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May 19, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Ms. Burwell:

We wrote to you January 9, 2014 regarding the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review of two competing proposals to meet Department of State (State) security training requirements: (1) State's proposal to construct a new Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC); and (2) an expansion of the existing Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC).

In our letter, we noted the widely differing cost estimates provided by State and FLETC. While State estimated that constructing a new FASTC facility would cost approximately \$460 million, FLETC estimated that it could provide the equivalent or better training at a cost of approximately \$272 million. We therefore asked that OMB thoroughly analyze the two proposals to determine which better addressed State's training needs in a fiscally responsible way. Last year, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2848, the Department of State Operations and Embassy Security Authorization Act, which included a provision prohibiting the expenditure of any funds for FASTC before completion of a thorough review of its feasibility verifying that appropriate safety and security training for State personnel cannot be reasonably provided at existing FLETC facilities.

We understand that OMB recently completed this review. Both State and FLETC personnel have confirmed to Congressional staff that, on April 17, 2014, they were informed of the Administration's decision to move forward on State's proposal to build a brand new FASTC at Fort Pickett, an Army National Guard base in Blackstone, Virginia.

The Members of our Committees want to make certain that Diplomatic Security agents and other State personnel have the right training to operate overseas in dangerous environments. At the same time, we have a responsibility to ensure that funds are invested wisely. Consistent with our January 9 letter, we seek the opportunity to review the results of your analysis of the FLETC and

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State FASTC proposals, plus any alternatives that OMB considered. In addition, we also would appreciate a briefing by OMB personnel about the Administration's decision.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. In order to arrange the briefing, your staff may contact House Foreign Affairs Committee Chief Counsel for Oversight and Investigations Thomas Alexander at 202-225-5021 and House Homeland Security Committee Staff Director for the Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee Ryan Consaul at 202-226-8417.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs



MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security

cc: The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary, Department of State
The Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security