

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Khanna, Yarmuth, Lee, Moulton, Higgins, DelBene, Wasserman Schultz, Boyle, Jayapal, Jackson Lee, and Schakowsky

**Fully Fund Diplomatic and Foreign Aid Operations**

1. At the end of Title V, add the following:

**“POLICY STATEMENT ON DIPLOMATIC AND FOREIGN AID OPERATIONS**

(a) FINDINGS. — The House finds the following:

- (1) Diplomacy and foreign aid help keep the country out of conflict and facilitate stability around the world. They help address the root causes of extremism by improving the governance and economic opportunities of fragile states and engender goodwill around the world by responding to humanitarian crises.
- (2) While diplomacy and foreign aid are critical to preventing conflict, they are also important when the country sends its military into harm's way. The United States military is proficient in winning on the battlefield, but it is ill-equipped to broker the political settlements and build the basic institutions that often are required to keep the peace and prevent terrorist organizations from sprouting in the aftermath.
- (3) Secretary of Defense James Mattis said in 2013 when he was Commander of U.S. Central Command that, “If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition ultimately.”
- (4) 151 former admirals and generals signed a letter to Congress stressing the importance of this funding to our national security and that strengthening diplomacy and development are “critical to keeping America safe.”
- (5) The country's investment in diplomatic operations and foreign aid together currently make up only 1 percent of the entire federal budget. It is a small investment and far less costly than sending our servicemen and servicewomen into harm's way.
- (6) In his views and estimates letter to the Budget Committee, the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee recommended Function 150 be funded at FY 2017 funding levels. This level is nearly one third more than the President requested for 2019.

(b) POLICY ON DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN AID. — It is the policy of this resolution that Congress fund Function 150 (International Affairs) at a level no less than that appropriated for 2017 to ensure these critical components of our national security have the necessary support to meet the many security challenges the country faces.”

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution supports funding diplomatic and foreign aid operations, recognized by the military as critical components of our national security, at a level that is commensurate with the many security challenges the country faces.