

UXO Removal Act Introduced (For Syria and Iraq)

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Washington, D.C. Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9] introduced legislation to require DoD to develop and implement a strategy for removing UXO in Syria and Iraq. The bill, titled the "Unexploded Ordnance Removal Act", specifically requires the U.S. government to provide assessments about threats posed by improvised explosive devices, landmines, and other ordnance to US strategic and military populations as well as the countries' civilian populations.

Keating, a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and ranking member on its Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee said, "One imminent focus of our attention needs to be unexploded ordnance there. The Syrian civil war and the rise of ISIS has caused a proliferation of mines around civilian population centers, including schools, hospitals, and places of worship. Worse, oftentimes, these devices are hidden in everyday objects such as refrigerators or toys.....If these explosives are not cleared and continue to maim and kill civilians, including children, the lasting insecurity will provide the perfect environment for the rise of other terrorist groups."

Status (as of 05/18/2018) Text of the Bill is unavailable for posting at this time. Bill has been referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.