

Congressman Brad Sherman

Appropriations Member Day Testimony

June 23, 2020

[Congressman Sherman will summarize these remarks in his 3 minutes]

Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of the inclusion of a few important related programs as you prepare the Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations bills.

First and foremost, it is critical that we fight to include the most important funding provisions of the Heroes Act. They are as follows:

- \$500 million for the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease; in fact, I believe this should be increased to \$1.5 billion
- \$1.02 billion for Director of NIH for additional scientific research
- \$3.5 billion for BARDA to develop therapeutics and vaccines
- \$500 million for BARDA for the construction, renovation or equipping of U.S.-based next generation manufacturing facilities

It would also be good to include the following provisions, which do not cost additional money:

In selecting research to be conducted or supported using funds appropriated by this Act, the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall prioritize research the private sector is not incentivized to conduct, including— (1) basic research into the nature of

COVID— 19, (2) the use of compounds in the public domain: and (3) new indications of generic drugs and bio-similar biological products, and other research that the private sector is not strongly incentivized to conduct.

FACILITIES TO MANUFACTURE MONOCLONAL ANTI-BODIES Out of funds appropriated to the National Institutes of Health, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall establish or contract for the establishment of, on an expeditious basis, one or more public or private facilities to manufacture monoclonal antibodies on a large scale and expeditiously. COVID-19 is devastating the poorest people of the world – devastating beyond our ability to address with sufficient foreign aid. However, the research we can fund not only helps America – but can be a lifeline to the developing work

One of the most important provisions of statutory provisions is the War Powers Act. Without it, presidents argue that they are free to deploy our military anywhere, any time in any danger for any duration. Yet since its adoption in the 1970s, every president of each of both parties has claimed that the War Powers Act is not constitutionally binding and they can deploy forces for unlimited duration without congressional approval, and they are able to cite many constitutional scholars that agree with them.

In 2011, I offered on the floor the War Powers Act enforcement provision, which provides that no funds may be used in contravention of provisions of the War Powers Act. Since then, many constitutional scholars have said that while presidents are free to ignore the War Powers Act, that

the War Powers Act enforcement provision is binding, because of Congress's almost absolute power over appropriations.

I want to commend the committee and its defense subcommittee with including this language in the base text as they have in every year since 2012 and urge that this language be defended in any conference with the Senate.

In addition, I ask you to support the inclusion of \$2 million for Sindhi language outreach in the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs appropriations bill. There is perhaps nowhere in the world more important for the United States to battle extremism with public diplomacy than in Pakistan. Today, the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) broadcasts in the Urdu language, which is the primary language of only 8% of the Pakistani population. But there are no broadcasts in the Sindhi language; in fact, Sindhi is the native language of over 30 million people.

In the FY20 appropriations bill, I secured an additional \$500,000 in funding for the U.S. Agency for Global Media, and the House report included language urging the VOA to begin Sindhi language broadcasting. This extra money for USAGM would serve as part of the \$2 million necessary for Sindhi language outreach programs.

Next, I want to thank this committee for its efforts to support and sustain the US- Armenia relationship. I urge the committee to strengthen the US-Armenia strategic partnership by supporting robust assistance for Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) in the FY21 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs appropriations bill. Most importantly,

I urge you to include \$1.5 million for Artsakh demining and robust funding for regional rehabilitation services for survivors of landmine injuries, and language urging our continued efforts to help Nagorno Karabakh deal with the problems of mines, health and education projects.

Finally, I urge the inclusion of \$2 million for continued implementation of the U.S.-Israel BIRD Homeland Security program, one of the joint U.S.-Israel cooperation programs administered by the U.S.-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation. The funding for this program is leveraged by Israeli funding for the program for the development of advanced technologies for the homeland security mission. This funding was not included in House passed version of the appropriations bill last year.

Thank you very much.