# Congressional Budget Office
## Cost Estimate

June 15, 2023

## H.R. 3202, Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023

**As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on May 16, 2023**

| By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars | 2023 | 2023-2028 | 2023-2033 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Direct Spending (Outlays) | * | * | * |
| Revenues | * | * | * |
| Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit | * | * | * |
| Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays) | * | * | not estimated |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Increases *net direct spending* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034? | **< $2.5 billion** | Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? | **Yes** |
| | | **Mandate Effects** | |
| Increases *on-budget deficits* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034? | **No** | Contains intergovernmental mandate? | **No** |
| | | Contains private-sector mandate? | **Yes, Under Threshold** |

* = between -$500,000 and $500,000.

H.R. 3202 would amend the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 to extend the Administration's authority to impose sanctions under that act and to authorize new sanctions. Specifically, the bill would expand sanctions on any person or entity that provides significant financial, material, or technological support to specific Syrian groups and companies. The Administration is currently authorized to impose sanctions until the end of 2025; the bill would extend that authority through 2032.

### Revenues and Direct Spending

Using information about similar sanctions, CBO expects that any additional sanctions would affect a small number of people. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3202 would have insignificant effects on revenues and direct spending, and would, on net, reduce deficits by insignificant amounts over the 2023-2033 period.

H.R. 3202 would block transactions involving certain assets and property that are in the United States or that come under the control of people in the United States. Sanctions under the bill also would increase the number of people who are subject to civil or criminal monetary penalties. Those penalties are recorded as revenues, and a portion can be spent without further appropriation.

See also
*CBO's Cost Estimates Explained*, *CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process*, *Glossary*

In addition, under the bill, more people would be denied visas by the Department of State, resulting in an insignificant decrease in revenues from fees. Although most visa fees are retained by the department and spent without further appropriation, some collections are deposited into the Treasury as revenues.

Denying foreign nationals entry into the United States also would reduce direct spending on federal benefits (emergency Medicaid or federal subsidies for health insurance, for example) for which those people might otherwise be eligible.

**Spending Subject to Appropriation**

H.R. 3202 would require the Department of State to produce two reports every five years that address interagency efforts to counteract the diplomatic influence of the Assad regime. The bill also would require the Administration, upon request from the Congress, to report on potential violators in Syria. Using information about similar requirements, CBO estimates that providing those reports would cost less than $500,000 over the 2023-2028 period; any spending would be subject to availability of appropriated funds.

**Mandates**

H.R. 3202 would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) by amending the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 to extend through December 2032 the Administration's authority to impose sanctions and by authorizing it to impose additional sanctions. Those sanctions would prohibit individuals or entities in the United States from engaging in transactions involving assets and property that have been frozen. Those transactions are otherwise permitted under current law. The cost of the mandate would be any income lost because of the prohibition. CBO expects that because a small number of people or entities would be affected, the loss of income from any incremental increase in restrictions imposed by the bill would be small as well. CBO estimates that the cost of the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates ($198 million in 2023, adjusted annually for inflation).

H.R. 3202 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Madeleine Fox and Emma Uebelhor (for federal costs) and Brandon Lever (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by Christina Hawley Anthony, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

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