

AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY MS. SHAHEEN

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following:

STRENGTHENING DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. \_\_. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall establish an Office of Global Women’s Issues (referred to in this section as the “Office”) within the Department of State.

(b) PURPOSE.—The Office shall coordinate efforts of the United States Government, as directed by the Secretary of State, regarding gender equality and advancing the status of women and girls in United States foreign policy.

(c) DUTIES.—The Office—

(1) shall serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary of State regarding gender equality, women’s empowerment, and violence against women and girls as a foreign policy matter;

(2) shall represent the United States in diplomatic and multilateral fora on matters relevant to the status of women and girls;

(3) shall advise the Secretary and provide input on all activities, policies, programs, and funding relating to gender equality and the advancement of women and girls internationally for all bureaus and offices of the Department of State and in the international programs of all other Federal departments and agencies;

(4) shall work to ensure that efforts to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment are fully integrated into the programs, structures, processes, and capacities of all bureaus and offices of the Department of State and in the international programs of other Federal departments and agencies;

(5) shall direct, as appropriate, United States resources to respond to needs for gender equality and empowerment of women in United States foreign policies and international programs;

(6) may design, support, and implement activities regarding empowerment of women internationally; and

(7) shall conduct regular consultation with civil society organizations working to advance gender equality and empower women and girls internationally.

(d) SUPERVISION.—The Office shall be headed by an Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues who—

(1) exercises significant authority;

(2) reports to the President or to the Secretary of State; and

(3) is appointed by the President or by the Secretary of State, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees describing the steps taken to fulfill the duties of the Office set forth in subsection (c).