

**SUBSTITUTE FOR THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 7122
OFFERED BY MR. SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Replace UNRWA for
3 Palestinian Aid Act of 2024”.

4 SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

5 It shall be the policy of the United States—

6 (1) to continue longstanding United States sup-
7 port for humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people
8 in the West Bank and Gaza, provided that any aid
9 is not distributed to or through agencies linked to
10 terrorist organizations;

11 (2) to explore capable alternative avenues for
12 the provision of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians
13 other than the United Nations Relief and Works
14 Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,
15 based on a strong commitment to addressing Pal-
16 estinians in need; and

17 (3) to revitalize United States humanitarian
18 programming serving Palestinian populations in the

1 West Bank, Gaza, and throughout the region,
2 through the United States Agency for International
3 Development as well as international partners and
4 allies.

5 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS**
6 **TO UNRWA.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—

8 (1) PROHIBITION.—On and after the date that
9 is 180 days after the date of the submission of the
10 report required by section 4(e), the United States
11 may not make any voluntary contributions to the
12 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Pal-
13 estine Refugees in the Near East (referred to in this
14 Act as “UNRWA”), or to any successor entity, un-
15 less the conclusion of such report is that no alter-
16 native to UNRWA exists or can be established.

17 (2) WAIVER.—The prohibition under paragraph
18 (1) may be waived for 180 days if the Secretary of
19 State certifies to the appropriate congressional com-
20 mittees that—

21 (A) current conditions do not allow for
22 adequate access to provide United States aid to
23 the Palestinians other than through UNRWA;
24 and

1 (B) the United States is actively seeking to
2 transition United States humanitarian aid to
3 the Palestinians to implementors other than
4 UNRWA.

5 (3) ASSISTANCE DURING WAIVER.—Any United
6 States assistance made available to UNRWA during
7 the period in which a waiver under paragraph (2) is
8 in effect shall be accompanied by a statement clari-
9 fying that—

10 (A) the funds provided are being trans-
11 ferred under provisional waiver authority and
12 do not in any way represent a United States
13 commitment to continued funding for UNRWA;
14 and

15 (B) such funds are not an endorsement of
16 UNRWA's mandate or its definition of refugees
17 for the purposes of an Israeli-Palestinian final
18 status agreement.

19 (b) UNITED STATES PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
20 TO THE UNITED NATIONS.—The President shall instruct
21 the United States Permanent Representative to the
22 United Nations to lead a coalition of willing partners and
23 allies—

24 (1) to seek to restrict any and all subsidies re-
25 ceived by UNRWA from the regular United Nations

1 budget, through the auspices of the UNRWA Advi-
2 sory Commission and the United Nation's budgetary
3 process; and

4 (2) to reduce or eliminate any mandatory or
5 voluntary contributions from any member state of
6 the United Nations to UNRWA.

7 (c) INTERAGENCY PROCESS.—The Secretary of State
8 shall initiate an interagency process with the heads of all
9 other relevant Federal agencies, including the Adminis-
10 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
11 velopment, with the goal of identifying or helping to estab-
12 lish alternative mechanisms for the effective provision of
13 United States humanitarian aid to Palestinians living in
14 the West Bank and Gaza independently from UNRWA or
15 any other agency associated with or beholden to entities
16 designated as terrorist organizations by the United States.

17 **SEC. 4. PALESTINIAN AID STUDY GROUP.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established in
19 Congress a working group to be known as the “Palestinian
20 Aid and Recovery Study Group” (in this section referred
21 to as the “Group”).

22 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Group is to exam-
23 ine and make recommendations with respect to the identi-
24 fication or establishment of alternative mechanisms for the
25 provision of United States humanitarian aid to the Pal-

1 estinians living in the West Bank and Gaza as alternatives
2 to UNRWA.

3 (c) COMPOSITION.—

4 (1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Group shall be com-
5 posed of 8 members, who shall be appointed not
6 later than 7 days after the date of the enactment of
7 this Act as follows:

8 (A) One member appointed by the chair of
9 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
10 ate.

11 (B) One member appointed by the ranking
12 member of the Committee on Foreign Relations
13 of the Senate.

14 (C) One member appointed by the chair of
15 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

16 (D) One member appointed by the ranking
17 member of the Committee on Appropriations of
18 the Senate.

19 (E) One member appointed by the chair of
20 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House
21 of Representatives.

22 (F) One member appointed by the ranking
23 member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
24 the House of Representatives.

1 (G) One member appointed by the chair of
2 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
3 of Representatives.

4 (H) One member appointed by the ranking
5 member of the Committee on Appropriations of
6 the House of Representatives.

7 (2) CO-CHAIRS.—The two co-chairs of the
8 Group shall be designated as follows:

9 (A) The chair of each of the appropriate
10 congressional committees shall jointly designate
11 1 member of the Group to serve as co-chair of
12 the Group.

13 (B) The ranking member of each of the
14 appropriate congressional committees shall
15 jointly designate 1 member of the Group to
16 serve as co-chair of the Group.

17 (3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—
18 Members shall be appointed for the life of the
19 Group. Any vacancy in the Group shall be filled in
20 the same manner as the original appointment.

21 (d) DUTIES.—The Group shall be responsible for—

22 (1) examining—

23 (A) the programs, projects, and activities
24 presently carried out by UNRWA;

1 (B) which groups, if any, are capable of re-
2 placing the services provided by UNWRA; and

3 (C) to the extent alternatives are not avail-
4 able for specific services, whether the United
5 States can establish an entity better able to
6 provide such services;

7 (2) conducting a comprehensive review of cur-
8 rent United States humanitarian aid to the Palestin-
9 ians living in the West Bank and Gaza provided
10 through UNRWA, as well as the humanitarian aid
11 landscape in all areas currently served by UNRWA;

12 (3) assessing other, existing relief and develop-
13 ment entities that could effectively provide humani-
14 tarian aid and assistance to the Palestinians living
15 in Gaza and the West Bank;

16 (4) considering the potential for establishment
17 of new entities or mechanisms that could provide hu-
18 manitarian aid and assistance to the Palestinians
19 where existing alternative are not currently avail-
20 able; and

21 (5) developing recommendations for replacing
22 UNWRA with practical and effective alternative ap-
23 proaches, mechanisms, and agencies with the goal of
24 meeting the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian
25 people in the West Bank and Gaza.

1 (e) REPORT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 150 days
3 after the date on which each member of the Group
4 is appointed and each co-chair is designated, the
5 Group shall submit to the President, the Secretary
6 of State, the Administrator of the United States
7 Agency for International Development, and the ap-
8 propriate congressional committees a report that de-
9 scribes the findings, conclusions, and recommenda-
10 tions of the Group.

11 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
12 graph (1) shall explicitly identify the following:

13 (A) The essential services UNRWA pro-
14 vides to the Palestinian people in Gaza and the
15 West Bank.

16 (B) The nonessential services provided by
17 UNWRA, including any that could or should be
18 immediately terminated.

19 (C) The existing alternative approaches,
20 mechanisms, or agencies that could provide
21 each essential service as effectively, if not more
22 effectively, as currently provided by UNRWA.

23 (D) The essential services provided by
24 UNRWA that would require the establishment

- 1 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
- 2 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and
- 3 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
- 4 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
- 5 resentatives.

