

Foreign Assistance Transparency and Accountability Act

BILL SPONSORS

U.S. Senate (S. 2184)

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD)

U.S. House (H.R. 3766)

Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX)

Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA)

The **Foreign Assistance Transparency and Accountability Act (FATAA)** aims to institutionalize reforms undertaken by multiple Administrations over the last decade. The bill seeks to codify changes such as increased use of monitoring and evaluations and the use of www.ForeignAssistance.gov, on which 98% of U.S. foreign assistance is published.

In November 2015, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved S. 2184. The House unanimously passed H.R. 3766 in December 2015. Both the House and Senate sponsors are committed to passing the legislation into law.

Key Points

- Requires the President to establish and implement monitoring and evaluation guidelines – including measurable goals, performance metrics, and monitoring and evaluation plans – across U.S. international development and economic assistance programs.
- Requires the President to create guidelines to foster collaborative partnerships and coordination with appropriate implementing partners and academic, national, and international institutions.
- Mandates the Secretary of State to ensure ForeignAssistance.gov contains detailed information (updated quarterly) regarding U.S. foreign assistance on a program-by-program and country-by-country basis.
- Requires the Government Accountability Office to analyze and report to Congress the relevant agencies' adherence to these benchmarks.

Over the last decade, agencies like USAID and MCC have embraced this new model of development—one that ensures more transparency, accountability, and results for the U.S. taxpayer. Given the increasingly constrained federal budget environment and the growing crises the U.S. faces globally, effective foreign assistance programs are more important than ever and codifying these game-changing reforms is critical to ensuring the U.S. government can confront today's global challenges.

Quotes

“Although it is less than 1 percent of our budget, foreign assistance plays an important role in advancing American interests in the world, but taxpayers have a right to see where and how American dollars are being used overseas.”
– **Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)**, October 20, 2015

“Implementing a system to evaluate the success – or failure – of each [foreign assistance] program will increase both learning and accountability, making the program stronger. It is also important for Americans to know exactly where their money is sent.” – **Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX)**, October 20, 2015

“U.S. leadership on foreign development, aid programs, and economic assistance is the global gold standard making impactful and positive changes throughout the world. But we must always demand the highest standards of transparency and accountability to ensure our foreign assistance efforts are making the most positive and meaningful impact in the communities we assist.” – **Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)**, October 20, 2015

“As a longtime proponent of foreign assistance who, as a staffer for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, helped write the last reauthorization of the Foreign Assistance Act, I appreciate the importance of accountability in our foreign aid programs.” – **Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA)**, October 20, 2015