

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2010

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, we write to strongly recommend that the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Resolution assume no less than the President's full request for \$58.5 billion for international affairs (Function 150) programs. We believe the President's request provides the resources our foreign affairs agencies urgently need to enhance U.S. "smart power" non-military tools of diplomacy and global development.

Much of the growth in the budget request is for increased funding for what the State Department terms the "Frontline States" of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. In addition, under the President's budget, our civilian foreign affairs agencies will be responsible for a number of programs previously under the purview of the Defense Department, including the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capabilities Fund, police training programs in Iraq, and Section 1207 reconstruction and stabilization assistance.

As you know, in recent years, our foreign affairs agencies have been chronically under-resourced in the face of multiple, critical foreign policy challenges. The President's request would enable the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development to fill vacancies in key foreign service posts and to begin to field a cadre of well trained diplomats, public diplomacy officers, and development specialists to respond to crises and advance U.S. interests across the globe.

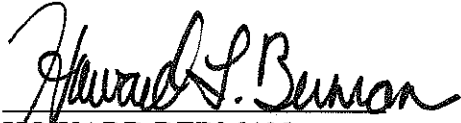
It is critical for the U.S. to have a full range of tools at its disposal to meet today's global challenges. Numerous bipartisan commissions, among them the 2006 National Security Strategy, the Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review, the 9/11 Commission and the Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group, have concluded that increases in the International Affairs Budget are essential to ensuring U.S. security in the 21st century.

These commissions, like the signatories of our letter, know that we live in an increasingly interconnected world where infectious diseases, failed states, economic despair and terrorism don't observe national borders. The sobering realities of today's world demand that America utilize the full range of its non-military tools as a primary pillar of our national security. Investments in our international affairs programs bolster our national security by allowing us to

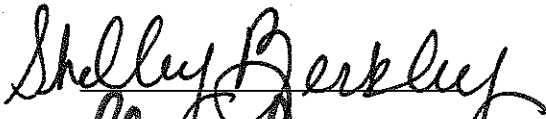
work with foreign partners to track down terrorists and weapons, to improve the economic and political lives of others, to help stabilize fragile states, and to increase goodwill abroad.

All too often the Function 150 account has been used to cover shortfalls in other accounts, but we believe that is critical that the Budget Resolution address the need to promote U.S. national security by rebuilding our diplomatic and development capacity and enhancing U.S. smart power.


Sincerely,

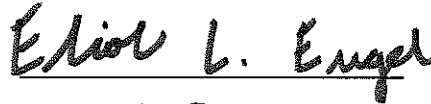

HOWARD BERMAN
Chairman, HCFA

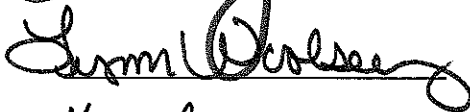

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress







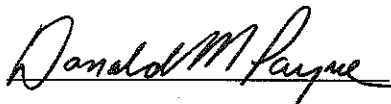









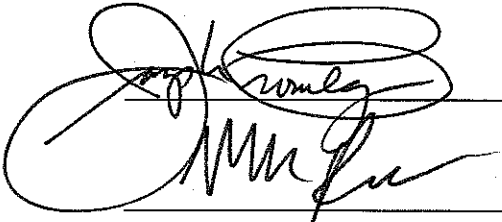


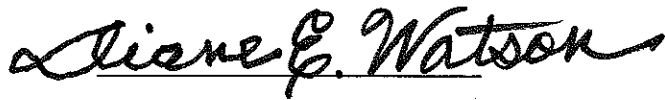






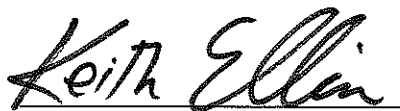




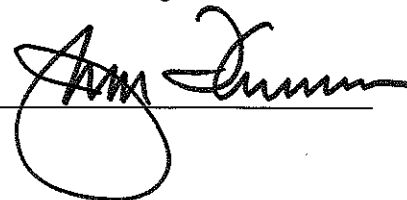












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