



Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, S.2551

Legislation Summary

Senator Ben Cardin, joined by Senator Thom Tillis and several others, has introduced the Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act (S.2551). The bill:

1. Permanently authorizes the Atrocities Prevention Board—

- » The Atrocities Prevention Board is a high-level working group that coordinates U.S. government action to prevent and respond to genocide and mass atrocities.
- » Members of the Atrocities Prevention Board (APB) include: the Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of Defense, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, Department of Justice, Department of Treasury, Department of Homeland Security, Central Intelligence Agency, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- » Require a report evaluating U.S. government efforts related to prevention, a global assessment of risks, and recommendations for strengthening preventative efforts.

2. Establishes funding for atrocities prevention through the Complex Crises Fund—

- » The Complex Crises Fund provides much needed flexible funding to USAID to prevent, mitigate, and respond to emerging or unforeseen crises and conflict.
- » Money has been appropriated to the account since 2010, but the account was never formally established or authorized.

3. Requires training for Foreign Service Officers—

- » The legislation would mandate training of U.S. Foreign Service Officers in conflict and atrocities prevention.
- » This training would ensure that personnel at U.S. diplomatic posts will have the skills to recognize early warning signs of potential conflict or outbreak of mass violence, and they will be aware of the tools available to mitigate violence.

4. Requires a report to Congress by the Director of National Intelligence—

- » The annual report by the Director of National Intelligence to Congress will include a review of countries that are at risk of mass atrocities and genocide.