What does the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act do?

- Fosters interagency coordination on the prevention of mass atrocities: the Mass Atrocities Task Force brings together diplomatic, defense, economic, and legal officials together to promote informed, cohesive responses to preventing and responding to emerging mass atrocity issues.

- Saves Money: According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, every $1 invested in peacebuilding activities saves $16 associated with the costs of conflict and rebuilding.

- Protects American Military Personnel: Focusing on prevention limits the need for military intervention, protecting our troops.

- Builds on Bipartisan Consensus: Every president since Ronald Reagan, who ratified the Genocide Convention, has recognized the consequences associated with failing to prevent genocide and mass atrocities.

> *"Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must —at that moment—become the center of the universe." ~ Elie Wiesel*

Prevention Successes

- In the Central African Republic, the Complex Crises Fund was used to support a project called "Better Together." Local leaders used the money to create Peace and Mediation Committees, which helped ameliorate disputes, foster discussions among individuals engaged in violence, and utilize the resources of community and religious radio stations to promote tolerance.

- In Burundi, the Atrocity Prevention Board, a precursor to the Mass Atrocities Task Force, increased awareness regarding the risks of atrocities in the country and helped conduct trainings in human rights and conflict management that have limited violence in Burundi.

- In Jordan, the Complex Crises Fund was used to develop water management programs, helping fortify a country that has taken in hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees.