



Protecting the International Affairs Budget

Why is the International Affairs Budget important?

The International Affairs Budget supports critical development and diplomacy programs around the world. Programs funded by the International Affairs Budget create jobs here at home by opening new markets to American businesses and protect our national security by fighting terrorism and preventing conflicts before they start. This efficient investment also staffs all U.S. embassies overseas, fights pandemic disease, provides emergency response after natural disasters, implements agriculture programs to promote stability and prevent hunger, saves millions of lives with HIV/AIDS medications and provides essential good governance assistance to emerging democracies.

How much is currently allocated?

At the end of March, Congress approved an omnibus appropriations bill for FY18 that will keep the government open through September 30, 2018. When it comes to funding for development and diplomacy, the omnibus overwhelmingly rejects the deep and disproportionate cuts proposed by the Administration in FY18 – highlighting the strong bipartisan support in Congress for these critical programs. The International Affairs Budget receives a total of \$55.9 billion, split between \$43.9 billion in base funding and \$12 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding. **The International Affairs Budget leverages less than one percent of the overall budget.**

Why we cannot support the White House's proposed cuts.

The Trump administration has once again proposed enormous 30 percent cuts to the International Affairs Budget. Simply put, cutting one-third of our civilian forces for development and diplomacy at a time of extreme global threats, famines of historic proportions and a refugee crisis not seen since World War II is unfathomable. More than 230 Members of Congress—from the Freedom Caucus to the Progressive Caucus—spoke out against these dangerous cuts last year.

Further, in regard to defense, more than 120 retired generals and admirals recently wrote to Congressional leaders urging that “now is not the time to retreat” and that resources for the State Department and USAID must keep pace with the threats we face overseas. These military leaders understand that the programs funded by the International Affairs Budget help keep America safe—at a significantly lower cost in dollar terms and in American lives.

Specific ask

I ask that you please support \$60 billion for the International Affairs Budget to protect humanitarian assistance programs and help ensure our nation's security and economic interests.



Congressional Leaders who have rejected the Administration's proposed cuts.

“General Mattis, ‘Mad Dog’ Mattis, says that if we slash State Department funding, he’s going to have to order a lot more ammunition. And over 100 admirals and generals – retired admirals and generals – have said essentially the same thing. So I’m absolutely shocked at the Administration’s puny request...”

– **Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY 5th)**

“I am very concerned that deep cuts to our diplomacy will hurt efforts to combat terrorism, distribute critical humanitarian aid, and promote opportunities for American workers.”

– **Representative Ed Royce (R-CA 39th)**

“Former President Bush’s comment, which I’ve quoted many times, is as true as ever: ‘Defense, diplomacy, and development are equal legs of a stool of American foreign policy.’ Yet, dramatic reductions in the President’s proposed budget for the Function 150 account would undermine that delicate balance with the impacts of deep, ill-advised cuts.” – **Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY 17th)**

“It’s dead on arrival, it’s not going to happen, it would be a disaster... This budget destroys soft power, it puts our diplomats at risk and it’s going nowhere.” – **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**

“Slashing foreign assistance would be foolhardy, weakening our leadership and emboldening our adversaries.” – **Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)**

“I think foreign aid is pretty important myself... There are some pretty important programs that keep America open for business and that are vital to our national security.” – **Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ 11th)**

“I am deeply disappointed and dismayed to find out that despite the concerns raised by bipartisan Members of Congress and even by his own Secretary of State, President Trump appears determined to gut U.S. national security by slashing the State Department and USAID.” – **Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)**

“At a time when American leadership is needed more than ever, we must continue to invest in the International Affairs Budget.” – **Representative Ted Yoho (R-FL 3rd)**

“If we slash funding for diplomacy and development, we’re telling our service members and the American people, we’ll take our chances down the road – even if that may mean a much steeper cost in terms of American blood and American treasure.” – **Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY 16th)**