

## Testimony of Rep. Costa (CA-16) – Member’s Day

I am here today to ask the Subcommittee to robustly support our country’s nutritional aid programs in FY 2021 appropriations. The President’s 2021 Budget Request needlessly zeroes-out funding to critical programs including Food for Peace, which provides life-saving food assistance to some of the world’s most vulnerable people. It also dramatically reduces funding for a host of other humanitarian and nutritional aid programs. I strongly believe that it is not only our moral obligation to provide this humanitarian assistance, it is also good policy because food security is fundamentally national security. I strongly urge this committee to robustly fund nutritional assistance programs in fiscal year 2021.

I am also here today to ask the Subcommittee to support Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related (NADR) Programs in the fiscal year 2021 appropriations. Another tremendous cut was made to these programs in the President’s 2021 Budget Request – \$142.2 million to be exact. Proposed cuts would minimize our efforts from nuclear nonproliferation to demining efforts across the globe. For example, the Conventional Weapons Destruction subaccount has saved lives across the globe as this funding has gone towards addressing humanitarian impacts of landmines and explosive remnants of war to ultimately combating the proliferation of small arms and larger weapons systems. We have seen success with this account, especially towards removing U.S. legacy ordnance in places such as Angola.

With this funding, implementing partner The Halo Trust has helped clear over 60 percent of all known minefields since the Angolan Civil War ended in 2002, with 100 square kilometers remaining. Destruction of 227,400 pieces of unexploded ordnances and 26,000 landmines resulted in returning over 395 square kilometers of land to productive use, which led to the direct benefit of over 1.4 million Angolans. This funding can and has been proven to save lives. Other places around the globe are in desperate need of this funding, spanning from Vietnam to the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, a place many of my constituents care about

deeply. It is our moral duty as a nation to continue to lead humanitarian efforts. I strongly urge this committee to robustly fund Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs in fiscal year 2021. These programs are critical across the globe as we continue to strive for peace and democracy stabilization across the globe.