialized needs, advocate for common-sense international policy reforms, and to promote the full inclusion of children as full-fledged members of society within loving families. This legislation aims to create a small-grants program—implemented by global disability rights NGOs—to support children with disabilities, and improve the capacity of local organizations of persons with disabilities and families of children with disabilities to advocate for necessary reforms.

Sec. 1. Short title

“International Children with Disabilities Protection Act of 2022”

Sec. 2. Findings

This section details the scope of needs related to protecting children with disabilities worldwide.

Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.

This section reiterates support to end stigma and discrimination by assisting organizations of persons with disabilities and family members of persons with disabilities.

Sec. 4. Definitions.

Sec. 5. Statement of Policy.

U.S. policy is to assist countries in creating rights protections programs for people with disabilities and to promote laws and policies that strengthen family support systems.

Sec. 6. International Children with Disabilities Protection Program.

Establishes a grant program within the State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor to assist organizations of persons with disabilities and families of children with disabilities to advocate for policies promoting family inclusion and to support independent living. Authorizes the Secretary of State to provide funds to NGOs to develop capacity-building programs to support advocacy efforts and advance policy reforms. *Authorizes \$2 million in funds for FY 24 and \$10 million for each fiscal year after from FY25 to FY29.*

Sec. 7. Briefings and Reports on Implementation.

Requires an annual briefing and a report every three years to relevant congressional committees.

Sec. 8. Promoting International Protection and Advocacy for Children with Disabilities.

Emphasizes that programming implemented by the State Department and USAID should include the perspectives of organizations of persons with disabilities and seek to keep families united, when possible, including in conflict settings.