



Chairman Harold “Hal” Rogers

House Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs

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CHAIRMAN HAL ROGERS’ OPENING STATEMENT: SFOPS Appropriations Subcommittee FY19 Full Committee Markup

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am pleased to present the fiscal year 2019 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs appropriations bill to the Full Committee for consideration and approval.

I want to begin by thanking Chairman Frelinghuysen for another year of his tireless work to move bills through the Committee. I also want to thank him for this allocation, which allows us to support United States foreign policy and security interests around the globe. I know he supports the diplomacy and development missions funded in this bill.

I also want to thank Mrs. Lowey for her continued work on this Subcommittee. She cares deeply about these programs and, despite our differences on some issues, we have many common priorities that advance our country’s national security and economic interests. I thank her for her partnership.

The fiscal year 2019 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill before us today totals \$54 billion. This is the same as the fiscal year 2018 enacted level and \$11.8 billion above the President’s request.

This bill sends a clear message to our friends and allies that U.S. global engagement and leadership remains strong. It also should reassure the men and women working to advance our nation’s interests around the world that the Committee values the work they do to project the soft power of the United States, and we intend to provide the resources

necessary to support them. Together with our unmatched Armed Forces, the public servants at the State Department and USAID help the United States build a foundation for peace and security in every corner of the world.

I will highlight a few of the priorities in the legislation that support this work. First, the bill provides over \$6 billion for embassy security. This funding will allow the State Department to address the security needs of personnel serving at more than 275 U.S. diplomatic facilities overseas and is in line with the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board.

Second, the bill recommends \$9.3 billion for security assistance. This includes \$3.3 billion of Foreign Military Financing for Israel, which is an increase of \$200 million over last year. The timing of this support is critical for Israel, as violence and instability in the region continue. The bill also maintains support for key partners such as Egypt, Jordan, Ukraine, Georgia, and Colombia. In addition, the bill provides \$360 million for antiterrorism programs to counter terrorist safe havens, assist in the fight against terrorist groups, and strengthen international airport security.

Third, the bill upholds American values of compassion and the respect for protecting and preserving life. The bill increases funding to \$2.4 billion to promote democracy around the world. It also includes \$7.6 billion for humanitarian assistance and \$8.7 billion for Global Health Programs.

Fourth, the bill supports the *President's Initiative to Stop Opioid Abuse and Reduce Drug Supply and Demand* by increasing assistance to countries in our Hemisphere to stop the flow of opioids into the United States, increasing funding for global demand programs, and fully funding the President's request to combat transnational criminal organizations. As you all have heard me discuss for years, the opioid epidemic is perhaps the leading domestic crisis of our time. As our challenge has shifted from prescription painkillers to illicit synthetic opioids, we must engage with our partners on the international stage to stop the flow of heroin and fentanyl through our borders and into our communities. This is a life or death issue and I am proud that this bill takes important steps to stem the tide of addiction and overdose deaths.

Fifth, the bill prioritizes funding for "global health security" by providing \$173 million to assist developing countries prepare, prevent, detect, and respond to dangerous infectious disease outbreaks that could have a direct impact on the health of Americans. An additional \$25 million is also provided for the Emergency Reserve Fund that was established in fiscal year 2017 to respond rapidly to severe threats to human health.

Sixth, the bill focuses on making our government more accountable to Congress and the American people by strengthening oversight, improving management, and eliminating redundant programs.

Finally, the recommendation protects American workers and manufacturers. Once again, this bill prohibits regulatory discrimination against coal-fired power generation around the world. As our partners in the developing world build out their energy infrastructure, they should be allowed to choose modern, affordable coal-fired technologies - particularly when that choice would prevent the loss of American jobs. My district alone has lost over 12,000 direct coal jobs since 2009 and many of the jobs that do remain are producing coal for export to these developing markets. These global markets will use coal-fired generation for the foreseeable future regardless of American energy regulations, so we should at least ensure that they can purchase American coal while they do.

The bill also continues funding for the administrative expenses of the Export-Import Bank. I would note that the recommendation is sufficient to support the full complement of Board members and their immediate staff. It is my hope that the President and the U. S. Senate will act expeditiously to fill the current Board vacancies. Without such action, the Board will continue to lack the quorum necessary to act on all but the smallest deals. This unnecessary constraint hurts American manufacturers and workers in my district as well as other districts across the country.

Before I conclude, I want to express my appreciation for the work of the staff.

From the majority staff, I want to thank the clerk, Craig Higgins, and his team Susan Adams, Clelia Alvarado, David Bortnick, Winnie Chang, Dean Koulouris, and Brendan Dallas. From my personal office, I also want to thank Megan Bell and Alex Pinson.

From the minority staff, I want to thank Steve Marchese, Erin Kolodjeski, Matt Washington, and Elizabeth Leibowitz. We appreciate all of your help.

Thank you again, Chairman Frelinghuysen. I yield back.

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