

Sample Action Alert

Urge Congress to Fully Fund the International Affairs Budget

February X, 2010

President Obama has submitted his FY 2011 Budget request to Congress for their approval.

The \$58.5 billion International Affairs Budget request represents a mere 1.4% of the overall budget and funds critical programs like *[fill in what is important to your constituency]*.

Now is the time for your Senators and Representative to hear from you about the programs you care about and why the International Affairs Budget is so important.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Encourage your Members of Congress to fully support America's smart power tools of development and diplomacy. Please [contact your Members of Congress](#) and ask them to support full funding of the International Affairs Budget.

SAMPLE MESSAGE TO CONGRESS:

As a constituent, I urge you to support no less than the President's request for the FY 2011 U.S. International Affairs Budget.

The proposed \$58.5 billion International Affairs Budget is critical to combating terrorism, building global stability, strengthening our economy, and supporting America's humanitarian and democratic values. The International Affairs Budget will better enable the United States to:

- **Create Jobs and Strengthen our Economy:** With 1 in 7 U.S. jobs export-related, the International Affairs Budget is instrumental in creating new markets for American goods and services which spurs jobs here at home.
- **Strengthen National Security:** Disease, famine, instability and hopelessness can create conditions where extremism and conflict take root. The International Affairs Budget is critical to deterring threats before they reach America's shores and responding to humanitarian crises.
- **Fight Poverty and Highlight America's Moral Leadership:** The International Affairs Budget provides funding to fight poverty by investing in health, education, agricultural development and micro-finance. By showcasing our humanitarian values and demonstrating our compassion for those in need, it helps build a healthier and more peaceful world.

Only 1.4% of the entire federal budget, the International Affairs Budget funds the "smart power" tools of development and diplomacy critical to strengthening U.S. national interests and addressing the global challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. I urge you to support no less than the President's request.