

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1797

To facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases, including Ebola, through coordinated domestic and international efforts.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SALMON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. WALBERG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To facilitate effective research on and treatment of neglected tropical diseases, including Ebola, through coordinated domestic and international efforts.

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 “End Neglected Trop-  
5 ical Diseases Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Statement of policy.
- Sec. 4. Findings.
- Sec. 5. Definition.
- Sec. 6. Rule of construction.

#### TITLE I—FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- Sec. 101. Expansion of USAID NTDs Program.
- Sec. 102. Actions by Department of State.
- Sec. 103. Multilateral development and health institutions.

#### TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Sec. 201. Promoting efforts through interagency working groups and international forums.
- Sec. 202. Report on neglected tropical diseases in the United States.
- Sec. 203. Centers of excellence.
- Sec. 204. Panel on worm infection solutions.

### 1 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2       It is the policy of the United States to support a  
 3 broad range of implementation and research and develop-  
 4 ment activities that work toward the achievement of cost-  
 5 effective and sustainable treatment, control and, where  
 6 possible, elimination of neglected tropical diseases, includ-  
 7 ing Ebola, for the economic and social well-being for all  
 8 people.

### 9 **SEC. 4. FINDINGS.**

10       Congress finds the following:

11           (1) The World Health Organization (WHO) has  
 12 identified 17 neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).  
 13 Approximately two billion people—almost one-third  
 14 of the world’s population—are at risk of contracting  
 15 an NTD, and more than 1.4 billion people are cur-  
 16 rently afflicted with one or more NTDs.

1           (2) In 2013, WHO adopted a comprehensive  
2 resolution on NTDs recognizing that increased na-  
3 tional and international investments in prevention  
4 and control of neglected tropical diseases have suc-  
5 ceeded in improving health and social well-being in  
6 many countries.

7           (3) NTDs have an enormous impact in terms of  
8 disease burden and quality of life. NTDs cause the  
9 loss of up to 534,000 lives and 57 million disability-  
10 adjusted life years each year. NTDs surpass both  
11 malaria and tuberculosis in causing greater loss of  
12 life-years to disability and premature death. Many  
13 NTDs cause disfigurement and disability, leading to  
14 stigma, social discrimination, and societal  
15 marginalization.

16           (4) NTDs create an economic burden of billions  
17 of dollars through the loss of productivity and high  
18 costs of health care required for treatment. People  
19 afflicted by NTDs are less productive than their  
20 healthy counterparts. NTDs jeopardize the ability of  
21 people to attend work and school, or to produce at  
22 full capacity. For example, controlling one NTD,  
23 hookworm, in children can result in a 43-percent in-  
24 crease in future wage earnings.

1           (5) The social, economic, and health burden of  
2 NTDs falls primarily on low- and middle-income  
3 countries, where access to safe water, sanitation,  
4 and health care is limited. At least 100 countries  
5 face two endemic NTD burdens, and 30 countries  
6 carry six or more endemic NTDs.

7           (6) NTDs are not confined to the developing  
8 world, however. Several NTD outbreaks have been  
9 reported in the United States and other developed  
10 countries, especially among the poor. In the United  
11 States, NTDs disproportionately affect people living  
12 in poverty, and especially minorities, including up to  
13 2.8 million African-Americans with toxocariasis and  
14 300,000 or more people, mostly Hispanic-Americans,  
15 with Chagas disease.

16           (7) In 2014, an outbreak of Ebola Virus Dis-  
17 eases (Ebola) caused a pandemic that infected more  
18 than 20,000 people, including more than 8,000  
19 deaths. Although not listed as an NTD by the World  
20 Health Organization, Ebola shares the same charac-  
21 teristics as other NTDs by affecting people living  
22 “under conditions of poverty” and is “concentrated  
23 almost exclusively in impoverished populations in the  
24 developing world”. Even when the disease had  
25 spread to the United States and other developed

1 countries, it was contained and controlled by the  
2 well-equipped health systems in those areas.

3 (8) Many NTDs can be controlled, prevented,  
4 and even eliminated using low-cost, effective, and  
5 feasible solutions. Understanding the economic bur-  
6 den of NTDs on productivity and health care costs  
7 can help to assure governments and donors that the  
8 resources directed toward NTDs represent a good  
9 investment.

10 (9) Research and development efforts are imme-  
11 diately needed for all NTDs, especially those for  
12 which limited or no treatment currently exists.

13 (10) Critical to developing robust NTD control  
14 strategies are epidemiological data that identify at-  
15 risk populations, ensure appropriate treatment fre-  
16 quency, and inform decisions about when treatment  
17 can be reduced or stopped.

18 (11) Of the 14 most common NTDs, roughly  
19 80 percent of infections are caused by soil-trans-  
20 mitted helminths (STH) and schistosomiasis. STH  
21 are a group of three parasitic worms (roundworms,  
22 whipworms, and hookworms) that afflict more than  
23 one billion people worldwide, including 600 million  
24 school-age children, of whom more than 300 million  
25 suffer from severe morbidity. Schistosomiasis is an-

1 other helminth infection affecting at least 200 mil-  
2 lion people in developing countries, but some esti-  
3 mates indicate that the true number of people af-  
4 fected may be double or even triple that number.

5 (12) The main health problems caused by STH  
6 are related to their negative effect on childhood nu-  
7 tritional status, which can cause stunting and wast-  
8 ing. For example, STH infection may lead to ane-  
9 mia, malabsorption of nutrients, loss of appetite,  
10 nausea, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and reduced food  
11 intake. When such health problems are experienced  
12 in early childhood, a peak growth and development  
13 period, the mental and physical damage—and loss of  
14 future productivity and wage-earning potential—will  
15 likely be irreversible. Schistosomiasis causes end-  
16 organ damage to the urinary tract, female genital  
17 tract, liver and intestines. It also results in chronic  
18 health conditions in children.

19 (13) STH and schistosomiasis are also particu-  
20 larly detrimental to the health of women of repro-  
21 ductive age and pregnant women. Their underlying  
22 poor iron status makes these women most suscep-  
23 tible to developing anemia. Iron deficiency anemia  
24 resulting from hookworm infection during pregnancy  
25 has been linked to poor pregnancy outcomes such as

1       prematurity, low birth weight, and impaired lacta-  
2       tion. Female genital schistosomiasis may be one of  
3       the most common gynecologic conditions in Africa  
4       leading to genital pain, itching, and bleeding and  
5       markedly increased susceptibility to HIV/AIDS.

6               (14) Fortunately, there is a simple, cost-effective  
7       solution to STH and schistosomiasis infections:  
8       single-dose deworming pills that can be safely ad-  
9       ministered once or twice annually to those at risk.  
10      Pharmaceutical companies have committed to donate  
11      the drugs needed to treat all at-risk, school-age chil-  
12      dren in developing countries. Regular administration  
13      of deworming pills reduces morbidity associated with  
14      STH and schistosomiasis infections by reducing  
15      prevalence and transmission rates.

16              (15) Improved access to water, sanitation, and  
17      hygiene (WASH) can also reduce the transmission of  
18      NTDs, particularly intestinal worms.

19              (16) The benefits of deworming are immediate  
20      and enduring. A rigorous randomized controlled trial  
21      has shown school-based deworming treatment to re-  
22      duce school absenteeism by 25 percent. School-based  
23      deworming also benefits young siblings and other  
24      children who live nearby but are too young to be

1 treated, leading to large cognitive improvements  
2 equivalent to half a year of schooling.

3 **SEC. 5. DEFINITION.**

4 In this Act, the term “neglected tropical diseases” or  
5 “NTDs”—

6 (1) means infections caused by pathogens, in-  
7 cluding viruses, bacteria, protozoa, and helminths  
8 that disproportionately impact individuals living in  
9 extreme poverty, especially in developing countries;  
10 and

11 (2) includes—

12 (A) Buruli ulcer (*Mycobacterium Ulcerans*  
13 infection);

14 (B) Chagas disease;

15 (C) dengue or severe dengue fever;

16 (D) dracunculiasis (Guinea worm disease);

17 (E) echinococcosis;

18 (F) foodborne trematodiasis;

19 (G) human African trypanosomiasis (sleep-  
20 ing sickness);

21 (H) leishmaniasis;

22 (I) leprosy;

23 (J) lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis);

24 (K) onchocerciasis (river blindness);

25 (L) rabies;



- 1 (M) schistosomiasis;  
2 (N) soil-transmitted helminthiases (STH)  
3 (round worm, whip worm, and hook worm);  
4 (O) taeniasis/cysticercosis;  
5 (P) trachoma; and  
6 (Q) yaws (endemic treponematoses).

7 **SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

8 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to increase au-  
9 thorizations of appropriations for the United States Agen-  
10 cy for International Development or authorizations of ap-  
11 propriations for the Department of Health and Human  
12 Services.

13 **TITLE I—FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

14 **SEC. 101. EXPANSION OF USAID NTDS PROGRAM.**

15 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

16 (1) Since fiscal year 2006, the United States  
17 Government has been an essential leading partner in  
18 advancing control and elimination efforts for seven  
19 targeted neglected tropical diseases: lymphatic fila-  
20 riasis (elephantiasis), onchocerciasis (river blind-  
21 ness), schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiases  
22 (STH) (round worm, whip worm, and hook worm),  
23 and trachoma. Additional information suggests that  
24 such efforts could also produce collateral benefits for

1 at least three other NTDs: foodborne trematodiasis,  
2 rabies, and yaws (endemic treponematoses).

3 (2) The United States Agency for International  
4 Development (USAID) Neglected Tropical Diseases  
5 Program has made important and substantial con-  
6 tributions to the global fight to control and eliminate  
7 the seven most common NTDs. Leveraging more  
8 than \$6.7 billion in donated medicines, USAID has  
9 supported the distribution of more than one billion  
10 treatments in 25 countries across Africa, Asia, and  
11 Latin America and the Caribbean.

12 (3) United States Government leadership has  
13 been instrumental in maintaining the global fight  
14 against NTDs and is a partner in the 2012 London  
15 Declaration on NTDs, which represents a new, co-  
16 ordinated push to accelerate progress toward elimi-  
17 nating or controlling 10 neglected tropical diseases  
18 by 2020.

19 (4) The USAID NTDs Program is a clear ex-  
20 ample of a successful public-private partnership be-  
21 tween the Government and the private sector and  
22 should be judiciously expanded.

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
24 gress that the USAID NTDs Program (as in effect on

1 the date of the enactment of this Act) should be modified  
2 as follows:

3 (1) Provide rapid impact package treatments to  
4 as many individuals suffering from NTDs or at risk  
5 of acquiring NTDs as logistically feasible.

6 (2) Better integrate rapid impact package  
7 treatments with programs to control and eliminate  
8 HIV/AIDS and malaria, as well as improved access  
9 to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) pro-  
10 grams, including—

11 (A) by coordinating HIV/AIDS programs  
12 with the control of female genital schistosomiasis,  
13 now revealed as one of Africa’s most im-  
14 portant co-factors in its AIDS epidemic; and

15 (B) by coordinating malaria programs with  
16 programs to control schistosomiasis and hook  
17 worm—together these diseases produce pro-  
18 found and severe anemia.

19 (3) Establish school-based NTD programs to  
20 provide an opportunity to reach large numbers of  
21 school-age children who require treatments for  
22 NTDs, including rapid impact package treatments  
23 as feasible and at very low cost.

24 (4) For other NTDs, such as human African  
25 trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), Chagas disease,

1 leishmaniasis, and dengue fever, develop new ap-  
2 proaches to reach the goals relating to the elimi-  
3 nation of NTDs as set forth in the World Health  
4 Organization (WHO) NTD Roadmap.

5 (c) EXPANSION OF PROGRAM.—The Administrator of  
6 USAID shall expand the USAID NTDs Program (as in  
7 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act) as follows:

8 (1) Carry out monitoring and evaluation to pro-  
9 vide accurate measurements to inform future NTD  
10 control and elimination strategies.

11 (2) Coordinate with USAID development sec-  
12 tors, such as sectors relating to water and sanita-  
13 tion, hygiene, food security and nutrition, and edu-  
14 cation (both primary and preprimary), to establish  
15 programs that address NTDs and advance the goals  
16 of the 2012 London Declaration on NTDs.

17 (3) Include morbidity management in treatment  
18 plans for high-burden NTDs, such as lymphatic fila-  
19 riasis (elephantiasis).

20 (4) Include NTDs that are recognized as high-  
21 burden diseases in the Global Burden of Disease  
22 Study 2010, including foodborne trematodiasis,  
23 human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness),  
24 Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, and dengue fever and  
25 related arbovirus infections.

1           (5) Include research and development, con-  
2           sistent with other USAID disease prevention pro-  
3           grams, to ensure the tools required for elimination  
4           of these diseases are available, such as drugs,  
5           diagnostics, vaccines.

6           (d) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

7           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of  
8           USAID shall establish a research and development  
9           program within the USAID NTDs Program (as in  
10          effect on the date of the enactment of this Act).

11          (2) PRIORITY.—The research and development  
12          program shall focus on the prevention and control of  
13          those diseases with the highest need for new treat-  
14          ments, diagnostics, and vaccines, including soil  
15          transmitted helminthiases (STH) (round worm, whip  
16          worm, and hook worm), schistosomiasis, Chagas dis-  
17          ease, human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sick-  
18          ness), leishmaniasis, Ebola, and dengue fever and  
19          other arbovirus infections.

20 **SEC. 102. ACTIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

21          (a) OFFICE OF THE GLOBAL AIDS COORDINATOR.—  
22          Section 1(f)(2)(B)(ii) of the State Department Basic Au-  
23          thorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(f)(2)(B)(ii)) is  
24          amended by adding at the end the following:

1                   “(XIV) NEGLECTED TROPICAL  
2                   DISEASES.—

3                   “(aa) IN GENERAL.—Ensuring  
4                   ing coordination of activities of  
5                   the United States (including  
6                   funding) relating to combatting  
7                   HIV/AIDS with activities of the  
8                   United States (including funding)  
9                   relating to combatting neglected  
10                  tropical diseases to include the  
11                  control and elimination of ne-  
12                  glected tropical diseases, particu-  
13                  larly in countries and regions  
14                  that are highly endemic for fe-  
15                  male genital schistosomiasis.

16                  “(bb) DEFINITION.—In this  
17                  subclause, the term ‘neglected  
18                  tropical diseases’ has the mean-  
19                  ing given the term in section 5 of  
20                  the End Neglected Tropical Dis-  
21                  eases Act.”.

22                  (b) GLOBAL FUND.—

23                   (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State  
24                   should seek to engage the Global Fund in discus-  
25                   sions on whether to expand the authority of the

1 Global Fund for the control and elimination of ne-  
2 glected tropical diseases.

3 (2) GLOBAL FUND.—In this subsection, the  
4 term “Global Fund” means the public-private part-  
5 nership known as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS,  
6 Tuberculosis and Malaria established pursuant to  
7 Article 80 of the Swiss Civil Code.

8 (c) G–20 COUNTRIES.—The Secretary of State, act-  
9 ing through the Office of Global Health Diplomacy, should  
10 engage G–20 countries to significantly increase their role  
11 in the control and elimination of neglected tropical dis-  
12 eases, particularly Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indo-  
13 nesia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and  
14 South Africa.

15 **SEC. 103. MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH IN-**  
16 **STITUTIONS.**

17 (a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDING.—Congress finds that  
18 the treatment of high burden neglected tropical diseases,  
19 including school-based deworming programs, has proven  
20 to be a highly cost-effective education intervention and  
21 schools can serve as the best delivery mechanism for  
22 reaching large numbers of children with safe treatment for  
23 soil-transmitted helminthiases (STH) (round worm, whip  
24 worm, and hook worm) in particular.

1 (b) UNITED NATIONS.—The President shall direct  
2 the United States permanent representative to the United  
3 Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United  
4 States to urge the World Health Organization, the United  
5 Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organiza-  
6 tion, and the United Nations Development Programme to  
7 take the actions described in subsection (d).

8 (c) WORLD BANK INSTITUTE.—The President shall  
9 direct the United States Executive Director at the Inter-  
10 national Bank for Reconstruction and Development to use  
11 the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to urge  
12 the World Bank Institute to take the actions described  
13 in subsection (d).

14 (d) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—The actions described in  
15 this subsection are the following:

16 (1) Ensure the dissemination of best practices  
17 and programming on NTDs to governments and  
18 make data accessible to practitioners in an open and  
19 timely fashion.

20 (2) Highlight impacts of school-based  
21 deworming programs on children’s health and edu-  
22 cation, emphasizing the cost-effectiveness of such  
23 programs.

24 (3) Encourage governments to implement  
25 deworming campaigns at the national level.



1           (4) Designate a portion of grant funds of the  
2 institutions to deworming initiatives and cross-sec-  
3 toral collaboration with water and sanitation and hy-  
4 giene efforts and nutrition or education program-  
5 ming.

6           (5) Encourage accurate monitoring and evalua-  
7 tion of NTD programs, including deworming pro-  
8 grams.

9           (6) Engage governments in cross-border initia-  
10 tives for the treatment, control, prevention, and  
11 elimination of NTDs, and assist in developing  
12 transnational agreements, when necessary.

13           **TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF**  
14           **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

15           **SEC. 201. PROMOTING EFFORTS THROUGH INTERAGENCY**  
16                           **WORKING GROUPS AND INTERNATIONAL FO-**  
17                           **RUMS.**

18           The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall  
19 continue to promote the need for robust programs and ac-  
20 tivities to diagnose, prevent, control, and treat neglected  
21 tropical diseases—

22           (1) through interagency working groups on  
23 health; and

1           (2) through relevant international forums on  
2           behalf of the United States, including the post-2015  
3           United Nations development agenda.

4 **SEC. 202. REPORT ON NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES IN**  
5 **THE UNITED STATES.**

6           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 12 months after  
7 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health  
8 and Human Services, acting through the Director of the  
9 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall submit  
10 to the Congress a report on neglected tropical diseases in  
11 the United States.

12           (b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by this section  
13 shall—

14                 (1) assess the epidemiology of, impact of, and  
15                 appropriate funding required to address neglected  
16                 tropical diseases in the United States; and

17                 (2) include the information necessary—

18                         (A) to guide future health policy with re-  
19                         spect to such diseases;

20                         (B) to accurately evaluate the current  
21                         state of knowledge concerning such diseases;

22                         and

23                         (C) to define gaps in such knowledge.

1 **SEC. 203. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

2 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
3 is amended by inserting after section 399V-5 of such Act  
4 (42 U.S.C. 280g-16) the following:

5 **“SEC. 399V-6. NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASE CENTERS OF**  
6 **EXCELLENCE.**

7 “(a) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND GRANTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
9 through the Director of the National Institute of Al-  
10 lergy and Infectious Diseases or the Administrator  
11 of the Health Resources and Services Administra-  
12 tion, as appropriate, may enter into cooperative  
13 agreements with, and make grants to, public or pri-  
14 vate nonprofit entities to pay all or part of the cost  
15 of planning, establishing, or strengthening, and pro-  
16 viding basic operating support for, one or more cen-  
17 ters of excellence for research into, training in, and  
18 development of diagnosis, prevention, control, and  
19 treatment methods for neglected tropical diseases.

20 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a cooper-  
21 ative agreement or grant under this section, an enti-  
22 ty must—

23 “(A) have demonstrated expertise in re-  
24 search on, and the epidemiology and surveil-  
25 lance of, the major neglected tropical diseases  
26 that are endemic to the United States, such as

1 Chagas disease, dengue, leishmaniasis, and  
2 West Nile virus infection, and helminth infec-  
3 tions; and

4 “(B) participate in one or more not-for-  
5 profit product development partnerships.

6 “(b) POLICIES.—A cooperative agreement or grant  
7 under paragraph (1) shall be entered into or awarded in  
8 accordance with policies established by the Director of the  
9 National Institutes of Health or the Health Resources and  
10 Services Administration, as applicable.

11 “(c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTES.—  
12 The Secretary shall coordinate the activities under this  
13 section with similar activities conducted by other national  
14 research institutes, centers, and agencies of the National  
15 Institutes of Health to the extent that such institutes, cen-  
16 ters, and agencies have responsibilities that are related to  
17 neglected tropical diseases.

18 “(d) USES OF FUNDS.—A cooperative agreement or  
19 grant under subsection (a) may be used for—

20 “(1) staffing, administrative, and other basic  
21 operating costs, including such patient care costs as  
22 are required for research;

23 “(2) clinical training, including training for al-  
24 lied health professionals, continuing education for  
25 health professionals and allied health professions

1 personnel, and information programs for the public  
2 with respect to neglected tropical diseases; and

3 “(3) research and development programs.

4 “(e) PERIOD OF SUPPORT; ADDITIONAL PERIODS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Support of a center of ex-  
6 cellence under this section may be for a period of  
7 not more than 5 years.

8 “(2) EXTENSIONS.—The period specified in  
9 paragraph (1) may be extended by the Secretary for  
10 additional periods of not more than 5 years if—

11 “(A) the operations of the center of excel-  
12 lence involved have been reviewed by an appro-  
13 priate technical and scientific peer review  
14 group; and

15 “(B) such group has recommended to the  
16 Secretary that such period should be extended.

17 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) The term ‘neglected tropical disease’ has  
19 the meaning given to that term in section 5 of the  
20 End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act.

21 “(2) The term ‘product development partner-  
22 ship’ means a partnership to bring together public  
23 and private sector researchers to develop new, or im-  
24 prove on current, global health tools, such as drugs,

1       diagnostics, insecticides, vaccines, and vector man-  
2       agement strategies—

3               “(A) that are for neglected tropical dis-  
4               eases, including Ebola; and

5               “(B) for which there is generally no profit-  
6               able market.

7       “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
8       carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-  
9       priated such sums as may be necessary for each of the  
10      fiscal years 2016 through 2020.”.

11      **SEC. 204. PANEL ON WORM INFECTION SOLUTIONS.**

12       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the National  
13      Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Adminis-  
14      trator of the United States Agency for International De-  
15      velopment, shall establish a panel to conduct an evaluation  
16      of issues relating to worm infections, including potential  
17      solutions such as deworming medicines (in this section re-  
18      ferred to as the “panel”).

19       (b) STRATEGIES.—The panel shall develop rec-  
20      ommendations for strategies for solutions with respect  
21      to—

22               (1) repeat infections;

23               (2) vector control;

24               (3) clean water solutions;

1           (4) identifying incentives to encourage basic re-  
2           search for less toxic, more effective medicines; and

3           (5) improving the success and cost efficiency of  
4           current programs in these areas, based on a thor-  
5           ough scan of initiatives already underway in both  
6           the public and private sectors.

7           (c) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—The Director of  
8           the National Institutes of Health shall appoint as mem-  
9           bers of the panel individuals from the public and private  
10          sectors who are knowledgeable about or affected by worm  
11          infections, including—

12           (1) at least 2 representatives of nongovern-  
13          mental organizations;

14           (2) at least 2 representatives of private industry  
15          involved in the development of de-worming medica-  
16          tions;

17           (3) at least 2 representatives from academia;  
18          and

19           (4) representatives of industries relating to  
20          sanitation, clean water, and vector control.

21          (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
22          of the enactment of this Act, the panel shall submit to  
23          Congress and the Director of the National Institutes of  
24          Health a report on its findings and recommended strate-  
25          gies, including recommendations for such administrative

1 action and legislation as the panel determines to be appro-  
2 priate.

3 (e) TERMINATION.—The panel shall terminate not  
4 later than 6 months after submitting the report required  
5 by subsection (d).

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