

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H. R. 3212, With an  
Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a  
new text)**

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3212

To ensure compliance with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by countries with which the United States enjoys reciprocal obligations, to establish procedures for the prompt return of children abducted to other countries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. BURGESS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To ensure compliance with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by countries with which the United States enjoys reciprocal obligations, to establish procedures for the prompt return of children abducted to other countries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction  
4 Prevention and Return Act of 2013”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; sense of Congress; purposes.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Funding.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIONS

- Sec. 101. Annual report.
- Sec. 102. Standards and assistance.
- Sec. 103. Memorandum of understanding.
- Sec. 104. Notification of congressional representatives.

TITLE II—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

- Sec. 201. Presidential actions in response to unresolved cases.
- Sec. 202. Presidential actions in response to patterns of noncooperation in cases of international child abductions.
- Sec. 203. Consultations with foreign governments.
- Sec. 204. Report to Congress.
- Sec. 205. Presidential actions.
- Sec. 206. Presidential waiver.
- Sec. 207. Publication in Federal Register.
- Sec. 208. Termination of Presidential actions.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS; PURPOSES.**

8 (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

9 (1) Sean Goldman, a United States citizen and  
10 resident of New Jersey, was abducted from the  
11 United States in 2004 and separated from his fa-  
12 ther, David Goldman, who spent nearly six years  
13 battling for the return of his son from Brazil before  
14 Sean was finally returned to Mr. Goldman’s custody  
15 on December 24, 2009.

1           (2) The Department of State’s Office of Chil-  
2           dren’s Issues, which serves as the Central Authority  
3           of the United States for the purposes of the 1980  
4           Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Inter-  
5           national Child Abduction, has received thousands of  
6           requests since 2007 for assistance in the return to  
7           the United States of children who have been ab-  
8           ducted by a parent or other legal guardian to an-  
9           other country. For a variety of reasons reflecting the  
10          significant obstacles to the recovery of abducted chil-  
11          dren, as well as the legal and factual complexity in-  
12          volving such cases, not all cases are reported to the  
13          Central Authority of the United States.

14          (3) More than one thousand outgoing inter-  
15          national child abductions are reported to the Central  
16          Authority of the United States every year.

17          (4) Only about half of the children abducted  
18          from the United States to countries with which the  
19          United States enjoys reciprocal obligations under the  
20          Hague Abduction Convention are returned to the  
21          United States.

22          (5) The United States and Convention coun-  
23          tries have expressed their desire, through the Hague  
24          Abduction Convention, “to protect children inter-  
25          nationally from the harmful effects of their wrongful

1 removal or retention and to establish procedures to  
2 ensure their prompt return to the State of their ha-  
3 bitual residence, as well as to secure protection for  
4 rights of access.”.

5 (6) Compliance by the United States and Con-  
6 vention countries depends on the actions of their  
7 designated central authorities, the performance of  
8 their judiciaries as reflected in the legal process and  
9 decisions rendered to enforce or effectuate the  
10 Hague Abduction Convention, and the ability and  
11 willingness of their law enforcement to insure the  
12 swift enforcement of orders rendered pursuant to the  
13 Hague Abduction Convention.

14 (7) According to data compiled by the Central  
15 Authority of the United States, approximately 40  
16 percent of abduction cases and access cases involve  
17 children taken from the United States to countries  
18 with which the United States does not have Hague  
19 Abduction Convention obligations or other agree-  
20 ments relating to the resolution of abduction cases  
21 and access cases.

22 (8) According to the Department of State’s  
23 April 2010 Report on Compliance with the Hague  
24 Convention on the Civil Aspects of International  
25 Child Abduction, “parental child abduction jeopard-

1       izes the child and has substantial long-term con-  
2       sequences for both the child and the left-behind par-  
3       ent.”.

4           (9) Abducted children are at risk of serious  
5       emotional and psychological problems and have been  
6       found to experience anxiety, eating problems, night-  
7       mares, mood swings, sleep disturbances, aggressive  
8       behavior, resentment, guilt and fearfulness, and as  
9       adults may struggle with identity issues, personal re-  
10      lationships, and parenting.

11          (10) Left-behind parents may encounter sub-  
12      stantial psychological and emotional problems, and  
13      few have the extraordinary financial resources nec-  
14      essary to pursue individual civil or criminal remedies  
15      in both the United States and a foreign country,  
16      even where available, or to engage in repeated for-  
17      eign travel to attempt to procure the return of their  
18      children by evoking diplomatic and humanitarian  
19      remedies.

20          (11) Left-behind parents who are military par-  
21      ents may be unable to leave their military duties to  
22      pursue multinational litigation or take leave to at-  
23      tend multiple court proceedings, and foreign authori-  
24      ties may not schedule proceedings to accommodate  
25      such duties.

1           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
2 gress that the United States should set a strong example  
3 for Convention countries in the timely location and return  
4 of abducted children in the United States whose habitual  
5 residence is not the United States.

6           (c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

7               (1) protect children whose habitual residence is  
8 the United States from the harmful effects of abduc-  
9 tion and to assist left-behind parents to have access  
10 to their abducted child in a safe and predictable  
11 manner, wherever the child is located, while an ab-  
12 duction case is pending;

13               (2) provide left-behind parents, including mili-  
14 tary parents, their advocates, and judges the infor-  
15 mation they need to enhance the resolution of abduc-  
16 tion cases and access cases through established legal  
17 procedures, risk assessment tools, and the practical  
18 means for overcoming obstacles to recovering an ab-  
19 ducted child;

20               (3) establish measured, effective, and predict-  
21 able actions to be undertaken by the President on  
22 behalf of abducted children whose habitual residence  
23 is the United States at the time of the abduction;

24               (4) promote an international consensus that it  
25 is in the interest of children to have any issues re-

1       lated to their care and custody determined in the  
2       country of their habitual residence;

3           (5) provide the necessary training for officials  
4       of the United States Armed Forces and the Depart-  
5       ment of Defense to establish policies and provide  
6       services to military parents that address the unique  
7       circumstances of abductions and violations of rights  
8       of access that may occur with regard to military de-  
9       pendent children; and

10          (6) encourage the effective implementation of  
11       international mechanisms, particularly those estab-  
12       lished pursuant to the Hague Abduction Convention,  
13       to achieve reciprocity in the resolution of abductions  
14       and to protect children from the harmful effects of  
15       an abduction.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17       In this Act:

18           (1) **ABDUCTED CHILD.**—The term “abducted  
19       child” means a child who is the victim of an abduc-  
20       tion.

21           (2) **ABDUCTION.**—The term “abduction”  
22       means—

23                   (A) the alleged wrongful removal of a child  
24                   from the child’s country of habitual residence;

1 (B) the alleged wrongful retention of a  
2 child outside the child's country of habitual res-  
3 idence; or

4 (C) the alleged wrongful removal or reten-  
5 tion of a military dependent child from the ex-  
6 ercise of rights of custody of a military parent.

7 (3) ABDUCTION CASE.—The term “abduction  
8 case” means a case involving an application filed  
9 with the Central Authority of the United States by  
10 a left-behind parent for the resolution of an abduc-  
11 tion.

12 (4) ACCESS CASE.—The term “access case”  
13 means a case involving an application filed with the  
14 Central Authority of the United States by a left-be-  
15 hind parent for the establishment of rights of access.

16 (5) ANNUAL REPORT.—The term “Annual Re-  
17 port” means the Annual Report on International  
18 Child Abduction required under section 101.

19 (6) APPLICATION.—The term “application”  
20 means—

21 (A) in the case of a Convention country,  
22 the application required pursuant to article 8 of  
23 the Hague Abduction Convention;

24 (B) in the case of an MOU country, the  
25 formal document required pursuant to the pro-



1           visions of the applicable MOU to request the re-  
2           turn of an abducted child or to request rights  
3           of access, as applicable; and

4                   (C) in the case of a nonparty country, the  
5           formal request by the Central Authority of the  
6           United States to the Central Authority of such  
7           country requesting the return of an abducted  
8           child or for rights of access to an abducted  
9           child.

10           (7) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
11           TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
12           mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
13           the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
14           Foreign Relations of the Senate.

15           (8) CENTRAL AUTHORITY.—The term “Central  
16           Authority” means—

17                   (A) in the case of a Convention country,  
18           the meaning given such term in article 6 of the  
19           Hague Abduction Convention;

20                   (B) in the case of an MOU country, the of-  
21           ficial entity designated by the government of  
22           the MOU country within the applicable MOU  
23           pursuant to section 103(b)(1) to discharge the  
24           duties imposed on the entity in such MOU; and

1 (C) in the case of a nonparty country, the  
2 foreign ministry of such country.

3 (9) CHILD.—The term “child” means an indi-  
4 vidual who has not attained the age of 16.

5 (10) CONVENTION COUNTRY.—The term “Con-  
6 vention country” means a country other than the  
7 United States that has ratified, acceded, or suc-  
8 ceeded to the Hague Abduction Convention and with  
9 respect to which the United States has entered into  
10 a reciprocal agreement pursuant to the Hague Ab-  
11 duction Convention.

12 (11) HAGUE ABDUCTION CONVENTION.—The  
13 term “Hague Abduction Convention” means the  
14 Convention on the Civil Aspects of International  
15 Child Abduction, done at The Hague on October 25,  
16 1980.

17 (12) LEFT-BEHIND PARENT.—The term “left-  
18 behind parent” means an individual or entity, either  
19 individually or jointly, who alleges that an abduction  
20 has occurred that is in breach of rights of custody—

21 (A) attributed to such individual or entity,  
22 as applicable; and

23 (B) exercised at the time of the abduction  
24 or that would have been exercised but for the  
25 abduction.

1           (13) LEGAL RESIDENCE.—The term “legal resi-  
2           dence” means the congressional district and State in  
3           which an individual either is residing, or if an indi-  
4           vidual is residing temporarily outside the United  
5           States, the congressional district and State to which  
6           the individual intends to return.

7           (14) MILITARY DEPENDENT CHILD.—The term  
8           “military dependent child” means a child whose ha-  
9           bitual residence is the United States according to  
10          United States law even though the child is residing  
11          outside the United States with a military parent.

12          (15) MILITARY PARENT.—The term “military  
13          parent” means an individual who has rights of cus-  
14          tody over a child and who is serving outside the  
15          United States as a member of the United States  
16          Armed Forces.

17          (16) MOU.—The term “MOU” means a memo-  
18          randum of understanding between the United States  
19          and a country that is not a Convention country to  
20          resolve abduction cases and access cases.

21          (17) MOU COUNTRY.—The term “MOU coun-  
22          try” means a country with respect to which the  
23          United States has entered into an MOU.

1           (18)   NONPARTY    COUNTRY.—The    term  
2           “nonparty country” means a country that is neither  
3           a Convention country nor an MOU country.

4           (19)   PATTERN OF NONCOOPERATION.—

5           (A)   IN GENERAL.—The term “pattern of  
6           noncooperation” means the persistent failure—

7                   (i) of a Convention country to imple-  
8                   ment and abide by the provisions of the  
9                   Hague Abduction Convention; and

10                   (ii) of an MOU country to implement  
11                   and abide by the provisions of the applica-  
12                   ble MOU.

13           (B)   CRITERIA.—Such persistent failure  
14           may be evidenced by one or more of the fol-  
15           lowing criteria:

16                   (i) The existence of 10 or more unre-  
17                   solved abduction cases.

18                   (ii) The failure of the Central Author-  
19                   ity of the country to fulfill its responsibil-  
20                   ities pursuant to the Hague Abduction  
21                   Convention or the MOU, as applicable.

22                   (iii) The failure of the judicial or ad-  
23                   ministrative branch, as applicable, of the  
24                   national government of the country to im-  
25                   plement and comply with the provisions of

1           the Hague Abduction Convention or the  
2           MOU, as applicable.

3                   (iv) The failure of law enforcement to  
4           locate abducted children or to enforce re-  
5           turn orders or determinations of rights of  
6           access rendered by the judicial or adminis-  
7           trative authorities of the national govern-  
8           ment of the country in abduction cases or  
9           access cases.

10           (20) RIGHTS OF ACCESS.—The term “rights of  
11           access” means the rights of contact between a child  
12           and a left-behind parent provided as a provisional  
13           measure while an abduction case is pending, by op-  
14           eration of law or by reason of judicial or administra-  
15           tive determination or by agreement having legal ef-  
16           fect, under the law of the country in which the child  
17           is located.

18           (21) RIGHTS OF CUSTODY.—The term “rights  
19           of custody” means rights of care and custody of an  
20           abducted child, including the right to determine the  
21           place of residence of an abducted child—

22                   (A) attributed to an individual or entity,  
23           either individually or jointly, and

1 (B) arising by operation of law or by rea-  
2 son of a judicial or administrative decision, or  
3 by reason of an agreement having legal effect,  
4 under the law of the country in which the child was  
5 an habitual resident immediately before the abduc-  
6 tion.

7 (22) UNRESOLVED ABDUCTION CASE.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
9 graph (B), the term “unresolved abduction  
10 case” means an abduction case that remains  
11 unresolved for a period that exceeds 180 days  
12 after the date on which the completed applica-  
13 tion for return of the child is submitted for de-  
14 termination to the judicial or administrative au-  
15 thority, as applicable, in the country in which  
16 the child is located.

17 (B) RESOLUTION OF CASE.—An abduction  
18 case shall be considered to be resolved if—

19 (i) the child is returned to the country  
20 of habitual residence, pursuant to the  
21 Hague Abduction Convention or MOU, if  
22 applicable;

23 (ii) the judicial or administrative  
24 branch, as applicable, of the national gov-  
25 ernment of the country in which the child

1 is located has implemented and is com-  
2 plying with the provisions of the Hague  
3 Abduction Convention or the MOU, as ap-  
4 plicable, and a final determination is made  
5 by such judicial or administrative branch  
6 that the child will not be returned to the  
7 country of habitual residence; or

8 (iii) the child attains the age of 16.

9 **SEC. 4. FUNDING.**

10 Amounts necessary to carry out this Act shall be  
11 taken out of the discretionary funds available to the Sec-  
12 retary of State for each of the fiscal years 2014 through  
13 2018.

14 **TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF**  
15 **STATE ACTIONS**

16 **SEC. 101. ANNUAL REPORT.**

17 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than March 31 of each  
18 year, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appro-  
19 priate congressional committees an Annual Report on  
20 International Child Abduction.

21 (b) **CONTENTS.**—Each Annual Report shall include  
22 the following:

23 (1) A list of all countries with respect to which  
24 there were one or more abduction cases during the  
25 preceding year that identifies whether each such

1 country is a Convention country, an MOU country,  
2 or a nonparty country.

3 (2) For each country with respect to which  
4 there were 5 or more abduction cases during the  
5 preceding year:

6 (A) The number of abduction cases and  
7 the number of access cases, respectively, re-  
8 ported during the preceding year.

9 (B) The number of abduction cases and  
10 the number of access cases, respectively, that  
11 are pending as of March 1 of the year in which  
12 such Annual Report is submitted.

13 (C)(i) For Convention and MOU countries,  
14 the number of abduction cases and the number  
15 of access cases, respectively, that were pending  
16 at any point for more than 180 days after the  
17 date on which the Central Authority of the  
18 United States transmitted the complete applica-  
19 tion for each such case to the Central Authority  
20 of such country, and were not submitted by the  
21 Central Authority to the judicial or administra-  
22 tive authority, as applicable, of such country  
23 within the 180-day period.

24 (ii) The reason for the delay in submission  
25 of each case identified in clause (i) by the Cen-



1           tral Authority of such country to the judicial or  
2           administrative authority.

3           (D) The number of unresolved abduction  
4           cases, and the length of time each case has  
5           been pending.

6           (E) The number of unresolved abduction  
7           cases in which a completed application has been  
8           filed and law enforcement has failed to locate  
9           the abducted child or to enforce a return order  
10          rendered by the judicial or administrative au-  
11          thorities of such country.

12          (F) The median time required for resolu-  
13          tion of abduction cases during the preceding  
14          year, to be measured from the date on which  
15          the application with respect to the abduction  
16          case is transmitted by the Central Authority of  
17          the United States to the Central Authority of  
18          such country to the date on which the abduc-  
19          tion case is resolved.

20          (G) The total number and the percentage  
21          of the total number of abduction cases and ac-  
22          cess cases, respectively, resolved during the pre-  
23          ceding year.

24          (H) Detailed information about each unre-  
25          solved abduction case described in subpara-

1 graph (E) and on actions taken by the Depart-  
2 ment of State to resolve such case, including  
3 the specific actions taken by the United States  
4 chief of mission in such country.

5 (I) Recommendations to improve resolution  
6 of abduction cases and access cases.

7 (3) The number of abducted children from the  
8 United States who were returned to the United  
9 States from Convention countries, MOU countries,  
10 and nonparty countries, respectively.

11 (4) A list of Convention countries and MOU  
12 countries that have failed to comply with any of  
13 their obligations under the Hague Abduction Con-  
14 vention or the MOU, as applicable, with respect to  
15 the resolution of abduction cases and access cases.

16 (5) A list of countries demonstrating a pattern  
17 of noncooperation, and a summary of the criteria on  
18 which the determination of a pattern of noncoopera-  
19 tion for each country is based.

20 (6)(A) Information on efforts by the Secretary  
21 of State to encourage other countries to become sig-  
22 natories to the Hague Abduction Convention or to  
23 enter into an MOU.

1           (B) The efforts referred to in subparagraph (A)  
2 shall include efforts to address pending abduction  
3 cases and access cases in such countries.

4           (7) A description of the efforts of the Secretary  
5 of State to encourage Convention countries and  
6 MOU countries to facilitate the work of nongovern-  
7 mental organizations within their respective coun-  
8 tries that assist left-behind parents.

9           (8) The number of cases which were success-  
10 fully resolved without abducted children being re-  
11 turned to the United States from Convention coun-  
12 tries, MOU countries, and nonparty countries, re-  
13 spectively.

14       (c) EXCEPTION.—The Annual Report shall not in-  
15 clude—

16           (1) the names of left-behind parents or children  
17 involved in abduction cases or access cases; or

18           (2) information that may identify a party in-  
19 volved in an abduction case or access case unless the  
20 party stipulates in writing to the Central Authority  
21 of the United States that such information may be  
22 included in the Annual Report.

23       (d) ADDITIONAL THEMATIC SECTIONS.—Each An-  
24 nual Report shall also include—

1           (1) information on the number of unresolved  
2 abduction cases affecting left-behind parents who  
3 are military parents and a summary of assistance of-  
4 fered to such left-behind parents;

5           (2) information on the use of airlines in abduc-  
6 tions, voluntary airline practices to prevent abduc-  
7 tions, and recommendations for best airline practices  
8 to prevent abductions;

9           (3) information on actions taken by the Central  
10 Authority of the United States to train domestic  
11 judges in application of the Hague Abduction Con-  
12 vention; and

13           (4) information on actions taken by the Central  
14 Authority of the United States to train United  
15 States Armed Forces legal assistance personnel,  
16 military chaplains, and military family support cen-  
17 ter personnel about abductions, the risk of loss of  
18 access to children, and the legal frameworks avail-  
19 able to resolve such cases.

20           (e) REPEAL OF THE HAGUE CONVENTION COMPLI-  
21 ANCE REPORT.—Section 2803 of the Foreign Affairs Re-  
22 form and Restructuring Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 11611)  
23 is repealed.

1 **SEC. 102. STANDARDS AND ASSISTANCE.**

2 The Secretary of State shall ensure that United  
3 States diplomatic and consular missions abroad—

4 (1) maintain a consistent reporting standard  
5 with respect to abduction cases and access cases in-  
6 volving abducted children in the country in which  
7 such mission is located for purposes of the Annual  
8 Report;

9 (2) designate at least one official in each such  
10 mission to assist left-behind parents from the United  
11 States who are visiting such country to resolve cases  
12 involving an abduction or rights of access; and

13 (3) monitor developments in cases involving ab-  
14 ducted children in the country in which such mission  
15 is located.

16 **SEC. 103. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State should  
18 seek to enter into an MOU with every country that is not  
19 a Convention country and is unlikely to become a Conven-  
20 tion country in the foreseeable future, that includes—

21 (1) identification of the Central Authority;

22 (2) a protocol to identify, locate, and effectuate  
23 the return of an abducted child identified in an ab-  
24 duction case not later than 6 weeks after the appli-  
25 cation with respect to the abduction case has been  
26 submitted to the judicial or administrative authority,

1 as applicable, of the country in which the abducted  
2 child is located;

3 (3) a protocol for the establishment and protec-  
4 tion of the rights of access;

5 (4) identification of the judicial or administra-  
6 tive authority that will promptly adjudicate abduc-  
7 tion cases and access cases;

8 (5) identification of a law enforcement agency  
9 and available law enforcement mechanisms and pro-  
10 cedures to ensure the immediate enforcement of an  
11 order issued by the authority identified pursuant to  
12 paragraph (4) to return an abducted child to a left-  
13 behind parent, including by—

14 (A) conducting an investigation to ascer-  
15 tain the location of the abducted child;

16 (B) providing protection to the abducted  
17 child after such child is located; and

18 (C) retrieving the abducted child and mak-  
19 ing the appropriate arrangements for such child  
20 to be returned to the country of habitual resi-  
21 dence;

22 (6) a protocol to establish periodic visits be-  
23 tween a United States embassy or consular official  
24 and an abducted child to allow the official to ascer-  
25 tain the child's location and welfare; and

1           (7) such other provisions as determined to be  
2 appropriate by the Secretary of State.

3           (b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—

4           (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this Act shall be  
5 construed to prohibit the United States from pro-  
6 posing and entering into a memorandum of under-  
7 standing with a Convention country to further clar-  
8 ify the reciprocal obligations of the United States  
9 and the Convention country under the Hague Ab-  
10 duction Convention.

11           (2) **TREATMENT OF OBLIGATIONS OF CONVEN-**  
12 **TION COUNTRY.**—In those instances in which there  
13 is a memorandum of understanding as described in  
14 paragraph (1), the obligations of the Convention  
15 country under such memorandum shall be consid-  
16 ered to be obligations of such country under the  
17 Hague Abduction Convention for purposes of this  
18 Act.

19 **SEC. 104. NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENT-**  
20 **ATIVES.**

21           (a) **NOTIFICATION.**—Except as provided in sub-  
22 section (b), the Secretary of State shall notify in writing  
23 the Member of Congress and Senators representing the  
24 legal residence of a left-behind parent when such parent

1 reports an abduction to the Central Authority of the  
2 United States.

3 (b) EXCEPTION.—The notification requirement under  
4 subsection (a) shall not apply if the left-behind parent  
5 does not consent to the notification described in such sub-  
6 section.

7 (c) TIMING.—At the request of any person who is a  
8 left-behind parent, including a left-behind parent who pre-  
9 viously reported an abduction to the Central Authority of  
10 the United States before the date of the enactment of this  
11 Act, notification of a Member of Congress, in accordance  
12 with subsections (a) and (b), shall be provided as soon  
13 as is practicable.

14 (d) MEMBER OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this sec-  
15 tion, the term “Member of Congress” means a Represent-  
16 ative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the  
17 Congress.

## 18 **TITLE II—PRESIDENTIAL** 19 **ACTIONS**

### 20 **SEC. 201. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO UNRE-** 21 **SOLVED CASES.**

22 (a) RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUC-  
23 TIONS.—

24 (1) UNITED STATES POLICY.—It shall be the  
25 policy of the United States to—



1 (A) promote the best interest of children  
2 abducted from the United States by estab-  
3 lishing legal rights and procedures for their  
4 prompt return and by promoting such rights  
5 and procedures through actions that ensure the  
6 enforcement of reciprocal international obliga-  
7 tions; and

8 (B) recognize the international character  
9 of the Hague Abduction Convention, and the  
10 need for reciprocity pursuant to and the uni-  
11 form international interpretation of the Hague  
12 Abduction Convention, by promoting the timely  
13 resolution of abduction cases through one or  
14 more of the actions described in section 205.

15 (2) REQUIREMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL AC-  
16 TION.—Whenever the President determines that the  
17 government of a foreign country has failed to resolve  
18 an unresolved abduction case, the President shall op-  
19 pose such failure through one or more of the actions  
20 described in subsection (b).

21 (b) PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)  
23 and (3), the President, in consultation with the Sec-  
24 retary of State, shall, as expeditiously as practicable  
25 in response to the failure described in subsection (a)

1 by the government of a foreign country, take one or  
2 more of the actions described in paragraphs (1)  
3 through (13) of section 205(a) (or commensurate ac-  
4 tion as provided in section 205(b)) with respect to  
5 such country.

6 (2) DEADLINE FOR ACTIONS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
8 subparagraph (B), not later than March 31 of  
9 each year, the President shall take one or more  
10 of the actions described in paragraphs (1)  
11 through (13) of section 205(a) (or commensu-  
12 rate action as provided in section 205(b)) with  
13 respect to each foreign country the government  
14 of which has failed to resolve an unresolved ab-  
15 duction case that is pending as of such date.

16 (B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of an action  
17 under any of paragraphs (10) through (13) of  
18 section 205(a) (or commensurate action as pro-  
19 vided in section 205(b))—

20 (i) the action may only be taken after  
21 the requirements of sections 203 and 204  
22 have been satisfied; and

23 (ii) the March 31 deadline to take the  
24 action shall not apply.

1           (3) AUTHORITY FOR DELAY OF PRESIDENTIAL  
2           ACTIONS.—The President may delay action de-  
3           scribed in any of the paragraphs (10) through (13)  
4           of section 205(a) (or commensurate action as pro-  
5           vided in section 205(b)), as required under para-  
6           graph (2), if the President determines and certifies  
7           to the appropriate congressional committees that an  
8           additional, specified period of time is necessary for  
9           a continuation of negotiations that have been com-  
10          menced with the country to resolve the unresolved  
11          case.

12          (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection  
14          (b), the President shall—

15           (A) take one or more actions that most ap-  
16           propriately respond to the nature and severity  
17           of the failure to resolve the unresolved abduc-  
18           tion cases; and

19           (B) seek to the fullest extent possible to  
20           target action as narrowly as practicable with re-  
21           spect to the agencies or instrumentalities of the  
22           foreign government that are responsible for  
23           such failures, in ways that respect the separa-  
24           tion of powers and independence of the judici-  
25           ary in foreign countries.

1           (2) GUIDELINES FOR PRESIDENTIAL AC-  
2           TIONS.—In addition to the guidelines under para-  
3           graph (1), the President, in determining whether to  
4           take one or more actions under paragraphs (10)  
5           through (13) of section 205(a) (or commensurate ac-  
6           tion as provided in section 205(b)), shall seek to  
7           minimize any adverse impact on—

8                   (A) the population of the country whose  
9                   government is targeted by the action or actions;  
10                  and

11                   (B) the humanitarian activities of United  
12                   States and foreign nongovernmental organiza-  
13                   tions in the country.

14 **SEC. 202. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PAT-**  
15 **TERNS OF NONCOOPERATION IN CASES OF**  
16 **INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTIONS.**

17           (a) RESPONSE TO A PATTERN OF NONCOOPERA-  
18           TION.—

19                   (1) UNITED STATES POLICY.—It shall be the  
20                   policy of the United States to—

21                           (A) oppose institutional or other systemic  
22                           failures of foreign governments to fulfill their  
23                           obligations pursuant to the Hague Abduction  
24                           Convention or MOU, as applicable, to resolve  
25                           abduction cases and access cases; and

1 (B) promote reciprocity pursuant to and  
2 compliance with the Hague Abduction Conven-  
3 tion by Convention countries and compliance  
4 with the applicable MOU by MOU countries.

5 (2) REQUIREMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL AC-  
6 TION.—Whenever the President determines that the  
7 government of a foreign country has engaged in a  
8 pattern of noncooperation, the President shall pro-  
9 mote the resolution of the unresolved abduction  
10 cases through one or more of the actions described  
11 in subsection (c).

12 (b) DESIGNATIONS OF COUNTRIES WITH PATTERNS  
13 OF NONCOOPERATION IN CASES OF INTERNATIONAL  
14 CHILD ABDUCTION.—

15 (1) ANNUAL REVIEW.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March  
17 31 of each year, the President shall review the  
18 status of abduction cases and access cases in  
19 each foreign country to determine whether the  
20 government of such country has engaged in a  
21 pattern of noncooperation during the preceding  
22 12 months or since the date of the last review  
23 of such country under this subparagraph,  
24 whichever period is longer. The President shall  
25 designate each country the government of which

1           has engaged in a pattern of noncooperation as  
2           a Country With a Pattern of Noncooperation.

3           (B) BASIS OF REVIEW.—Each review con-  
4           ducted under subparagraph (A) shall be based  
5           upon information contained in the latest Annual  
6           Report and on any other evidence available.

7           (2) DETERMINATIONS OF RESPONSIBLE PAR-  
8           TIES.—For the government of each country des-  
9           ignated as a Country With a Pattern of Noncoopera-  
10          tion under paragraph (1)(A), the President shall  
11          seek to determine the agencies or instrumentalities  
12          of such government that are responsible for the pat-  
13          tern of noncooperation by such government in order  
14          to appropriately target actions under this section in  
15          response.

16          (3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Whenever  
17          the President designates a country as a Country  
18          With a Pattern of Noncooperation under paragraph  
19          (1)(A), the President shall, as soon as practicable  
20          after such designation is made, transmit to the ap-  
21          propriate congressional committees—

22                  (A) the designation of the country, signed  
23                  by the President; and

1 (B) the identification, if any, of responsible  
2 agencies or instrumentalities determined under  
3 paragraph (2).

4 (c) PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO A  
5 COUNTRY WITH A PATTERN OF NONCOOPERATION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)  
7 and (3) with respect to each Country With a Pattern  
8 of Noncooperation designated under subsection  
9 (b)(1)(A), the President shall, after the require-  
10 ments of sections 203 and 204 have been satisfied,  
11 but not later than 90 days (or 180 days in case of  
12 a delay under paragraph (2)) after the date of such  
13 designation of the country under such subsection,  
14 take one or more of the actions under paragraphs  
15 (10) through (13) of section 205(a) (or commensu-  
16 rate action as provided in section 205(b)).

17 (2) AUTHORITY FOR DELAY OF PRESIDENTIAL  
18 ACTIONS.—If, on or before the date that the Presi-  
19 dent is required to take action under paragraph (1),  
20 the President determines and certifies to the appro-  
21 priate congressional committees that a single, addi-  
22 tional period of time not to exceed 90 days is nec-  
23 essary—

24 (A) for a continuation of negotiations that  
25 have been commenced with the government of a

1 country described in such paragraph to bring  
2 about a cessation of the pattern of noncoopera-  
3 tion by such country, or

4 (B) for a review of corrective action taken  
5 by such country after designation of such coun-  
6 try as a Country With a Pattern of Non-  
7 cooperation under subsection (b)(1)(A) or in  
8 anticipation that corrective action will be taken  
9 by such country during such 90-day period,  
10 the President shall not be required to take such ac-  
11 tion until the expiration of such period of time.

12 (3) EXCEPTION FOR ONGOING PRESIDENTIAL  
13 ACTION.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall not  
15 be required to take action under paragraph (1)  
16 with respect to a Country With a Pattern of  
17 Noncooperation if—

18 (i) the President has taken action  
19 pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to  
20 such country in a preceding year, such ac-  
21 tion is in effect at the time such country  
22 is designated as a Country with a Pattern  
23 of Noncooperation under subsection  
24 (b)(1)(A), and the President submits to  
25 the appropriate congressional committees



1 the information described in section 204  
2 regarding the actions in effect with respect  
3 to such country; or

4 (ii) subject to subparagraph (B), the  
5 President determines that such country is  
6 subject to multiple, broad-based sanctions  
7 imposed in significant part in response to  
8 human rights abuses and that such sanc-  
9 tions also satisfy the requirements of this  
10 subsection.

11 (B) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—If the  
12 President makes a determination under sub-  
13 paragraph (A)(ii)—

14 (i) the report under section 204 and,  
15 as applicable, the publication in the Fed-  
16 eral Register under section 208, shall  
17 specify the specific sanction or sanctions  
18 that the President has determined satisfy  
19 the requirements of this subsection; and

20 (ii) such sanctions shall remain in ef-  
21 fect subject to section 209.

22 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A determination  
23 under this section that a foreign country has engaged in  
24 a pattern of noncooperation shall not be construed to re-  
25 quire the termination of assistance or other activities with

1 respect to such country under any other provision of law,  
2 including section 116 or 502B of the Foreign Assistance  
3 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151(n) or 2304).

4 **SEC. 203. CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.**

5 As soon as practicable after the President makes a  
6 determination under section 201 in response to failures  
7 to resolve unresolved abduction cases and the President  
8 decides to take action under paragraphs (10) through (13)  
9 of section 205(a) (or commensurate action as provided in  
10 section 205(b)) with respect to that country, or not later  
11 than 90 days after the President designates a country as  
12 a country with a pattern of noncooperation pursuant to  
13 section 202(b)(1)(a), the President shall—

14 (1) request consultation with the government of  
15 such country regarding the failures giving rise to  
16 designation of that country as a Country With a  
17 Pattern of Noncooperation regarding the pattern of  
18 noncooperation or to action under section 201; and

19 (2) if agreed to, enter into such consultations  
20 with such country, privately or publicly.

21 **SEC. 204. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), not  
23 later than 90 days after the President makes a determina-  
24 tion under section 201 in response to failures to resolve  
25 unresolved abduction cases and the President decides to

1 take action under paragraphs (10) through (13) of section  
2 205(a) (or commensurate action as provided in section  
3 205(b)) with respect to that country, or not later than  
4 90 days after the President designates a country as a  
5 Country With a Pattern of Noncooperation pursuant to  
6 section 202(b)(1)(A), the President shall transmit to the  
7 appropriate congressional committees a report on the fol-  
8 lowing:

9 (1) IDENTIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AC-  
10 TIONS.—An identification of the action or actions  
11 described in section 205(a) (or commensurate action  
12 as provided in section 205(b)) to be taken with re-  
13 spect to such country.

14 (2) DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATIONS.—A descrip-  
15 tion of the failure to resolve an unresolved case or  
16 the pattern of noncooperation, as applicable, giving  
17 rise to the action or actions to be taken by the  
18 President.

19 (3) PURPOSE OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.—A  
20 description of the purpose of the action or actions.

21 (4) EVALUATION.—

22 (A) DESCRIPTION.—An evaluation, in con-  
23 sultation with the Secretary of State, the par-  
24 ties described in section 203(b), and other par-  
25 ties the President determines appropriate, of

1 the anticipated impact of the Presidential ac-  
2 tion upon—

3 (i) pending abduction cases in such  
4 country;

5 (ii) the government of such country;

6 (iii) the population of such country;

7 (iv) the United States economy;

8 (v) other interested parties; and

9 (vi) if such country is a Convention  
10 country or an MOU country, the reciprocal  
11 fulfillment of obligations pursuant to such  
12 Convention or applicable MOU, as applica-  
13 ble.

14 (B) FORM.—The evaluation under sub-  
15 paragraph (A) shall be transmitted in unclassi-  
16 fied form, but may contain a classified annex if  
17 necessary.

18 (5) STATEMENT OF POLICY OPTIONS.—A state-  
19 ment that noneconomic policy options designed to  
20 resolve the unresolved case or bring about the ces-  
21 sation of the pattern of noncooperation have reason-  
22 ably been exhausted, including the consultations re-  
23 quired in section 203.

24 (b) DELAY IN TRANSMITTAL OF REPORT.—If, on or  
25 before the date that the President is required to submit

1 a report under subsection (a) to the appropriate congres-  
2 sional committees, the President determines and certifies  
3 to such committees that a single, additional period of time  
4 not to exceed 90 days is necessary pursuant to section  
5 202(c)(2), the President shall not be required to submit  
6 the report to such committees until the expiration of such  
7 period of time.

8 **SEC. 205. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**

9 (a) DESCRIPTION OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.—Ex-  
10 cept as provided in subsection (c), the Presidential actions  
11 referred to in this subsection are the following:

12 (1) A private demarche.

13 (2) An official public demarche.

14 (3) A public condemnation.

15 (4) A public condemnation within one or more  
16 multilateral fora.

17 (5) The delay or cancellation of one or more  
18 scientific exchanges.

19 (6) The delay or cancellation of one or more  
20 cultural exchanges.

21 (7) The denial of one or more working, official,  
22 or state visits.

23 (8) The delay or cancellation of one or more  
24 working, official, or state visits.

1           (9) A formal request to the foreign country con-  
2           cerned to extradite an individual who is engaged in  
3           abduction and who has been formally accused of,  
4           charged with, or convicted of an extraditable offense.

5           (10) The withdrawal, limitation, or suspension  
6           of United States development assistance in accord-  
7           ance with section 116 of the Foreign Assistance Act  
8           of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n).

9           (11) The withdrawal, limitation, or suspension  
10          of United States security assistance in accordance  
11          with section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of  
12          1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304).

13          (12) The withdrawal, limitation, or suspension  
14          of assistance to the central government of a country  
15          pursuant to chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign As-  
16          sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.; relat-  
17          ing to the Economic Support Fund).

18          (13) Ordering the heads of the appropriate  
19          United States agencies not to issue any (or a speci-  
20          fied number of) specific licenses, and not to grant  
21          any other specific authority (or a specified number  
22          of authorities), to export any goods or technology to  
23          such government or to the agency or instrumentality  
24          of such government determined by the President to

1 be responsible for such unresolved case or pattern of  
2 noncooperation, as applicable, under—

3 (A) the Export Administration Act of 1979  
4 (as continued in effect under the International  
5 Emergency Economic Powers Act);

6 (B) the Arms Export Control Act;

7 (C) the Atomic Energy Act of 1954; or

8 (D) any other statute that requires the  
9 prior review and approval of the United States  
10 Government as a condition for the export or re-  
11 export of goods or services.

12 (b) COMMENSURATE ACTION.—Except as provided in  
13 subsection (c), the President may substitute any other ac-  
14 tion authorized by law for any action described in sub-  
15 section (a) if such action is commensurate in effect to the  
16 action substituted and if such action would further the  
17 purposes of this Act as specified in section 2(c). The Presi-  
18 dent shall seek to take all appropriate and feasible actions  
19 authorized by law to resolve the unresolved case or to ob-  
20 tain the cessation of such pattern of noncooperation, as  
21 applicable. If commensurate action is taken under this  
22 subsection, the President shall transmit to the appropriate  
23 congressional committees a report on such action, together  
24 with an explanation for taking such action.

25 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

1           (1) HUMANITARIAN EXCEPTION.—Any action  
2 taken pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) may not pro-  
3 hibit or restrict the provision of medicine, medical  
4 equipment or supplies, food, or other life-saving hu-  
5 manitarian assistance.

6           (2) DEFENSE AND NATIONAL SECURITY EXCEP-  
7 TION.—The President shall not be required to apply  
8 or maintain any action under section 205—

9           (A) in the case of procurement of defense  
10 articles or defense services—

11           (i) under existing contracts or sub-  
12 contracts, including the exercise of options  
13 for production quantities, to satisfy re-  
14 quirements essential to the national secu-  
15 rity of the United States;

16           (ii) if the President determines in  
17 writing and transmits to the appropriate  
18 congressional committees a report that the  
19 government or the agency or instrumen-  
20 tality of such government to which such  
21 action would otherwise be applied is a sole  
22 source supplier of such defense articles or  
23 services, that such defense articles or serv-  
24 ices are essential, and that alternative



1 sources are not readily or reasonably avail-  
2 able; or

3 (iii) if the President determines in  
4 writing and transmits to the appropriate  
5 congressional committees a report that  
6 such defense articles or services are essen-  
7 tial to the national security of the United  
8 States under defense co-production agree-  
9 ments; or

10 (B) to products or services provided under  
11 contracts entered into before the date on which  
12 the President publishes in the Federal Register  
13 notice of such action in accordance with section  
14 208.

15 **SEC. 206. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the  
17 President may waive the application of any of the actions  
18 described in paragraphs (10) through (13) of section  
19 205(a) (or commensurate action as provided in section  
20 205(b)) with respect to a country, if the President deter-  
21 mines and so reports to the appropriate congressional  
22 committees that—

23 (1) the government of such country has satis-  
24 factorily resolved any abduction case giving rise to  
25 the application of any of such actions and—

1 (A) if such country is a Convention coun-  
2 try, such country has taken measures to ensure  
3 future compliance with the provisions of the  
4 Hague Abduction Convention;

5 (B) if such country is an MOU country,  
6 such country has taken measures to ensure fu-  
7 ture compliance with the provisions of the MOU  
8 at issue; or

9 (C) if such country was a nonparty country  
10 at the time the abductions or denials of rights  
11 of access resulting in the abduction cases or ac-  
12 cess cases occurred, such country has become a  
13 Convention country or an MOU country;

14 (2) the exercise of such waiver authority would  
15 further the purposes of this Act; or

16 (3) the important national interest of the  
17 United States requires the exercise of such waiver  
18 authority.

19 (b) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than  
20 the date of the exercise of a waiver under subsection (a),  
21 the President shall notify the appropriate congressional  
22 committees of such waiver or the intention to exercise such  
23 waiver, together with a detailed justification thereof.

1 **SEC. 207. PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the  
3 President shall ensure publication in the Federal Register  
4 of the following:

5 (1) DETERMINATIONS OF GOVERNMENTS,  
6 AGENCIES, INSTRUMENTALITIES OF COUNTRIES  
7 WITH PATTERNS OF NONCOOPERATION.—Any des-  
8 ignation of a country that the President has des-  
9 ignated as a Country With a Pattern of Noncoopera-  
10 tion under section 202(b)(1)(A), together with, when  
11 applicable and to the extent practicable, the identi-  
12 ties of agencies or instrumentalities determined to be  
13 responsible for such pattern of noncooperation.

14 (2) PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.—A description of  
15 any action under paragraphs (10) through (13) of  
16 section 205(a) (or commensurate action as provided  
17 in section 205(b)) and the effective date of such ac-  
18 tion.

19 (3) DELAYS IN TRANSMITTAL OF PRESI-  
20 DENTIAL ACTION REPORTS.—Any delay in trans-  
21 mittal of a report required under section 204.

22 (4) WAIVERS.—Any waiver issued under section  
23 206.

24 (b) LIMITED DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—The  
25 President may limit publication of information under this  
26 section in the same manner and to the same extent as

1 the President may limit the publication of findings and  
2 determinations described in section 654(e) of the Foreign  
3 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2414(e)), if the Presi-  
4 dent determines that the publication of such informa-  
5 tion—

6 (1) would be harmful to the national security of  
7 the United States; or

8 (2) would not further the purposes of this Act.

9 **SEC. 208. TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**

10 Any action taken under this Act or any amendment  
11 made by this Act with respect to a foreign country shall  
12 terminate on the earlier of the following two dates:

13 (1) Not later than two years after the effective  
14 date of such action unless expressly reauthorized by  
15 law.

16 (2) The date on which the President transmits  
17 to Congress a certification containing a determina-  
18 tion of the President that the government of such  
19 country has resolved any unresolved abduction case  
20 or has taken substantial and verifiable steps to cor-  
21 rect the pattern of noncooperation at issue, as appli-  
22 cable, that gave rise to such action.