

## **Statement from the Chairs of the “For Country Caucus”**

March 26, 2019

As military veterans who now have the privilege of serving our country in Congress, we have seen firsthand just how important these civilian tools of diplomacy and development are to protecting our country – and ultimately reducing the burden on our service members. With all of the threats that America faces overseas, it takes a comprehensive arsenal of national security tools to keep our country safe.

We stand with the more than 130 retired three- and four-star generals and flag officers who signed this letter in support of a strong and effective International Affairs Budget, which is critical to advancing America’s national security interests. Because we know, as Secretary Mattis has told the nation: ‘If you don’t fully fund the State Department, then I need to buy more ammunition.’

Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Chair  
Representative Don Bacon (R-NE), Chair  
Representative Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), Vice Chair  
Representative Michael Waltz (R-FL), Vice Chair