



# **Chairman Hal Rogers**

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## **House Committee on Appropriations**

**Fiscal Year 2016 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill  
Full Committee Markup  
June 11, 2015  
Opening Statement As Prepared**

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Thank you [Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey] for your comments and for your collegial work on this bill. Your dedication to the important programs within this bill is evident, and I am grateful to you, your subcommittee and your staff for all you have done to bring this bill before the Committee today.

This bill rightly prioritizes national security – providing critical aid to our strategic allies, securing key diplomatic outposts, and investing in programs that will grow democracy across the world.

This funding will help find and defeat terrorists, prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, support peacekeeping operations, and fight drug trafficking.

The bill also helps democracy worldwide – targeting funds to life-saving development, global health, and humanitarian aid programs.

Yet, the security and future prosperity of our nation relies on making sure that we don't become beholden to our creditors or shove the burden of our debts onto the backs of our children. So this bill makes responsible decisions to trim funding from lower-priority programs.

In conclusion, I want to again thank Chairwoman Granger and the Subcommittee for drafting such a well-balanced, conscientious State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill. I am proud to support it today, and I urge this Committee to promptly report it to the House.

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