



QUICK ANSWERS FOR YOUR NEXT TOWN HALL

WHY ARE WE BUILDING SCHOOLS OVERSEAS WHEN OUR SCHOOLS ARE FALLING APART HERE?

Frankly, because it's a national security issue. If we're not providing alternatives to signing up for the Taliban, we're going to be right back where we started a decade ago. Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said it best, "Development is a lot cheaper than sending soldiers."

WHY DO WE SPEND SO MUCH MONEY ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE?

Foreign assistance is actually only one percent of the federal budget, and America today actually spends half of what it did during the Reagan Administration (as a percent of GDP). It is a cost effective way to avoid conflicts before we have to put boots on the ground. It also increases markets to sell our goods and services, which means jobs back here at home.

ISN'T FOREIGN ASSISTANCE A BIG WASTE OF TAXPAYER MONEY?

Foreign assistance is a valuable national and economic security tool to protect our interests in the world, with a great return on investment. Eleven of America's top 15 trading partners are now graduates of U.S. foreign assistance programs, which is why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and top business leaders say it secures our place in the global economy. And it's simply the right thing to do. Our HIV/AIDS relief efforts prevented almost a quarter of million babies from being born HIV positive last year.

SHOULDN'T WE JUST MIND OUR BUSINESS IN THE WORLD?

Since 95 percent of the world's consumers, and America's potential customers, live outside our borders, we have to stay engaged to be competitive in the global economy with countries like China. And if we choose to stick our heads in the sand, new enemies and terrorism will continue to pose a threat to us here at home.

HOW DOES SENDING MONEY TO OTHER COUNTRIES HELP US HERE AT HOME?

It's an investment in our own future. U.S. foreign assistance agencies work with businesses to create opportunities and in turn create American jobs. The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has supported over \$200 billion in investments, and helped create over 340,000 U.S. jobs. Half our exports already go the developing world, and we need to be in these fast growing economies to sell our goods and services. Our competitors, including China, are busy there, and we risk falling behind if we're not. If we're serious about putting people back to work, exports and international trade help us achieve that.

WHY ARE WE ARE GIVING ASSISTANCE TO CORRUPT GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE THAT HATE US OVERSEAS?

Most U.S. assistance goes directly to serve people in need, not to governments. In fact, more than 90 percent of U.S. foreign assistance funding goes to respected organizations like Save the Children and World Vision, or private firms, foundations and universities that are held to the highest degree of accountability.