

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill, 2017 Omnibus Agreement Summary

Highlights of the FY2017 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill:

The bill provides \$53.1 billion in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for FY2017. Excluding the extraordinary costs for famine prevention, relief, and mitigation, the bill is \$594 million below the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Of this amount, the bill provides: \$36.6 billion for base costs, and \$16.5 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO).

Strengthening Embassy Security – To ensure the safety of American diplomats, development professionals and facilities abroad, the bill includes \$6.1 billion for embassy security, an increase of \$454.5 million above the FY2016 level.

Promotes and Protects International Religious Freedom – The bill provides not less than \$20 million for programs to promote and protect international religious freedom abroad. In addition, the bill provides \$6.5 million for the Ambassador-at-Large for Religious Freedom, and \$2 million for the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and Central Asia.

Countering Foreign Fighters and Violent Extremist Organizations – The bill provides funding for programs to counter foreign fighters and violent extremist organizations in the Middle East, North Africa, and elsewhere, and requires sufficient monitoring, oversight, and control of such activities and assistance. The bill also includes a new provision and not less than \$15 million to support women and girls who are at risk from extremism and conflict.

SUPPORTING KEY ALLIES

The bill provides critical economic and security assistance to key allies, including:

Israel – \$3.175 billion for assistance to Israel. This amount exceeds the commitment to the U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding by \$75 million. The bill also prohibits funds for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) until the Secretary of State determines that the UNHRC is taking significant steps to remove Israel as a permanent agenda item.

Jordan – \$1.279 billion for Jordan from all accounts, \$4 million above the FY2016 enacted level, and authority for loan guarantees.

Counter Russian Influence – Not less than \$100 million for a new Counter Russia Influence Fund to assist partners and allies in Europe and Eurasia in countering Russian influence and aggression.

Tunisia – \$165.4 million for assistance for Tunisia, \$23.5 million above the FY2016 enacted level, and authority for loan guarantees.

Ukraine – \$410.5 million from all accounts for assistance for Ukraine, and authority for loan guarantees.

Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia – \$745.3 million, and an additional \$72.6 million by transfer from the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement account, to continue the “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia” account to provide a more coherent framework for assistance for countries in those regions.

Relief and Recovery Fund – \$169 million for the Relief and Recovery Fund to address instability in areas liberated from, or under the influence of, ISIS, other terrorist organizations, or other violent extremist organizations in the Near East and Africa.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL HEALTH

Global Health Programs – \$8.7 billion for Global Health Programs, equal to the FY2016 enacted level.

HIV/AIDS – Approximately \$6 billion for global HIV/AIDS assistance, of which \$5.67 billion is for the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), \$1.35 billion is for the Global Fund, and \$330 million is for USAID HIV/AIDS programs. The total provided for HIV/AIDS assistance is equal to the FY 2016 enacted level.

Polio – Not less than \$59 million for polio eradication efforts, including not less than \$7.5 million for programs for Pakistan and Afghanistan. This level is equal to the FY2016 enacted level.

Maternal and Child Health – \$814 million for maternal and child health programs, including \$275 million for the GAVI Alliance.

Malaria – \$755 million to combat malaria, which is \$81 million above the FY2016 enacted level.

Tuberculosis – \$241 million is provided for tuberculosis programs, which is \$5 million above the FY2016 enacted level.

Pandemic Influenza and Other Emerging Threats – \$142 million to respond to and prepare for emerging health threats, of which \$70 million is for a new Emergency Reserve Fund to respond to exigent contagious infectious disease outbreaks. Excluding the Reserve Fund, the total for pandemic influenza is equal to the FY2016 enacted level.

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) – \$100 million is included to combat NTDs, which is equal to the FY2016 enacted level.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

The bill provides \$9 billion (\$6.4 billion in base funding and \$2.6 billion in OCO funding) for international security assistance. This funding will bolster international stability and protect the homeland by providing critical assistance for counterterrorism and nonproliferation programs, international narcotics control and law enforcement, peacekeeping operations, foreign military training and education programs, as well as financing for critical military equipment for our partners around the world.

The bill provides a total of \$358 million for Anti-terrorism Programs under the Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs (NADR) account, including \$180 million for anti-terrorism assistance, and \$127.5 million for the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund, which is intended to counter terrorism and increase stabilization in areas of unrest, including in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Sahel.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The bill provides \$3.06 billion for Migration Refugee Assistance, and an additional \$50 million is included for the U.S. Emergency Refugee Assistance Fund.

The bill provides a total of \$3.8 billion for International Disaster Assistance, of which \$990 million is to address famine conditions and the imminent threat of famine, including in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen.

OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS

Operations - The bill contains \$11.8 billion (\$8.1 billion in base funding and \$3.7 billion in OCO funding) for operations of the Department of State and related agencies, \$500 million above the FY2016 level. Funds are included for security upgrades and security personnel at diplomatic facilities abroad, and to implement the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board report.

The bill includes \$1.4 billion for USAID operating expenses, an increase of \$79 million from the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.

Democracy Programs – \$2.3 billion for democracy and rule of law programs abroad, including in fragile states threatened by extremism, of which \$210.5 million is for the Democracy Fund. In addition, the bill provides \$170 million for the National Endowment for Democracy, equal to the FY2016 enacted level.

Afghan Allies - The bill provides for an additional 2,500 visas for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program.

Palestinian Authority – The bill retains restrictions on assistance for the West Bank and Gaza from current law, as well as restrictions on assistance for the Palestinian Authority.

Multilateral Assistance – \$2.1 billion for multilateral assistance, which includes funding to meet U.S. commitments to international financial institutions. This funding level is \$510 million below the FY2016 enacted level.

Central America – \$655 million for engagement in Central America, which is \$95 million below the FY2016 enacted level. The bill continues significant pre-obligation conditions on implementing the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America, including a multi-year spend plan.

Safeguarding the Right to Life – The bill supports important policy provisions to ensure the respect for life around the globe:

- Maintains the “Helms Amendment,” banning the use of foreign aid funding for abortions;
- Ensures that family planning programs funded through this bill are voluntary; and
- Prohibits funding of organizations the President determines to support coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.

REFORMS, SAVINGS, AND REDUCING GOVERNMENT WASTE

The bill and accompanying explanatory statement include numerous oversight provisions to ensure the proper use of taxpayer funds and accountability of the administration. For instance, the bill:

- Provides significant funding for the Inspectors General (IG), including the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, and directs implementation of key IG and Government Accountability Office recommendations;
- Includes a new provision to bolster the ability of Inspectors General to gain access to records, documents, and other materials;
- Continues a prohibition on funding for private email accounts or servers;
- Continues limitations on conference expenses; and
- Requires any new country strategies developed by USAID and the Department of State to include a plan to phase out assistance, as appropriate.

SECURITY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

An additional \$4.3 billion in OCO funding for fiscal year 2017 was provided in the Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 to meet urgent needs to counter the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other terrorist organizations, stabilize areas liberated from terrorist groups, meet operational and security needs at U.S. diplomatic facilities overseas, increase overseas refugee and humanitarian assistance, and counter Russian influence and aggression.

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