

# Safe from the Start Authorization Act (H.R. 571)

## Section-by-Section

Introduced by: Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY-6), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL-25), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA-6), Chris Stewart (R-UT-2), and Lois Frankel (D-FL-21)

**SECTION 1: *Short Title.*** This Act may be cited as the “Safe from the Start Act of 2021.”

**SECTION 2: *Findings.*** Includes congressional findings related to the types of gender-based violence faced by displaced, refugee and stateless women and girls in humanitarian settings and the varied forms of assistance that is required to meet their compounding needs.

**SECTION 3: *Statement of Policy.*** Establishes a policy to prevent, mitigate, and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies around the world, to integrate and coordinate efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in the United States’ foreign policy and foreign assistance programs, and to employ a multi-sectoral approach to preventing and responding to gender-based violence globally for greater effectiveness and accountability.

**SECTION 4: *Authorization.*** Authorizes the Secretary of State in coordination with the Administrator of USAID to direct and oversee United States foreign assistance to prevent, mitigate, and address gender-based violence in humanitarian crises in such manner that implements a “Safe from the Start” programming focus. This includes programming efforts, improved protection mechanisms, improved standards and guidelines, and capacity building support to organizations providing humanitarian relief.

**SECTION 5: *Report.*** Requires USAID to produce a publicly available report on the progress made by the United States and partners in the implementation or delivery of humanitarian assistance to prevent, mitigate, and address the incidence of gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies. Requires the Office of Management and Budget to submit to the appropriate Congressional committees a cross-cutting budget for Safe from the Start programming for greater transparency and accountability.

**SECTION 6: *Funding Authorization.*** This bill would authorize Safe from the Start programs at \$140,000,000 for each fiscal year to carry out this Act.