



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 20, 2003

H.R. 1462 **International Disability and Victims of Warfare and Civil Strife** **Assistance Act of 2003**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations on June 12,
2003*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1462 would authorize the President to furnish assistance to individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of landmines and other war injuries. The bill also would authorize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide such assistance, and would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide advice and expertise to U.S. agencies and private voluntary agencies undertaking such programs. Currently, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the CDC, and VA provide some assistance in this area under more general authority. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1462 would cost about \$2 million over the 2004-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. H.R. 1462 would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 1462 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The budgetary impact of H.R. 1462 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted late in fiscal year 2003, that the estimated amounts will be appropriated by the start of fiscal year 2004, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns. The costs of this legislation fall primarily within budget function 550 (health).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008

SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Spending Under Current Law for War Victims and Persons with Disabilities						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	11	12	12	12	12	12
Estimated Outlays	9	9	10	11	11	11
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	2	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	0	0	0
Spending Under H.R. 1462 for War Victims and Persons with Disabilities						
Estimated Authorization Level	11	14	12	12	12	12
Estimated Outlays	9	10	12	11	11	11

a. The 2003 level is the amount appropriated for that year for programs authorized by H.R. 1462. The current-law amounts for the 2004-2008 period are baseline projections that assume annual adjustments for anticipated inflation.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 1462 would authorize the President to furnish assistance to individuals with disabilities in foreign countries, including victims of land mines and other war injuries. Under more general authorities in current law, USAID, the CDC, and VA provide roughly \$12 million a year in assistance in this area. The bill would expand current programs in 2004.

U.S. Agency for International Development. Section 3 would authorize assistance to individuals with disabilities, including victims of land mines and other victims of warfare and civil strife. USAID currently provides such assistance, primarily through the Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund, with an annual funding level of \$7 million. CBO estimates that under H.R. 1462, funding for individuals with disabilities would continue at that rate.

Centers for Disease Control. Section 4 would authorize (only in coordination with USAID) the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 2003 and 2004 for the CDC to conduct programs in foreign countries for individuals with disabilities, including persons injured by land mines and civil strife. Those programs could include research on trauma and rehabilitation, evaluating treatment interventions, developing medical instruction tools for responding to traumatic injuries, and facilitating and training peer-support networks.

The bill would authorize the CDC to provide grants to nongovernmental organizations to carry out research, prevention activities, and public awareness campaigns, as well as other activities to share information about research on limb loss and best practices in treatment programs.

Under current law, the CDC provides \$5 million a year for some of the activities authorized by the bill, most of which are directed toward a network for victims of land mines and collecting epidemiological data on land mine injuries. H.R. 1462 would authorize the CDC to carry out additional activities such as trauma research and evaluation of medical treatments. According to the CDC, those additional activities would require \$2 million a year in additional funding. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing section 4 would cost \$2 million over the 2004-2005 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Department of Veterans Affairs. Section 5 would authorize VA to provide advice and expertise to federal agencies and technical assistance to private voluntary organizations (PVOs) with respect to planning, development, operation, and evaluation of land mine assistance, research, and prevention programs. The VA currently provides advice to other federal agencies on a nonreimbursable basis. The bill would authorize VA to provide technical assistance to PVOs on a reimbursable basis. Based on information from VA, CBO estimates the cost and collections from providing this technical assistance would be less than \$500,000 a year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1462 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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