



One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

November 27, 2018

Dear Foreign Affairs Committee Colleagues:

As I conclude my time as Chairman, I would like to thank you for your contributions to the Committee. I also want to recognize our Ranking Member, Eliot Engel – a dedicated lawmaker and true friend – and our hardworking Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members. Their commitment and initiative made our many key achievements possible.

U.S. foreign policy is at a critical juncture, with threats to U.S. interests mounting and a global order in flux. Nevertheless, this Committee has shown a steadfast commitment to maintaining U.S. leadership on the world stage, which has been challenged and questioned as never before, and we have worked diligently to advance a number of important causes – almost always on a bipartisan basis. It is one of my proudest achievements as Chairman that, despite these challenging times, the Committee has continued its legacy of working constructively across the aisle. I am confident that this critical spirit of cooperation will continue. Our nation demands it.

This letter highlights some of the Committee's considerable accomplishments over the last several years. I hope that you feel as proud of our work as I do.

Confronting Security Challenges. The Committee confronted a range of threats to U.S. national security, often leveraging America's economic strength to target our adversaries while strengthening cooperation with our partners.

- **Maintaining Maximum Pressure on North Korea.** The Committee worked tirelessly to profile and counter the North Korean regime's nuclear threat, including by enacting successive sanctions to further isolate the regime from the international financial system, pressing two Administrations to once again rightfully identify North Korea as a sponsor of terrorism, and successfully pushing to impose additional sanctions under the *Chemical and Biological Weapons and Warfare Elimination Act* after the regime's brazen assassination of Kim Jong-nam in Malaysia in 2017. Moreover, because sanctions must be enforced to be effective, the Committee pursued rigorous oversight of existing laws,

sending bipartisan delegations to the region to encourage partner countries to reject North Korean forced labor and shipping industry, among other efforts to isolate this dangerous and brutal regime. The Committee also continued to raise awareness of the regime's horrific human rights record, including by reauthorizing the North Korea Human Rights Act, which updated critical U.S. programs to help North Koreans access basic news and information.

- **Opposing the Full Range of Iranian Threats.** Tehran's rogue regime is waging an increasingly successful effort to bolster its influence across the Middle East, fomenting conflict and violence in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Lebanon and threatening regional stability. The Committee supported the self-defense capabilities of regional U.S. partners, including by reauthorizing critical security assistance to Israel at historically high levels and streamlining arms sales to Jordan. In addition to conducting vigorous oversight and scrutiny of the nuclear agreement with Iran, the Committee successfully enacted multiple pieces of bipartisan legislation to sanction Iran's ballistic missile program, and its foremost regional proxy, Hezbollah. The Committee also profiled, through public hearings and House resolutions, Iran's support for terrorist proxies, wide-scale corruption, and gross human rights abuses, and pressed the Obama and Trump Administrations to improve U.S. broadcasting of these abuses into Iran.
- **Countering Russian Aggression and Disinformation.** The Committee condemned and worked to respond to Russia's systematic campaign to undermine Western democratic institutions. After profiling the Kremlin's "weaponization of information" in eastern Europe, the Committee pressed for the successful enactment of bipartisan legislation to overhaul U.S. international broadcasting efforts and counter state-led propaganda through the creation of the Global Engagement Center within the Department of State. After the 2016 U.S. election, Ranking Member Engel and I also worked to enact last year's *Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act*, which levied powerful sanctions on Russian hackers, intelligence agents, and industry. Following Russia's use of a military-grade chemical weapon to poison British citizen Sergei Skripal and his daughter on British soil in March of 2018, the Committee successfully pressed for the imposition of mandatory sanctions on Russia under the *Chemical and Biological Weapons and Warfare Elimination Act*.
- **Standing with our European Partners.** The Committee reaffirmed Congress' commitment to our NATO allies, including by passing resolutions supporting the alliance through the House with overwhelming support, and holding hearings and briefings with Administration officials and foreign delegations to discuss how best to counter Russia's increasing aggression in Central and Eastern Europe. The Committee strongly condemned Russia's aggression against Ukraine, adopting tough sanctions against Russian officials and businesses, and authorized lethal defensive military systems to Ukraine.
- **Addressing Threats in Cyberspace.** Through legislation and diligent oversight, the Committee pressed the Obama and Trump Administrations to develop a strategy for U.S. leadership on critical issues in cyberspace, including security, the digital economy, internet

governance, and internet freedom. The House passed the Cyber Deterrence and Response Act, to name, shame, and sanction foreign actors who carry out cyber attacks against the United States, including attacks on our infrastructure, economy, and elections.

- **Challenging the Brutality of Assad, Russia, and Iran in Syria.** In 2014, the Committee heard the harrowing testimony of Syrian army defector “Caesar,” who produced thousands of photos documenting the Assad regime’s horrific brutality, including detention and torture of thousands of Syrians. The Committee passed legislation to sanction Assad and his backers, including Russia and Iran; hold war criminals accountable; and support justice for the victims of Assad’s atrocities.
- **Degrading ISIS and Terrorist Networks.** The Committee held numerous hearings and briefings with Administration officials and private experts to track the rise of terrorist organizations like ISIS, Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, and al-Shabaab. The Committee advanced bipartisan legislation to help partner countries defend themselves from these threats and improve management of U.S. security assistance, including military education and training. The Committee also successfully enacted legislation to limit the black market for Syrian antiquities looted by ISIS, denying a source of funding to the organization and improving coordination around U.S. government efforts to preserve cultural property.

Advancing Diplomacy and Strengthening U.S. Foreign Assistance. The Committee continued its work to strengthen and reform U.S. diplomacy and foreign assistance so that U.S. dollars stretch further and improve and save more lives.

- **Investing in Diplomacy, Development and Defense.** U.S. Foreign Service Officers and other personnel serve our country abroad with distinction, often in difficult circumstances and without their families, to advance American interests. But supporting our allies, opening markets for U.S. businesses, and combatting terror networks and global health threats takes resources and commitment from Washington. The Committee successfully fought back against proposals for disproportionate budget cuts that would have undermined critical diplomatic and development efforts, while continuing to pursue reforms to make U.S. foreign assistance more efficient and accountable.
- **Promoting Economic Development and Trade.** The Committee successfully enacted landmark legislation to move countries from aid to trade by establishing a modern U.S. development finance institution, which will catalyze U.S. private-sector investment in emerging markets. The Committee also enacted critical reforms to strengthen U.S.-Africa trade at no cost to taxpayers. These reforms not only support America’s exports and jobs, they strengthen U.S. national security by offering the developing world a rules-based alternative to the predatory practices of authoritarian regimes like China.
- **Combatting Hunger and Promoting Food Security.** U.S. overseas food assistance saves millions of lives every year, but has long been plagued by inefficiencies and outdated regulations. Through successive pieces of legislation, including the Global Food Security

Act, the Committee secured common-sense reforms to our food-assistance programs, allowing us to stretch our dollars further, reduce long-term dependence upon food aid, and ultimately, save more lives.

- **Advancing Global Health.** The Committee worked to reauthorize the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which is widely regarded as the most effective U.S. foreign assistance program since the Marshall Plan. Since its inception, PEPFAR has saved and improved millions of lives, prevented millions of HIV infections, and changed the course of the global HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Protecting Human Rights Worldwide. The Committee remained a vigorous advocate of human rights and a voice for oppressed people around the globe.

- **Demanding Accountability for Genocide and War Crimes.** The Committee continued to play a leading role in demanding accountability for war crimes and mass atrocities. Through hearings and legislation, the Committee pressed the Obama and Trump Administrations to declare a genocide in the face of mass atrocities committed by ISIS in the Middle East and Burmese security forces in Myanmar. The Committee also enacted legislation to support efforts to collect and preserve evidence of crimes against humanity carried out by ISIS, so that, ultimately, justice may be served.
- **Supporting Democracy in Africa.** The Committee continued its legacy of supporting democracy in Africa by enacting legislation to outline congressional expectations for benchmarks the Government of Zimbabwe must meet regarding free and fair elections, respect for human rights, and economic reforms in order to receive relief from existing sanctions and debt. The Committee also pushed to codify sanctions against the Democratic Republic of Congo in response to the government's continued refusal to schedule elections, and the deteriorating human rights situation. The Committee also advanced resolutions supporting freedom and democratic values in Liberia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and elsewhere.
- **Promoting Human Rights and Condemning Corrupt Regimes.** The Committee enacted the "Global Magnitsky Act" to sanction individuals responsible for significant corruption and gross violations of human rights. The Committee also continued to shed light on corrupt regimes, especially in the Western Hemisphere. Members traveled to the region to observe the humanitarian crisis caused by Venezuela's dictator Nicolas Maduro, and pushed for legislation to continue humanitarian assistance for the Venezuelan people and impose targeted sanctions on Maduro's regime. The Committee also responded actively to escalating violence in Nicaragua, and conducted oversight of U.S. democracy promotion and anti-corruption programs in the region.

Conducting Rigorous Oversight. The Committee continued a tradition of robust oversight of the agencies and laws under its jurisdiction, holding over *eight hundred* hearings, markups, briefings, and meetings over the last six years. The Committee also secured a number of important reforms to modernize and refocus key U.S. diplomacy and development activities.

- **Revitalizing America’s International Broadcasting.** Through persistent oversight, the Committee pushed Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, and other U.S.-backed broadcasters to be more effective in combatting propaganda from ISIS, Russia, and others. The strategies employed by the Kremlin today, for example, are highly sophisticated and designed to help Putin both consolidate power at home and divide societies abroad. Unfortunately, the U.S.-backed outlets that were critical in taking down the Iron Curtain with timely and accurate reporting have since lost their edge. The Committee led a successful push to reform the agency – widely deemed “defunct” – that oversees U.S. international broadcasters, empowering a CEO to improve management at the newly-named “U.S. Agency for Global Media,” so that American can ultimately win the information war against authoritarian regimes and terrorist groups.
- **Reforming Export Controls.** Following years of diligent oversight and hearings, the Committee successfully enacted the most comprehensive export-control reform in decades, closing critical gaps in U.S. export controls that could otherwise permit the transfer of cutting edge technologies – like artificial intelligence and advanced semiconductors – to China and other countries of concern. The legislation also ensures that our controls are regularly updated to support continued U.S. leadership in science, technology, engineering, manufacturing. These reforms ensure that U.S. national security and our technological edge are protected *without* creating a sprawling new bureaucracy or unnecessarily burdening U.S. job creators competing in overseas markets.
- **Bolstering Embassy Security.** The Committee passed legislation to improve the security, functionality, and efficiency of America’s embassies and consulates through enhanced oversight of the selection, design, and construction of new facilities. The Committee also conducted rigorous oversight of the newly constructed training facility for diplomats in Southwestern Virginia. This oversight is a continuation of this Committee’s efforts last Congress, which ultimately saved taxpayers roughly \$500 million in unnecessary construction costs.
- **Strengthening the Global Health Supply Chain.** After conducting dozens of interviews, reviewing thousands of pages of documents, traveling to the region, and holding a subcommittee hearing on the issue, Committee members released an extensive report outlining problems with USAID’s largest-ever contract that jeopardized access to life-saving health commodities. Among other recommendations, the report outlined key ways in which the Department of State and USAID must improve communication, coordination, and oversight. As a result, resources will be better spent, and lives will be saved abroad.
- **Using our Aid as Leverage to End Support for Terrorism.** The Committee successfully enacted legislation to cut off funding that directly benefits the Palestinian Authority (PA), unless and until the PA stops making payments to Palestinian terrorists and their families. The PA’s abhorrent practice of rewarding terrorism incentivizes violence and jeopardizes the security of our ally, Israel. The *Taylor Force Act* was named after a courageous and patriotic young American, Taylor Force, whose life was tragically cut short when he murdered by a Palestinian terrorist in Israel.

- **Supporting Anti-Corruption Efforts.** The Committee conducted rigorous oversight of U.S. anti-corruption efforts, particularly in the northern-triangle region of Central America. The Committee investigated allegations of overreach on the part of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and proposed reforms to address legitimate concerns, while defending the organization's overall efforts to combat corruption and impunity. When the Guatemalan government announced its plans to expel CICIG, the Committee demanded written goals and plans for the transfer of capacity from CICIG to the Guatemalan Attorney General's office.

Empowering Women and Girls. The Committee worked to ensure that women and girls around the world are included in and empowered by ongoing U.S. investments in diplomacy, development, and security.

- **Promoting Peace Processes.** While women are frequently excluded from negotiations to bring an end to war and conflict, peace processes that *include* women are much more likely to succeed in restoring peace. The Committee successfully enacted legislation to require a government-wide strategy to promote women's participation in preventing and resolving conflicts globally, along with training for State and Defense Department personnel on women's inclusion and efforts to protect civilians from violence and exploitation.
- **Improving Economic Empowerment and Access to Digital Resources.** The Committee passed legislation to address gender-related barriers to economic growth and support women-led enterprises, by expanding microenterprise assistance to small and medium-sized women-owned businesses. Additionally, the Committee pushed for legislation to promote internet access in developing countries, with special attention to women and underserved populations, to improve education and economic opportunities.
- **Protecting Girls' Education.** The Committee led the way in enacting legislation to expand girls' access to quality basic education in developing and conflict-affected countries, by encouraging attention to some of the unique barriers girls face, such as child marriage and gender-based violence.

Championing Conservation. The Committee worked to protect the world's most unique landscapes, the iconic animals that inhabit them, and the communities that call them home.

- **Ending Wildlife Trafficking.** The Committee passed the END Wildlife Trafficking Act to target the international criminal syndicates poaching wildlife and selling their ivory on the black market – often to the benefit of terrorists and other criminal gangs.
- **Strengthening Conservation Coordination.** The Committee continued to promote international conservation efforts, including passing two major pieces of legislation that help conserve the Okavango River Basin, home to the largest remaining elephant population in Africa, and use existing State Department global rewards programs to target transnational wildlife traffickers. These important pieces of legislation, along with those

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previously enacted, not only serve to protect some of the world's most endangered animals, but provide the State Department with tools to capture and convict wanted transnational criminals and terrorists who profit from the illegal wildlife trade.

In conclusion, I thank each of you for your role in securing these and our many other important policy achievements. I also want to thank the talented and hardworking Committee staff, including Amy Porter, Tom Sheehy, Jason Steinbaum, and Doug Campbell, who have led the Committee's Republican and Democratic staff over the last six years.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve as your Chairman, and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman