









State Department Oversight and Accountability

This Congress, the House Foreign Affairs Committee has conducted vital oversight of the State Department and related agencies to include evaluating the Department's transparency with Congress regarding numerous investigations, identifying ill-advised foreign assistance priorities, and ensuring the Department is held accountable for past failures like the Afghanistan withdrawal. We also examined fraud, waste, and abuse at USAGM, VOA, and UN agencies like UNRWA.

KEY INVESTIGATIONS:


-  The Biden-Harris administration's disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal
-  The flow of fentanyl across the U.S. southern border
-  United States Agency for Global Media (USAGM) management failures and lack of transparency
-  Direct ties among UNRWA employees and terrorist groups like Hamas, including those responsible for the horrific October 7th massacre
-  Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration use of taxpayer dollars in Mexico to facilitate illegal migration
-  Security clearance suspension of Robert Malley, the Special Envoy for Iran
-  Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) grants promoting Atheism
-  State Department DEI initiatives; including stopping funding for drag shows in Ecuador

ENACTED THROUGH NDAA 2024:

H.R. 6119, the State Department Security Notification Act (Rep. Mast)

-  Requires the Secretary of State to notify Congress when the security clearances of certain senior members of the Department of State are suspended or revoked.

H.R. 6669, the Supporting Americans Wrongfully or Unlawfully Detained Abroad Act (Rep. Hill)

-  Provides resources for family members of Americans unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad such as mental and physical health resources and travel costs to and from Washington, D.C.




Mandate for congressional reporting and review of expensive art to be potentially bought for U.S. embassies. (Rep. Burchett)

H.R. 8234, Authorizes the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents (Rep. Mast)


 Authorizes notaries to serve as passport acceptance agents, expanding the options to those in need of renewing their passport.

HOUSE-PASSED LEGISLATION:

H.R. 6306, the Embassy Construction Integrity Act of 2023 (Rep. Mills)


 Prohibits the Department of State from utilizing buildings for use as a consular or diplomatic post that are partly or fully owned or maintained by the Chinese government.

H.R. 6610, the Passport System Reform and Backlog Prevention Act (Rep. Issa)

 Addresses the need for modernizations to the passport issuance process to prevent backlogs and expedite service times.

COMMITTEE-PASSED LEGISLATION:

H.R.7586, To establish a Department of State Domestic Protection Mission relating to unmanned aircraft system and unmanned aircraft (Rep. Mills)

 Grants counter unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) authorities to the State Department.



KEY HEARINGS AND ROUNDTABLES HELD:

-  The Global Engagement Center: Helping or Hurting U.S. Foreign Policy
-  Go-to-Zero: Joe Biden's Withdrawal Order and the Taliban Takeover of Afghanistan
-  Reviewing the Bureau of Industry and Security, Part II: U.S. Export Controls in an Era of Strategic Competition
-  UNRWA Exposed: Examining the Agency's Mission and Failures
-  Assessing State Department Compliance with Oversight
-  HFAC Roundtable on Americans Detained Abroad
-  Money is Policy: Assessing Shortcomings in the State Department's Foreign Assistance Grants Process
-  Hearing with Government Witnesses & Roundtable to Better Understand the Plight of American Citizens Detained Abroad
-  Management Successes and Failures: Assessing the U.S. Agency for Global Media
-  HFAC Member Roundtable with Families of U.S. Hostages Held by Hamas