

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To reimburse United States citizens for costs incurred for commercial flights arranged by the Department of State to evacuate them from foreign countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to waive promissory notes and the obligation to repay emergency repatriation loans related to such travel.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To reimburse United States citizens for costs incurred for commercial flights arranged by the Department of State to evacuate them from foreign countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to waive promissory notes and the obligation to repay emergency repatriation loans related to such travel.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF STATE ARRANGED TRANS-**
2 **PORTATION FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS**
3 **EVACUATED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES DUE**
4 **TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

5 (a) WAIVER OF TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections
7 (b)(2)(A)(ii) and (d) of section 4 of the State De-
8 partment Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.
9 2671), the Secretary of State shall waive the expecta-
10 tion of repayment of any travel expenses incurred
11 by the Department of State on or after January 1,
12 2020, on behalf of any United States citizen evacu-
13 ated from a foreign country and repatriated to the
14 United States in response to the COVID-19 pan-
15 demic.

16 (2) CANCELLATION OF PROMISSORY NOTES AND
17 EMERGENCY REPATRIATION LOANS.—Any promis-
18 sory note or obligation to repay an emergency repa-
19 triation loan signed by a United States citizen to re-
20 imburse the Department of State for travel expenses
21 described in paragraph (1) shall be null and void.

22 (b) REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

23 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the
24 Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State
25 shall reimburse any United States citizen who was
26 evacuated from a foreign country on or after Janu-

1 ary 1, 2020, and repatriated to the United States on
2 1 or more flights chartered or arranged by the De-
3 partment of State in response to the COVID-19
4 pandemic for any travel expenses directly associated
5 with such flights.

6 (2) PROCESS.—The Secretary of State shall de-
7 velop an online process through which United States
8 citizens may submit claims for reimbursement for
9 travel expenses described in paragraph (1).

10 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
12 necessary to carry out this section.