

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 9, 2009

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare your Fiscal Year 2011 budget, we are writing to express our strong support for a robust International Affairs Budget. The critical programs funded in the International Affairs Budget invest in the tools of development and diplomacy, foster economic and political stability on a global scale, strengthen our allies, and fight the spread of poverty, disease, terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. These investments are essential to strengthening our national security, building economic prosperity, and protecting the health and safety of all Americans, while demonstrating our moral values and humanitarian principles.

National Security: National security and foreign policy experts across the political spectrum support an increase in the International Affairs Budget as an essential component of our national security. As Defense Secretary Robert Gates has stated, "It has become clear that America's civilian institutions of diplomacy and development have been chronically undermanned and underfunded for far too long – relative to what we traditionally spend on the military, and more important, relative to the responsibilities and challenges our nation has around the world."

Secretary Gates and other military leaders argue that our national security is dependent not only on a strong military force but also on increased investments in the full range of diplomatic, development and humanitarian tools funded through the International Affairs Budget. These investments improve our ability to track down terrorists and weapons, help reduce poverty and hunger, promote the security of key allies, and assist in the stabilization of fragile states that often provide quarter and safe haven to terrorists and others who seek to do us harm. A strengthened International Affairs Budget will also improve the capacity of the Department of State and associated agencies to partner with the military in pursuit of our national security objectives.

Economic Security: By helping to create new and stable global markets for American goods and services, international affairs programs create jobs at home and opportunities for economic expansion abroad for American companies. Our export promotion agencies and overseas missions advocate for U.S. commercial interests overseas and promote U.S. exports, which account for one out of every seven U.S. jobs. Additionally, programs funded in the international affairs budget foster the development of sound economic policies in poor countries, protect intellectual property rights, build vibrant trade relationships and encourage public-private partnerships.

Humanitarian Values and Human Security: Programs funded within the International Affairs Budget demonstrate America's moral values and our compassion for those in need around the world. They also protect the health and safety of our own citizens by preventing the spread of infectious disease, conserving the natural environment, and reducing the flow of refugees and contraband. Americans, both through our government and through private organizations, have a proud history of bringing hope to millions of people who live under oppressive poverty, face starvation, battle HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and suffer the consequences of conflict and insecurity. Strong support for these life-saving interventions helps leverage significant private contributions that together promote a healthier, more peaceful and stable world.

Even with small increases in recent years supported by both Democratic and Republican Administrations and Congresses, the International Affairs Budget totals less than 1.5% of the federal budget -- a level that is inadequate to respond to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That is why we urge you -- in addition to modernizing and enhancing the effectiveness of our foreign assistance programs -- to request a robust FY 2011 International Affairs Budget that will reflect the importance of diplomacy and development -- alongside defense -- as key pillars of our national security.

Sincerely,

Howard S. Berman

Alan Kim

Michael

John Emerson

Allyson J. Schwartz

D. Reichert

Joe Lopez

Sam Schode

Vic Snyder

Leonard Lance

Arnold E. Cannary

Tommy

Steve Wagner

John B. Larson

Nydra M. Velazquez

Janetta

John Smith

Rosa de DeLaurio

Lamar Smith

John Smith

Bobby L. Nash

Wm. Larry Clay

Revel Beckstrom

Judy Chu

John L. Bonds

Bob Fisher

Wm E. Jones

Kathy Castor

Paula Brady

Jay Mitz

Robert

Michael E. Miller

Timmy

John Lewis

Charles G. Fogarty

Mary Jo Kilroy

John L. Salazar

Ed Pastor

Anna Torres

Ron Klein

Zoe Lipp

Rick Lamm

James R. Langevin

Oh My

Pat Tibb

Debbie Wasson

Jim Hain

Joe Courtney

Steph Lipp

Doris O. Matsui

Tom Jost

Al Lamm

French Pallouf

Frank R. Woz

Jim My

John Bullard

Cheryl P. Coe

~~Harold~~

Chris

J.H. P. Sh

Phil Hare

Madeline J. Bordallo

Melissa J. Bean

Brian Higgins

Shelley Dorkley

B.A. J. W

Steve Cohen

Orsolan

John W. Oliver

Lair Capps

Bruce L. Ruby

Joe Lestak

Archie Liss

Emmanuel Leaver

Yvette D. Clarke

Judy Biggart

Jim McDermott

Cher Pan

Pete Olson

John F. A

Jim McInerney

Patrick J. Kennedy

Loetta Sanchez

Keith Elvin

X Kindruff

Sam Fan

By Charles

Brad Elv

Frank Johnson

TJ

Dave LaGrack

Diary

Holt

Janet Lee

Ram

Mike Cugley

Bill Foster

Peter Welch

Harry E. Mitchell

Michael E. Capron

Tim Ryan

Samuel L. Johnson

Mark O

Ed Perry

Carol Shea-Potter

Ben Chandler

Ron Kind

John Hill

Russ Holt

Ruben Snow

Steve Austin

Nicki Angus

Grace G. Napoletas

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Maria D. Dodge

T. R. Lee

Arsen C. Davis

Laura Richard

Midway Park

Debbie Haenowson

Mike Castle

Har. Arnesen

J. J. Jacobs

John Allen

Danny H. Davis

David P.

Shale Jackson Lee

Ernie L. Engel

Clarence H. Norton

Edward J. Mackay

Alvin G.

E. Jones

Deane

Chas. H.

Clara Cambra

David F. Jenkins

F. F. W.

Michael W. Michael

~~James W. Muta~~

Melvin Waters

Carolyn McCallister

Brig 3 Baird

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Ed Finn

Joe Smith

Steven A. Nothman

Donald W. Payne

Alva L. Hestings

Luelle Kaybal Allard

Elgar E. Young

Robert F. Anderson

Berg

Jim Moran

Earl Blumenauer

Robert Work

Lynn Woolsey

Bruce Green

Tom Brown

Mary L Ackerman

Jim Hartz

John F. Tierney

Cosine Brown

Jessie Madala

Carolyn B. Hahn

[Signature]

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Diane E. Watson

Maureen Dwyer

John Long Jr.

Brian Lee

Tammy Baldwin

A. B. Hill

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger

Rice Nakat

Steve Israel

Rubin Hernandez

Todd R. Platts

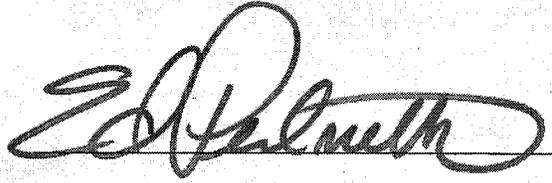
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Charles R. Haffner

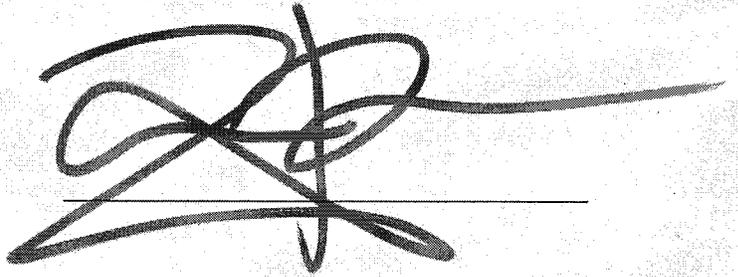
Betty Sutton

Maizie K. Hirono

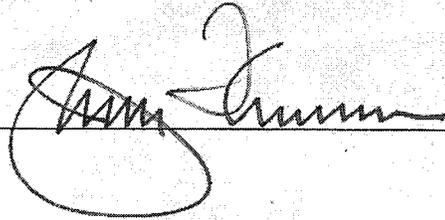
Steve Kagen  
M.D.



Anslee



Chaka Faval



Bill Paswell Jr.

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## Co-signers of the Berman-Kirk letter calling for a robust FY11 International Affairs Budget

1. Howard Berman (D-CA)
2. Mark Kirk (R-IL)
3. Ike Skelton (D-MO)
4. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO)
5. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA)
6. Dave Reichert (R-WA)
7. Jim Cooper (D-TN)
8. Aaron Schock (R-IL)
9. Vic Snyder (D-AR)
10. Leonard Lance (R-NJ)
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12. Jim Gerlach (R-PA)
13. Gary Ackerman (D-NY)
14. John Adler (D-NJ)
15. Robert Andrews (D-NJ)
16. Steve Austria (R-OH)
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29. Robert Brady (D-PA)
30. Bruce Braley (D-IA)
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35. Michael Capuano (D-MA)
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54. Susan Davis (D-CA)
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115. Doris Matsui (D-CA)
116. Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY)
117. Jim McDermott (D-WA)
118. James McGovern (D-MA)
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139. Donald Payne (D-NJ)
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143. Chellie Pingree (D-ME)
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187. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)
188. David Wu (D-OR)
189. John Yarmuth (D-KY)