

# The Global Fragility & Violence Reduction Act of 2018

Overview  
August 2018

Global levels of violence are at a 25-year peak, undercutting global stability, reversing development gains and driving record levels of forced displacement.

For the first time since the Cold War, violence and violent conflicts are increasing worldwide. Violent conflict, rather than natural disasters, is now the leading cause of forced displacement— driving an unprecedented 68.5 million people to flee their homes in search of safety. Every seven minutes, an adolescent is killed by an act of violence. And according to the Institute for Economics and Peace, violence containment costs the global economy \$14.76 trillion a year.

Curbing this rise in violence is critical to maintaining peace and security, and advancing just peace. This is why a bipartisan coalition of foreign policy leaders in Congress have introduced The Global Fragility & Violence Reduction Act of 2018: **H.R. 5273 & S. 3368**.

If passed, the legislation will:

- Require the administration to launch a “**Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence**,” guiding U.S. government efforts to bring down current levels of violence and improve its efforts to prevent future violent conflicts;
- Require the Secretary of State and the Administrator of USAID, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, to **select countries** where the U.S. will pursue new investments and programming in order to achieve the Global Initiative to Reduce Fragility and Violence;
- Improve the administration’s ability to **measure, evaluate, and assess** efforts to reduce violence and prevent violent conflict;
- Provide ideas for **funding mechanisms** for the Initiative; and
- Encourage **new partnerships** with the private, academic, philanthropic, and civil society sectors to help surge research & development to reduce violence.

The bill has been introduced by incredible bipartisan coalitions in both the House: HFAC Ranking Member **Rep. Eliot Engel** (D-NY), HFAC/TNT Subcommittee Chair **Rep. Ted Poe** (R-TX), Homeland Security Committee Chair **Rep. Mike McCaul** (R-TX), HASC Ranking Member **Rep. Adam Smith** (D-WA), HFAC/TNT Subcommittee Ranking Member **Rep. Bill Keating** (D-MA), and HFAC/HASC joint member **Rep. Paul Cook** (R-CA).

And the Senate: SFRC/SFOPS joint members **Sen. Christopher Coons** (D-DE), **Sen. Marco Rubio** (R-FL), and **Sen. Jeff Merkley** (D-OR), SFRC member **Sen. Todd Young** (R-IN), and SFOPS Chair **Sen. Lindsey Graham** (R-SC).

For more information, visit: [allianceforpeacebuilding.org/violencereductionbill/](http://allianceforpeacebuilding.org/violencereductionbill/).