



Chairman Hal Rogers

House Committee on Appropriations

FY 2017 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Markup July 6, 2016 Opening Statement As Prepared

Thank you for yielding, Madam Chairwoman. I congratulate you and Ranking Member Lowey for bringing forward the Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations bill for the Department of State and foreign operations. I know you and your staff have worked hard to bring this important legislation before the subcommittee today. This marks the 11th bill to be marked up in subcommittee this year and I appreciate the dedication from all our Members to complete our work in a timely manner.

The total funding for the fiscal year 2017 State and Foreign Operations bill before us today is \$52 billion, a reduction of \$595 million below FY16 enacted levels and \$691 million below the President's request. I'm pleased to say that this bill strikes the appropriate balance of fiscal responsibility and providing for critical needs like the protection of our embassies abroad, support for our partners and democracy, and humanitarian aid.

First, the bill provides an increase over fiscal year 2016 levels for embassy security. This funding will allow the State Department to address the security needs of more than 275 U.S. diplomatic facilities overseas in line with the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board.

Second, the bill continues vital security assistance to key international partners like Israel, Jordan, and Ukraine. Due to the growing instability and threats from the Middle East, as well as the aggression of Russia and China, it is paramount that our partners know they can rely on our support. This legislation also continues to prioritize the promotion of democracy around the world by providing strong funding for the National Endowment for Democracy and other important programs.

Third, the bill continues our country's strong tradition of public health and humanitarian aid, targeting funds to programs that save lives and making us better prepared for the next health crisis.

Finally, at a time when our country is facing crushing debt, this bill eliminates many programs and focuses on oversight, management, and making our government more accountable to Congress and the American people.

I want to again thank Chairwoman Granger and the Subcommittee for drafting a balanced piece of legislation and urge that the subcommittee promptly report this bill to the full Committee.

#####