

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations  
HB-26, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations  
Committee Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey,

As you consider the fiscal year 2013 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support of the President's request of \$37,400,000 for the United State Institute of Peace (USIP).

Congress created USIP twenty-eight years ago to help our country find non-violent solutions to violent international conflicts. Today, USIP is playing a critical role by strengthening the country's capability to prevent and manage international conflicts. USIP is on the ground in war-torn countries, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, working to resolve complex international conflicts through practitioner training in conflict management skills and application of innovative approaches to stabilization and peace-building.


USIP is the bridge between civilians and the military, between national and international stakeholders, between the U.S. government and non-governmental actors, and between applied research and practice. In a rapidly changing world, USIP is agile and armed with expertise with which to respond to transition in the Arab world, to suggestions of positive change in Asia, and to threats to stability in Africa. At a time of fiscal constraint, investments in conflict prevention are a cost-effective strategy.

We understand that all foreign affairs agencies are under scrutiny for cost-savings. USIP is no exception. USIP's budget request in FY 2013 is a four percent reduction from the FY 2012 funding level. Since FY 2010, USIP has been reduced by 20 percent and cut its workforce by 16 percent. Further cuts would be devastating to these vital programs. It is vitally important that we in Congress support institutions like USIP that are cost-effective and enhance our national security. At the end of the day, the U.S. government must have a full range of options for preventing and resolving international conflict.

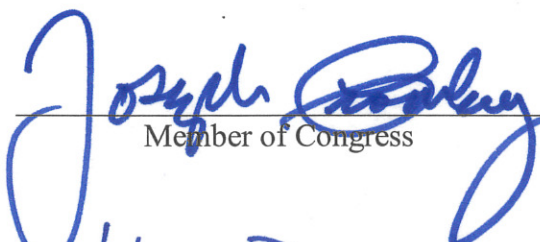
Chairwoman Granger  
Ranking Member Lowey  
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As always, thank you for considering our concerns on this key issue.

Sincerely,

  
Member of Congress

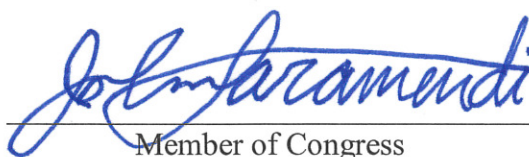
  
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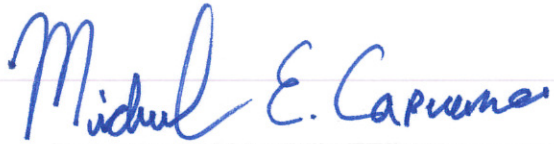
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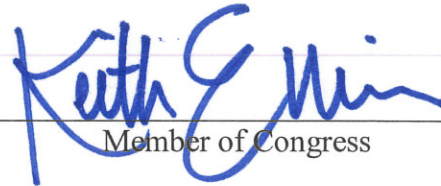
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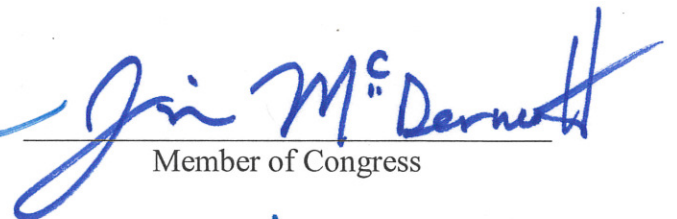
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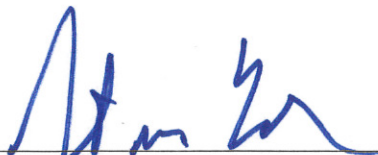
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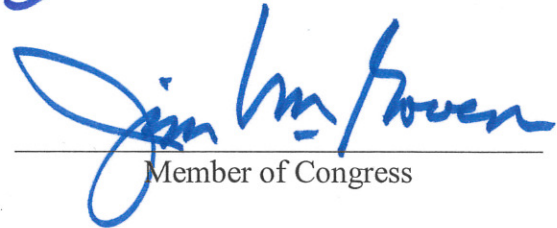
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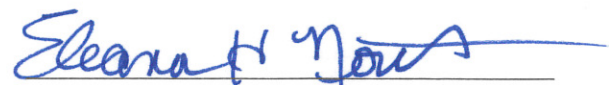
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