SEC. ___. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FOR IRREGULAR WARFARE.

Section 1202(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91; 131 Stat. 1639), as most recently amended by section 1207 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92), is amended by striking "$10,000,000" and inserting "$20,000,000".

[Please note: The "Changes to Existing Law" section below sets out in red-line format how the legislative text would amend existing law.]

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 legislative cycle would increase the funding cap of section 1202 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91), adding $10,000,000 in funding authority to address ongoing and emerging requirements. An increase of the authority cap in the FY 2021 cycle would enable the Department of Defense and U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) to sustain ongoing operations and to apply a broader, global approach to the application of section 1202 in support of Combatant Command Irregular Warfare (IW) campaign activities carried out by U.S. Special Operations Forces (USSOF).

Section 1202 authority is a highly effective tool for enabling operations in alignment with the National Defense Strategy's emphasis on expanding the competitive space to deter and defeat great power aggression, and there is significant demand from multiple GCCs to apply Section 1202 to enable irregular warfare operations in support of these strategic priorities. Subsection (a) of section 1202 limits the Department of Defense to a $10,000,000 authority cap. In FY 2019, the Department expended the entire $7,000,000 appropriation for section 1202 authority. FY 2020 requirements exceeded the $10,000,000 authority cap, forcing the Department to limit use of the authority, thereby restricting the Combatant Commands' Irregular Warfare operations. An increase in the funding cap will allow USSOCOM to offer the Combatant Commanders greater flexibility and capability with regard to their USSOF Irregular Warfare requirements.

Budget Implications: The resources impacted are reflected in the table below and are included within the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 President's Budget request.

RESOURCE IMPACTS ($MILLIONS)									
Program	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**Appropriation**	**Budget Activity**	**BLI/SAG**	**Program Element**
USSOCOM	20.0	20.0	20.0	0	0	Operations & Maintenance, Defense-Wide	01	1PLR	1150491B

Total	20.0	20.0	20.0	0	0	--	--	--	--

Changes to Existing Law: This section would amend section 1202(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91; 131 Stat. 1639) as follows:

SEC. 1202. SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FOR IRREGULAR WARFARE.

(a) AUTHORITY.——The Secretary of Defense may, with the concurrence of the relevant Chief of Mission, expend up to ~~$10,000,000~~ $20,000,000 during each of fiscal years 2018 through 2023 to provide support to foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals engaged in supporting or facilitating ongoing and authorized irregular warfare operations by United States Special Operations Forces.

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