

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

Fiscal Year 2018 State and Foreign Operations Bill

Bill will target funding to critical diplomatic and security missions, humanitarian crisis response

The fiscal year 2018 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill funds the State Department, the United States Agency for International Development, and other international activities.

The bill will target funding to U.S. foreign policy priorities, including critical diplomatic and security missions to advance our national security. It also contains funding to bolster U.S. allies and key partners in strategic and challenging areas of the world, and provides critical humanitarian aid. In addition, the legislation contains strong oversight measures and reductions to nonessential or lower-priority international programs to protect and save taxpayer dollars.

In total, the bill provides \$54 billion in regular discretionary and Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding. This total is \$3.4 billion below the final fiscal year 2017 enacted level. Within this amount, OCO funding totals \$12 billion, which supports operations and assistance in areas of conflict, such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

State Department Operations and Related Agencies – The bill contains a total of \$16 billion in base and OCO funding for the operational costs of the State Department and related agencies, as well as diplomatic efforts to enhance peace and stability around the globe. The amount is \$1.8 billion below fiscal year 2017, largely due to reduced costs of United Nations international peacekeeping missions and a one-time infusion of supplemental funds that was provided last year in the Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 for scaling up counter-ISIS operations.

Within this amount, the legislation provides \$6 billion for embassy security. These funds will address needs at more than 275 diplomatic facilities overseas, including facility upgrades and security personnel as recommended in the Benghazi Accountability Review Board report.

International Security Assistance – The bill provides a total of \$9 billion in base and OCO funding for international security assistance for the protection of our nation's security at home and abroad.

Funds are included for international narcotics control and law enforcement activities, antiterrorism programs, nonproliferation programs, peacekeeping operations, and security assistance for key allies and partners. The bill fully funds the \$3.1 billion commitment to Israel, marking the last year of the current 10-year memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel totaling \$10 billion. The bill continues strong support for Foreign Military Financing programs for Ukraine, Georgia, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Antiterrorism programs that assist in the fight to defeat the ISIS and other terrorist groups are funded at \$345 million. The bill also provides funding to fight terrorist financing networks, and bolster border and airport security.

The bill maintains robust funding for counternarcotics and law enforcement efforts in Colombia, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. The legislation also provides \$28 million to address international organized crime and increases funding to combat cybercrime.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Operations – The bill contains \$1.6 billion for USAID and the USAID Office of Inspector General – a decrease of \$24 million from the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The legislation also includes oversight measures to ensure the proper management of development programs and the appropriate use of U.S. funds.

Bilateral Economic Assistance – The legislation contains a total of \$16.8 billion in base and OCO funding for bilateral assistance to foreign countries – a decrease of \$900 million from the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. This funding is targeted to activities to provide stability in volatile regions and enhance U.S. presence in critical and strategic areas. Within this amount, programs support economic and development assistance (\$8.1 billion) and global health (\$8.7 billion, including \$6 billion to fight HIV/AIDS).

Humanitarian assistance – The bill includes \$7.6 billion for humanitarian assistance to respond to the unprecedented level of global displacements.

Multilateral Assistance – The legislation provides \$1.9 billion for assistance to foreign countries through international organizations and banks, a decrease of \$253 million below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

The bill does not include funding for several controversial or unnecessary programs, including the Green Climate Fund; international debt relief; and the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Key Countries and Conditions

- **Israel** – The bill includes \$3.1 billion for Israel from the Foreign Military Financing Program, as part of the MOU.
- **Egypt** – The bill includes authority to continue assistance for Egypt, including \$1.3 billion for security assistance and \$112.5 million in economic assistance if Egypt sustains its strategic partnership with the United States and adheres to the peace treaty with Israel.
- **Jordan** – The bill provides not less than \$1.525 billion for economic and security assistance for assistance for Jordan.
- **Syria** – The bill allows funding to be used for non-lethal aid in areas not under the control of the Syrian Government. Oversight and vetting of recipients is required, and Congress must be notified before any funds are made available.
- **Countering Russian Influence and Aggression** – To respond to instability caused by Russian aggression, the bill increases funding for Ukraine and Georgia and provides \$250 million for the Countering Russian Influence Fund authorized by Congress, which is \$150 million above the prior year.

- **Afghanistan** – The recommendation includes conditions on assistance for transparency, accountability, and other requirements, including prohibiting funds for new major infrastructure projects.
- **Palestinian Authority** – The bill maintains restrictions on the Palestinian Authority (PA), including a requirement to reduce funds to the Palestinians by an amount equivalent to that expended by the PA as payments to prisoners that committed acts of terrorism, prohibiting funding if there is a Palestinian government formed through an agreement with Hamas or if the Palestinians are not acting to counter incitement. The bill also includes a provision restricting Palestinians’ representation in the U.S. if they initiate or actively support an International Criminal Court investigation against Israel. The agreement continues a reporting requirement on steps taken by the PA to counter incitement of violence against Israelis.

Increased Oversight, Savings, and Policy Provisions – The bill continues robust requirements to increase program oversight, improve management, and tighten the reins on taxpayer dollars. Some of these provisions include:

- **Records management** – To address problems with record-keeping, transparency, and responsiveness at the State Department and USAID, the bill:
 - Prohibits funds to use private email accounts or servers; and
 - Maintains the fiscal year 2017 level for Freedom of Information Act activities to ensure requests receive responses in a timely manner
- **Guantanamo Bay** – The bill requires a notification to Congress if the State Department commits to providing assistance to foreign governments that accept Guantanamo detainees.
- **Assistance to Foreign Governments and Local Organizations** – The bill requires certain conditions to be met before the Administration can give funds directly to foreign governments and local organizations.
- **Multi-Year Funding Commitments** – The legislation includes congressional oversight requirements before the Administration can make multi-year funding commitments to foreign countries or international organizations.
- **UN Reform** – The bill provides no funding for the Human Rights Council unless the Secretary of State determines that it is important to the national interest and the Council stops its anti-Israel agenda and ensures integrity in the elections of its members. The bill also prohibits funds for UN organizations headed by countries that support terrorism. The bill withholds a portion of funds for the UN and international organizations until transparency and accountability measures are met, including by enforcing restrictions on business and first class travel. No funds are provided for the UN capital master plan in New York.
- **North Africa Strategy Requirement** – The bill includes a new provision requiring the Secretary of State to submit a strategy for United States engagement in North Africa, including information on how diplomatic engagement and assistance will be prioritized for the region.
- **Arms Trade Treaty** – The legislation prohibits funding to implement the UN Arms Trade Treaty.
- **Coal** – The bill overrides the anti-coal regulations of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, Export-Import Bank, and World Bank, and allows the financing of coal-fired and

other power generation projects by U.S. companies overseas. This provision will bolster U.S. job creation and ensure quality, cost-effective technology for developing and other nations.

Protecting Life – The bill maintains all existing policy provisions to ensure the respect for life around the globe. For example, the bill:

- Maintains the “Tiahrt Amendment,” which ensures family planning programs are voluntary;
- Maintains the “Helms Amendment,” which bans foreign aid from being spent on abortions; and
- Rejects attempts to roll back the President’s expanded Mexico City policy and override the Administration’s “Kemp-Kasten” determination, which prohibits funds from going to UNFPA and to organizations the President determines to support coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.

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