



**FY 2019 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill
Full Committee Markup
June 20, 2018
Opening Statement**

Thank you to both the Chairman and the Ranking Member for bringing this bill before the Committee today.

Now, as much as ever, the United States must maintain our role as a global leader. We are facing: Russian aggression and Chinese expansionism; destabilizing activities by Iran and North Korea; continued terrorist attacks across the globe; conflict, disease, and the threat of famine; and sophisticated criminal networks trafficking in humans and drugs.

Now is not the time for the United States to back down from global engagement.

I'm pleased to see the bill includes \$54 billion to support this "soft power" component of our national security strategy.

This funding will support programs that help us address these threats, including diplomatic engagement, foreign assistance, and humanitarian aid.

The bill includes a total of \$9.3 billion for international security assistance, including efforts to dismantle terrorist networks and stop the illegal flow of drugs. It also supports our key allies and partners, and makes the first investment in our new 10-year memorandum of understanding with Israel.

And the bill supports economic assistance that will support development across the world and improve our own economic standing in strategic areas.

Importantly, this bill recognizes that disease, hunger, and poverty can destabilize countries and governments, and in turn, undermine our own national security. The bill before us today continues to devote crucial resources to health concerns around the globe, such as improving the health of mothers and children, and combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

The bill makes these critical investments while ensuring that every cent of taxpayer money that supports overseas engagement is used responsibly.

I thank Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, the members of Subcommittee, and the professional staff for acknowledging these priorities, and ensuring this bill provides the resources to fulfill our global responsibilities.

U.S. leadership on the global scale is not only critical to our national security, but to the promotion of peace and democracy worldwide. This bill helps us maintain this role. I urge the committee to support it.

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