

**Chairman Ed Royce**  
**Committee on Foreign Affairs**  
**Statement before the Committee on House Administration**  
**February 15, 2017**

Thank you Chairman Harper and Ranking Member Brady for this chance to tell you about the Foreign Affairs Committee's work, and how you can support it.

Ranking Member Engel and I work in a very bipartisan way. We believe our nation is stronger when we are together, regardless of party.

We also know that we're more productive when we work together. And I think it's fair to say that we've been productive. Twenty-four (24) bills we worked on this past Congress became law. That's Republican bills. Democratic bills. Bills authored by Committee members, bills authored by non-Committee members.

But looking ahead, I think we can do even better.

One area where we'd *all* like to do better is reauthorizing the departments and agencies under our jurisdiction, including the State Department and international broadcasting. Nearly all of the funding authorities within our jurisdiction have been lapsed for more than **13** years. That's bad for the Committee and the Congress, bad for the departments, and bad for our interests abroad. Many times, we did our work, and the Senate let us down.

Last year though, we made progress, getting a mini-State bill signed into law, authorizing and reforming an important food aid program, and abolishing a dysfunctional broadcasting board. All done in a bipartisan way, with Mr. Engel's support. Now, with a Senate and Administration interested in reform, I think we can do even better. That's our goal. The world is a mess and we have plenty of problems to solve.

But frankly, that will take more man- and woman-power.

I became Chairman in 2013. Our budget is nearly a million dollars less per year than it was in 2012. This means we have 7 unfilled staff positions on the Committee's majority side alone – positions that I am unable to fund.

How does that show?

It means we have just *one* staffer with in-depth sanctions expertise. The Committee has worked legislation sanctioning Iran, North Korea, Russia, Burma, Syria, Venezuela, Cuba and Sudan. And I'm probably forgetting one. He also leads the support we provide the Armed Services Committee in passing its huge NDAA. We process dozens and dozens of provisions for that bill. And this staffer also covers the Israel and the Palestinian situation! I could, but I won't tell you about our other stretched staff.

What I will say is that we have great people, some who haven't had a raise in four years. People have left, in part because of that, making us less effective than we could and should be.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that our current budget be increased 7 percent in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. This increase would be used to fill 2-3 of my 7 vacant positions. Mr. Engel would make his decisions.

Chairman, Ranking Member, we face grave national security challenges, including Iran, North Korea and Russia. We'll continue to focus relentlessly on these threats. We are also trying to advance our economic, humanitarian and so many other interests abroad.

I am very proud of the role that our Committee has played in pushing good policy, while asserting Congress' role, including doing oversight. But things aren't going to get any easier for us. I don't make this request lightly, but out of a sense of responsibility and optimism about what the two of us together with our 45 Committee colleagues can accomplish.

I thank you for considering this request.