



## **Ethiopia Stabilization, Peace, and Democracy Act (H.R.6600/ S.3199)**

**The Problem:** Millions of people in Tigray and the surrounding areas in Ethiopia are facing death from starvation due to the year-long and ongoing civil war in the region. **The humanitarian situation is dire** as the Ethiopian government **continues to block food aid to areas in need** which has cost thousands of civilian lives. This is **on top of even further unspeakable atrocities and human rights abuses committed** in Ethiopia's north during the course of the war.

War fuels poverty by destroying infrastructure, security, lives, and livelihoods. The existing poverty in the region continues to multiply as people lose access to essential resources in the region.

**The Solution:** The Ethiopia Stabilization, Peace, and Democracy Act (H.R.6600/ S.3199) **supports additional efforts in ending the civil war and other conflicts in Ethiopia.** Specifically, the bill works to address the gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the country by:

- Tasking the State Department with **developing a strategy** that supports democracy and human rights in Ethiopia. The strategy would include measures to combat online hate speech and support efforts to strengthen national dialogue;
- Providing the opportunity for the President to **impose sanctions on those who undermine negotiations to end the war, continue to commit human rights abuses, condone corruption and violence, and distribute weapons to hostile parties;**
- **Suspending security assistance to Ethiopian governments** until it ends all offensive operations, begins a national dialogue, works to protect human rights, allows humanitarian access to areas experiencing conflict, and looks into war crime allegations;
- Enforcing the administration to **withstand loans and financial assistance** from international agencies such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea unless they are humanitarian related until steps are taken to end the war and restore human rights; and
- Requiring the State Department to **determine allegations** concerning crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide in Ethiopia.

H.R.6600/ S.3199 allows the U.S. Government to utilize its diplomatic, development and legal tools to support an end to the civil war in Ethiopia. Furthermore, it holds perpetrators of serious human rights violations accountable. H.R.6600/ S.3199 would effectively contribute to **ending the humanitarian siege in Tigray and bring much needed relief to millions** starving from lack of food and medicine.

**Supporters:** The bipartisan Ethiopia Stabilization, Peace, and Democracy Act was introduced in the Senate on November 4, 2021 by Sens. Bob Menendez (D-NJ), James Risch (R-IN), and Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE). The companion bill was introduced in the House by Representatives Tom Malinowski (D-NJ) and Young Kim (R-CA) on February 4, 2022. The bill passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee on February 9, 2022.