

House Appropriations Committee Member Day FY22 Appropriations
Prepared Testimony
Brad Sherman

Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger, thank you for holding today's hearing and for the opportunity to testify before you in favor of inclusion of a few important provisions in the FY2022 appropriations bill. I would like to highlight again what may be the most important provision that you can include in this year's appropriations bill. This is an item that comes at no cost.

Since 2012, the Appropriations Committee has continuously and on a bipartisan basis included language relevant to the War Powers Act. I have previously testified that the War Powers Act is the only effective restraint on presidents sending our troops into battle without congressional approval. Every president since the 1970s has claimed that they are not bound constitutionally by the War Powers Act.

I first offered the War Powers Act fiscal enforcement provision on the House floor in 2011. The House of Representatives passed this provision, and it has been in every appropriations bill since then. Many Constitutional scholars who believe that the War Powers Act is not binding on a president have also come to the conclusion that this provision makes the War Powers Act binding on the Executive Branch because of Congress' near absolute power of the purse.

I want to thank this Committee for its sustained support of the U.S.-Armenia relationship. I urge the committee to include \$2 million in funding to continue the mine removal efforts in Artsakh. I further urge the committee to include language that would bar U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan until the Executive Branch formally determines that Government of Azerbaijan is taking demonstrable steps to cease all blockades and other offensive uses against Armenia and Artsakh.

I also request that you include \$2 million for Sindhi language outreach by Voice of America (VOA). Pakistan is an important partner in U.S. efforts to combat extremism and global terrorism. Outreach efforts have in the past focused on Urdu language speaking communities while failing to also reach out to the more 30 million Sindhi speakers in Pakistan. In FY 21, the committee has supported funding for these efforts. However, the funding was not ultimately included in the final bill which became law. As we have the full support of VOA to establish a Sindhi language service, I urge the committee to include this funding in the FY22 bill.

Finally, I urge that we continue support for the cooperative research effort between the United States and Israel. I request that you provide at least \$6 million in funding for the U.S. Israel Energy Cooperative Agreement and \$2 million to continue support for a bilateral cooperative program with the Government of Israel for the development of treatments, vaccines, and other life-saving developments in the fight against COVID.