

**Chairman Hal Rogers**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**  
**Fiscal Year 2014 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill**  
**Subcommittee Markup**  
**July 19, 2013**  
**Opening Statement As Prepared**

---

I thank the Chairwoman for yielding, and I congratulate her and Ranking Member Lowey on producing a fiscal year 2014 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. The Chairwoman, Ranking Member, and staff on both sides have worked tirelessly to bring this important legislation before the subcommittee today.

From the continued instability in the Middle East, to the economic difficulties around the world, there is no question that this an extremely busy subcommittee confronted with a number of critical issues. At the same time, the fiscal situation facing our nation is of the utmost importance to our national and economic security.

The State/Foreign Operations bill before us reduces funding by billions of dollars from current levels while meeting the most critical security priorities. The bill recognizes the risks our diplomats face, and fully funds the embassy security request at \$4.8 billion. The bill fully funds the US-Israel Memorandum of Understanding and supports key neighbors in our hemisphere - including Colombia and Mexico - to help fight drug trafficking and violent crime. The bill also includes \$6.5 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terror funding, to address requirements in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq and to counter instability in places where terrorists threaten U.S. and regional security.

During this time of monumental deficits and skyrocketing debt, this bill takes several steps to focus on oversight and management. For many countries and programs, funds are only made available after tough conditions have been met. The bill eliminates more than twenty programs resulting in more than \$2 billion in savings.

The Chairwoman's emphasis on supporting national security, reducing spending, and implementing reform is the right approach for addressing our international interests. I urge that the subcommittee promptly report this bill to the full Committee.

#####