

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare your Fiscal Year 2009 budget, we are writing to express bipartisan support for an increase in the International Affairs Budget – one that reinforces the continued commitment of Congress and your Administration to invest in the strategic tools that are essential to protecting our national security, building economic prosperity and demonstrating our moral values.

We live in an interconnected world where infectious diseases, failed states, and terrorism have no borders. America's security and prosperity are linked with the security and prosperity of other nations. The global realities of the 21st century require America to utilize the full range of non-military tools as a fundamental pillar of our national security. Investments in our international affairs programs bolster our national security by allowing us to work with foreign partners to track down terrorists and weapons, to improve the political and economic lives of others, and to help stabilize fragile states.

National security and foreign policy experts support an increase in the International Affairs Budget as a key component of our national security. The 2006 National Security Strategy reaffirmed that "Development reinforces diplomacy and defense, reducing long-term threats to our national security by helping to build stable, prosperous, and peaceful societies." The Pentagon's 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review cited the lack of U.S. civilian international capacity as hindering the Pentagon's core mission to defend the United States. Furthermore, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission called for an increased investment in the full range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian tools to deliver long-term success for U.S. foreign policy.

As Defense Secretary Gates said, "One of the most important lesson of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is that military success is not sufficient to win: economic development, institution-building and the rule of law, promoting internal reconciliation, good governance, providing basic services to the people, training and equipping indigenous military and police forces, strategic communication, and more – these, along with security, are essential ingredients for long-term success." We agree, and that is why an increase in the International Affairs Budget is so critical.

America has a proud history of bringing hope to millions of people who live under oppressive poverty, face starvation, battle HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and suffer the consequences of conflict and insecurity. Continued investments in such diplomatic, economic, democracy, and development programs are critical to saving lives, restoring America's capacity to engage the world, and building global stability.

Finally, our export promotion agencies and overseas missions open new markets for America's businesses and advocate for U.S. commercial interests overseas. These programs help developing countries to fully participate in the world economy, in turn creating economic opportunities at home and abroad.

The International Affairs Budget strengthens America's civilian capabilities and energizes our outreach to the world through vigorous public diplomacy, educational and cultural exchanges, and capable, secure embassies and diplomats who directly represent U.S. interests and values. Despite modest increases, the International Affairs Budget remains dangerously underfunded – currently 17 percent below Cold War levels – hindering the ability of our civilian agencies to adequately participate in meeting our foreign policy goals.

Together we must ensure that the U.S. is fully equipped to face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Despite progress in restoring dangerously low levels of funding for the International Affairs Budget, we must do more. As you prepare the FY09 Federal Budget, we urge you to continue to increase funding for U.S. International Affairs programs.

Thank you.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare your Fiscal Year 2009 budget, we are writing to express bipartisan support for an increase in the International Affairs Budget – one that reinforces the continued commitment of Congress and your Administration to invest in these strategic tools that are essential to protecting our national security, building economic prosperity and demonstrating our moral values.

We live in an interconnected world where infectious diseases and terrorism have no borders. America's security and prosperity is linked with the security and prosperity of other nations. The global realities of the 21st century require America to utilize the full range of non-military tools as a fundamental pillar of our national security. Investments in our international affairs programs bolster our national security by allowing us to work with foreign partners to track down terrorists overseas, to secure dangerous weapons wherever they are found, and to help stabilize fragile states.

National security and foreign policy experts support an increase in the International Affairs Budget as a key component of our national security. The 2006 National Security Strategy reaffirmed that "Development reinforces diplomacy and defense, reducing long-term threats to our national security by helping to build stable, prosperous, and peaceful societies." The Pentagon's 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review cited the lack of U.S. civilian international capacity as hindering the Pentagon's core mission to defend the United States. Furthermore, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission called for an increased investment in the full range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian tools to deliver long-term success for U.S. foreign policy.

In addition, America has a proud history of bringing hope to millions of people who live under oppressive poverty, face starvation, battle HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and suffer the consequences of conflict and insecurity. Investments in our diplomatic, economic and development programs are critical to saving lives, restoring America's capacity to engage the world, and building global stability.

Investments in our export promotion agencies and overseas missions open new markets for America's businesses and advocate for U.S. commercial interests overseas. These programs help developing countries to fully participate in the world economy which create economic opportunities at home and abroad. Moreover, the International Affairs Budget strengthens America's civilian capabilities and energizes our outreach to the world through vigorous public diplomacy, educational and cultural exchanges, and capable, secure embassies and diplomats who provide the first line of offense for America's interests abroad. Despite modest increases, the International Affairs Budget remains dangerously underfunded, 17 percent below Cold War levels, hindering the ability of our civilian agencies to adequately participate in meeting our foreign policy goals.

Together we must ensure that the U.S. is fully equipped to face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Despite progress in restoring dangerously low levels of funding for the International Affairs Budget, much more needs to be accomplished. As you prepare the FY09 Federal Budget, we urge you to continue to increase funding for U.S. International Affairs programs.

Sincerely,

**Co-signers of the Feinstein-Hagel-Durbin-Smith-Dodd-Coleman and
Berman-Kirk-Chandler-Shays Letters**

to the President for increase in FY09 International Affairs Budget

SENATE LETTER

1. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
2. Chuck Hagel (R-NE)
3. Richard Durbin (D-IL)
4. Gordon Smith (R-OR)
5. Christopher Dodd (D-CT)
6. Norm Coleman (R-MN)

7. Daniel Akaka (D-HI)
8. Max Baucus (D-MT)
9. Joseph Biden (D-DE)
10. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)
11. Christopher Bond (R-MO)
12. Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
13. Sam Brownback (R-KS)
14. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
15. Richard Burr (R-NC)
16. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
17. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)
18. Robert Casey (D-PA)
19. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
20. Hillary Clinton (D-NY)
21. Susan Collins (R-ME)
22. Bob Corker (R-TN)
23. Elizabeth Dole (R-NC)
24. Byron Dorgan (D-ND)
25. Russ Feingold (D-WI)
26. Tom Harkin (D-IA)
27. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)
28. Johnny Isakson (R-GA)
29. Tim Johnson (D-SD)
30. Edward Kennedy (D-MA)
31. John Kerry (D-MA)
32. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
33. Herbert Kohl (D-WI)
34. Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
35. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
36. Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
37. Carl Levin (D-MI)
38. Joseph Lieberman (D-CT)
39. Richard Lugar (R-IN)
40. Mel Martinez (R-FL)
41. Claire McCaskill (D-MO)
42. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)
43. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
44. Patty Murray (D-WA)
45. Bill Nelson (D-FL)
46. Barack Obama (D-IL)
47. Mark Pryor (D-AR)
48. Jack Reed (D-RI)
49. John Rockefeller (D-WV)
50. Ken Salazar (D-CO)
51. Bernard Sanders (I-VT)
52. Charles Schumer (D-NY)
53. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)
54. Arlen Specter (R-PA)
55. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
56. Ted Stevens (R-AK)
57. John Sununu (R-NH)
58. George Voinovich (R-OH)
59. John Warner (R-VA)
60. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
61. Ron Wyden (D-OR)

HOUSE LETTER

1. Howard Berman (D-CA)
2. Mark Kirk (R-IL)
3. Ben Chandler (D-KY)
4. Christopher Shays (R-CT)

5. Gary Ackerman (D-NY)
6. Thomas Allen (D-ME)
7. Brian Baird (D-WA)
8. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
9. Melissa Bean (D-IL)
10. Shelley Berkley (D-NV)
11. Judy Biggert (R-IL)
12. Tim Bishop (D-NY)
13. Earl Blumenthauer (D-OR)
14. Leonard Boswell (D-IA)
15. Bruce Braley (D-IA)
16. Lois Capps (D-CA)
17. Michael Capuano (D-MA)
18. William Lacy Clay (D-MO)
19. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)
20. Stephen Cohen (D-TN)
21. Joseph Courtney (D-CT)
22. Joseph Crowley (D-NY)
23. Susan Davis (D-CA)
24. William Delahunt (D-MA)
25. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
26. Norman Dicks (D-WA)
27. Keith Ellison (D-MN)
28. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL)
29. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
30. Eliot Engel (D-NY)
31. Bob Etheridge (D-NC)
32. Eni Faleomavaega (D-AS)
33. Sam Farr (D-CA)
34. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)
35. Barney Frank (D-MA)
36. Jim Gerlach (R-PA)
37. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD)
38. Charles Gonzalez (D-TX)
39. Gene Green (D-TX)
40. Alcee Hastings (D-FL)
41. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)
42. Mazie Hirono (D-HI)
43. Paul Hodes (D-NH)
44. Rush Holt (D-NJ)
45. Michael Honda (D-CA)
46. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)
47. Bob Inglis (R-SC)
48. Jay Inslee (D-WA)
49. Steve Israel (D-NY)
50. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
51. Jesse Jackson (D-IL)
52. William Jefferson (D-LA)
53. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
54. Timothy Johnson (R-IL)
55. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI)
56. Carolyn Kilpatrick (D-MI)
57. Ron Kind (D-WI)
58. Ron Klein (D-FL)
59. Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI)
60. Ray LaHood (R-IL)
61. James Langevin (D-RI)
62. Tom Lantos (D-CA)

63. Richard Larsen (D-WA)
64. John Larson (D-CT)
65. Barbara Lee (D-CA)
66. Sander Levin (D-MI)
67. John Lewis (D-GA)
68. Dan Lipinski (D-IL)
69. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)
70. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
71. Stephen Lynch (D-MA)
72. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)
73. Edward Markey (D-MA)
74. Doris Matsui (D-CA)
75. Betty McCollum (D-MN)
76. James McGovern (D-MA)
77. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
78. Michael Michaud (D-ME)
79. Brad Miller (D-NC)
80. Gwen Moore (D-WI)
81. James Moran (D-VA)
82. Christopher Murphy (D-CT)
83. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
84. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
85. James Oberstar (D-MN)
86. John Olver (D-MA)
87. Ed Pastor (D-AZ)
88. Donald Payne (D-NJ)
89. Todd Platts (R-PA)
90. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND)
91. Jon Porter (R-NV)
92. David Price (D-NC)
93. Charles Rangel (D-NY)
94. Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX)
95. Mike Ross (D-AR)
96. Steven Rothman (D-NJ)
97. Bobby Rush (D-IL)
98. John Sarbanes (D-MD)
99. Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)
100. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
101. David Scott (D-GA)
102. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH)
103. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
104. Heath Shuler (D-NC)
105. Albio Sires (D-NJ)
106. Louise Slaughter (D-NY)
107. Adam Smith (D-WA)
108. Vic Snyder (D-AR)
109. Hilda Solis (D-CA)
110. Betty Sutton (D-OH)
111. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA)
112. John Tierney (D-MA)
113. Mark Udall (D-CO)
114. Tom Udall (D-NM)
115. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
116. Tim Walz (D-MN)
117. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
118. Maxine Waters (D-CA)
119. Diane Watson (D-CA)
120. Henry Waxman (D-CA)
121. Peter Welch (D-VT)
122. Jerry Weller (R-IL)
123. Robert Wexler (D-FL)
124. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)
125. Albert Wynn (D-MD)