

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 14, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Ranking Member Cochran:

As you consider 302(b) allocations among Appropriations Subcommittees, we urge you to allocate for the International Affairs Budget no less than \$58.8 billion, the amount requested by the Obama administration and in keeping with bipartisan calls from our nation's foreign policy and military leaders to increase funding for development and diplomacy programs.

The International Affairs Budget represents less than 1.5% of the total federal budget, and yet it funds America's development and diplomacy tools – two of the three pillars of U.S. national security. The majority of the proposed \$6.1 billion increase for the International Affairs Budget in FY 2011 is devoted to the Frontline States of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq. In fact, accounting for FY 2010 supplemental funding for Haiti, the FY 2011 request level actually is flat.

Such funding is not only critical to safeguarding our national security and reducing the heavy toll on American men and women in uniform, but it is also instrumental in helping to improve lives through global health, democracy, agriculture, and education programs.

National security and foreign policy experts agree that a strong International Affairs Budget is an essential component of national security. As Secretary Clinton has stated: "Our diplomatic and development tools enhance American leadership, strengthen our alliances, and build new partnerships to confront pressing global challenges. Full funding in FY 11 will allow us to continue making tangible progress in securing the hard fought gains achieved in Iraq, and to continue supporting and deploying hundreds of civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan to help stabilize dangerous but improving situations."

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates says it clearly: "I strongly believe a robust civilian foreign affairs capability, coupled with a strong defense capability, is essential to preserving U.S. national security interests around the world."

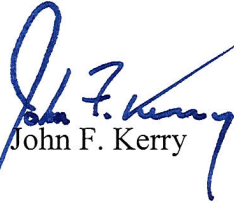
Eight former Secretaries of State concurred in a joint letter in April: "increasing the investment in our civilian international capabilities will keep America safer by, among other things, addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism, supporting key allies, and demonstrating America's proud tradition of global leadership."

We urge you to consider these priorities and the Senate's strong support for them, and allocate no less than \$58.8 billion for the 302(b) allocation for the FY11 International Affairs Budget. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar



John F. Kerry



Richard J. Durbin



Christopher S. Bond



Dianne Feinstein



Carl Levin



Daniel K. Akaka



Kirsten E. Gillibrand



Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Mary L. Landrieu




Jeanne Shaheen




Susan M. Collins

  
Frank R. Lautenberg

  
Benjamin L. Cardin

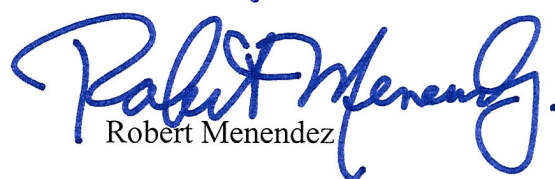
  
Amy Klobuchar

  
Ron Wyden

  
Tim Johnson


  
Jeff Bingaman

  
Sherrod Brown

  
Robert Menendez

  
Tom Udall

  
Joseph I. Lieberman

  
Kay R. Hagan

  
Jeff Merkley

  
Sheldon Whitehouse

  
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Mike Johanns

  
Patrick J. Leahy


  
Barbara Boxer

  
Bernard Sanders

  
Barbara A. Mikulski

  
Edward E. Kaufman

  
Arlen Specter

  
Christopher J. Dodd

  
Mark Begich

  
Olympia J. Snowe

  
Al Franken