



News from Congresswoman
Nita M. Lowey

Chairwoman, State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 17, 2009

CONTACT: Matt Dennis
202-225-6506

State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee Approves Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Bill

Bill Provides Critical Funding to Protect National Security, Support Global Health, and Foster International Development

WASHINGTON – The House State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY), today approved its Fiscal Year 2010 bill. The Chairwoman’s mark, totaling \$48.843 billion, is \$1.206 billion below FY09 enacted levels, including supplemental funds.

“This bill helps protect our national security through effective diplomacy and development,” said Lowey. “It provides needed assistance to frontline states – Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq – and it promotes security, economic development, health, and education around the world. The bill also provides vital resources to rebuild the capacity of the State Department and USAID. It reverses a decade of reliance on supplemental appropriations and provides an honest accounting of the true cost of critical national security initiatives.”

The bill reflects the four priorities of the Subcommittee: protecting national security and combating terrorism; reforming and rebuilding America’s diplomatic and development capacity; providing critical resources to meet global health and development challenges; and ensuring adequate oversight and accountability of our foreign assistance.

To protect national security and combat terrorism, the Fiscal Year 2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act:

- Provides \$2.22 billion to Israel, fully funding the second year of the MOU at \$2.775 billion;
- Continues all current restrictions on assistance for West Bank and Gaza;
- Provides a total of \$2.695 billion for Afghanistan and \$1.519 billion for Pakistan;
- Provides a total of \$542.9 million to Jordan and \$1.295 billion for Egypt, key allies in the Middle East;
- Provides \$318.8 million for Mexico and Central America and \$520 million for Colombia to fight narcotics and criminal gangs and promote alternatives to drug production; and
- Requires a report from the Department of State on its implementation of the Iran Sanctions Act.

“Helping our allies and partners around the world fight terrorism is among the most important investments we can make in our own security,” said Lowey. “A nuclear Iran poses unacceptable risks to the region and the world, and we must pursue aggressive diplomacy, including strong sanctions without loopholes.”

To rebuild our diplomatic and development capacity, the bill provides funding for approximately 1,000 new positions at the Department of State and approximately 300 new employees at USAID as part of the Development Leadership Initiative.

“To meet the challenges of the 21st century, we must have a 21st century workforce,” said Lowey. “That is why this bill provides robust funding for our diplomatic corps and the agencies with experience and a track record of development success.”

The bill provides a total of \$7.684 billion for global health programs, including:

- \$5.7 billion total funding for global HIV/AIDS programs, including \$700 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is \$100 million above the President's request.
- \$2.3 billion for the Global Health and Child Survival account, which is \$370 million above the FY09 enacted level.
- \$585 million, \$200 million above the FY 2009 enacted level to support the President's Malaria Initiative.
- \$648 million for family planning and reproductive health, \$100 million above the President's request, including \$60 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

"Diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria continue to threaten the lives of millions of people as well as stability in the developing world, and this bill will advance our security interests and help fulfill our moral obligation to fight this scourge," said Lowey. "It will also help reduce unintended pregnancies and infant mortality through increased family planning and reproductive health initiatives for developing nations."

This bill aims to improve aid effectiveness and strengthen development assistance through:

- \$2.5 billion in the Development Assistance account, which is \$700 million above the fiscal year 2009 enacted level;
- \$1 billion to support basic education, \$300 million above the FY09 enacted level, to provide access to education and counter the influence of madrassas;
- \$1 billion for food security and agricultural development assistance to help countries struggling with food shortages exacerbated by the global financial crisis;
- \$685 million for biodiversity, clean energy and climate change programs in developing countries to help preserve our environment and promote sustainable growth;
- \$2.4 billion for refugee and disaster assistance including for the humanitarian crisis in Pakistan; and
- \$147 million for oversight of foreign assistance programs to fund the State Department, USAID, Iraq and Afghanistan IGs.

"Societies that are better educated and where economic opportunity and upward mobility is possible, will be less susceptible to the ideologies of extremism and terrorism," said Lowey.

In addition to these critical priorities, the bill provides investments in public diplomacy and support for African nations, including:

- \$520 million, \$125 million above fiscal year 2009, for support of expanded public diplomacy experts and programs;
- \$600 million, \$62 million above fiscal year 2009, for enhanced educational and cultural exchange programs;
- \$450 million, \$110 million above fiscal year 2009, as part of a multi-year effort to strengthen and expand the Peace Corps;
- \$397 million for Sudan to support key health, development, governance and security sector programs;
- \$225 million for Liberia to support efforts to rebuild and strengthen this young democracy; and
- \$156 million for the Democratic Republic of the Congo to strengthen health and development initiatives as well as to continue support for security sector reform.

###