

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Recognizing April 4, 2025, as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, and reaffirming the leadership of the United States in eliminating landmines and unexploded ordnance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. BALDWIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Recognizing April 4, 2025, as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, and reaffirming the leadership of the United States in eliminating landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Whereas landmines and unexploded ordnance threaten the safety, health, and lives of civilian populations and create humanitarian and development challenges that have serious and lasting social, economic, and security consequences for effected populations;

Whereas demining and clearance of unexploded ordnance enables displaced people to return to their homes and has a direct impact on development outcomes such as food security, school attendance, and economic development;

Whereas people in at least 60 countries and other areas are at risk from mines and unexploded ordnance in their communities;

Whereas more than 141,500 deaths and injuries resulting from anti-personnel or anti-vehicle mines and other explosive remnants of war have been recorded in the Landmine Monitor database since 2001, and thousands more individuals around the world are killed and injured by such mines and remnants each year;

Whereas demining programs make the United States safer, stronger, and more prosperous by removing explosive hazards that pose a risk to United States service members and Americans abroad, by strengthening relationships with governments and communities, and by supporting agricultural production and the creation of new markets;

Whereas, over the past 3 decades, the United States has been the global leader in supporting conventional weapons destruction, providing more than \$5,090,000,000 in assistance to more than 125 countries and areas since 1993;

Whereas, since 1989, the United States Agency for International Development has allocated more than \$350,000,000 through the Leahy War Victims Fund in more than 50 countries to provide artificial limbs, wheelchairs, rehabilitation, vocational training, and other assistance to survivors of accidents caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance;

Whereas the United States Government expressed its support for the Maputo +15 declaration of June 27, 2014, which established the goal “to destroy all stockpiled anti-per-

sonnel mines and clear all mined areas as soon as possible”;

Whereas there are 165 States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, done at Oslo September 18, 1997;

Whereas there are 111 States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, done at Dublin May 30, 2008;

Whereas the recent use of landmines, cluster bombs, and other munitions, particularly in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Burma, and Ukraine, has created new humanitarian priorities and funding requirements for demining, while legacy mine contamination remains an urgent challenge impacting millions of people globally;

Whereas Russia’s aggression in Ukraine has resulted in an estimated one-third of the territory being contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance, creating a massive need for clearance operations as a prerequisite for Ukraine’s recovery;

Whereas these needs in Ukraine do not diminish the similarly urgent need for humanitarian demining in other parts of the world;

Whereas additional resources for demining will be needed to achieve a world free of the threat of landmines and other explosive hazards;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the communities from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, including the many Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese people who supported and defended the United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia during the 1960s and 1970s;

Whereas the Senate remembers the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War on April 30, 2025, and the sacrifices of the members of the United States Armed Forces that served in the conflict;

Whereas, since the end of the Vietnam War, more than 40,000 people in Vietnam have been killed by unexploded ordnance and 60,000 have been injured;

Whereas, since 1979, more than 25,000 people in Laos and 65,000 people in Cambodia have been killed or injured by landmines or unexploded ordnance; and

Whereas, on December 8, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly declared that April 4th of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) reaffirms the commitment of the United
3 States to support international humanitarian efforts
4 to eliminate landmines and unexploded ordnance;

5 (2) recognizes those individuals in numerous
6 countries who, at great risk to their personal safety,
7 work to locate and remove anti-personnel landmines
8 and unexploded ordnance;

9 (3) affirms its support for the goal, as ex-
10 pressed by the Maputo +15 declaration of June 27,
11 2014, to intensify efforts to clear mined areas to the
12 fullest extent possible by 2025;

13 (4) calls upon the United States Government—

1 (A) to continue providing the funding nec-
2 essary to support international humanitarian
3 demining activities;

4 (B) to maintain its international leadership
5 role in seeking to rid the world of areas con-
6 taminated by landmines and unexploded ord-
7 nance; and

8 (C) to rededicate itself to addressing legacy
9 mine contamination as an urgent humanitarian
10 priority; and

11 (5) reaffirms the goals of the International Day
12 for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.