



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

**FY 2017 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill – Full Committee
July 12, 2016
Opening Statement As Prepared**

This bill provides \$52 billion for critical national security, diplomacy, and humanitarian needs – in a fiscally responsible way. In total, this bill is \$595 million below current levels.

This bill prioritizes funding on programs and resources that make our nation safer. This requires a multi-pronged strategy – we must address instability overseas, help strengthen our allies and partners, and support effective diplomacy.

The legislation provides the full amount requested for embassy security at \$6.1 billion - \$455 million above current levels.

In addition, the bill includes \$9.1 billion for international security assistance – prioritizing international narcotics control, nonproliferation, and peacekeeping. Antiterrorism programs are also a priority – so we invest \$420 million in these efforts, with a particular focus on fighting ISIL.

For security assistance to our key allies, we have fully funded our commitment to Israel, and support other important partners like Jordan and Ukraine.

The bill also continues to provide public health and humanitarian aid to foreign countries. In total, \$24.2 billion is provided to support development assistance, and global health – including eradicating polio, combating tuberculosis, and providing clean water.

This also includes resources to fight the Zika virus – making good, yet again, on our commitment to stop this devastating disease. This includes \$200 million for global health security and emerging health threats - \$127.5 million above the request and FY16 level.

But as I noted earlier, this bill balances out these priorities with targeted cuts in the name of fiscal responsibility.

This includes reductions to lower-priority programs, including reducing funding for assessed payments to the UN and other international organizations. The bill does not fund debt relief, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or the UNFPA.

Going hand in hand with these cuts are strengthened oversight provisions to improve the management of taxpayer dollars.

Again, I want to commend Chairwoman Granger and the Subcommittee on a good bill. I urge the Committee to support it today.

#####