



News from Congresswoman

# Nita M. Lowey

*Chairwoman, State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee Approves Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Bill**

*Bill Provides Critical Funding to Protect National Security, Support Global Health, and Foster International Development*

WASHINGTON – The House State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY), today approved its Fiscal Year 2009 bill. The Chairwoman’s Mark, totaling \$36.62 billion, is \$3.82 billion over FY08 enacted levels.

“This bill provides funding critical for protecting our national security, promoting global health and education, and fostering economic development around the world,” Lowey said. “Healthier, more educated populations with economic opportunity are less vulnerable to extremism. This bill provides the resources to fulfill our moral responsibilities and make the United States and the world safer.”

The bill reflects the four priorities of the Subcommittee: oversight of foreign assistance programs; protecting national security and combating terrorism; reforming and rebuilding American’s foreign policy and foreign assistance infrastructure; and responding to the global HIV/AIDS pandemic and other health challenges. The bill has been restructured to include eight titles, and general provisions have been consolidated, resulting in a more streamlined bill.

### **Protecting National Security and Combating Terrorism**

- The bill includes new language requiring a report from the Department of State on its implementation of the Iran Sanctions Act and requests that the Department of the Treasury report on the activities of foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies trading with and investing in Iran.
- The bill provides \$2.38 billion to Israel, fully funding the first year of the MOU at \$2.55 billion when combined with funding included in the 2008 supplemental appropriations.
- All current restrictions on assistance for West Bank and Gaza are continued.
- The bill provides a total of \$1.041 billion for Afghanistan, equal to the President’s request.
- The bill provides a total of \$696.89 million to Jordan, a key ally in the Middle East, \$161.45 million above the President’s request.
- The bill provides \$1.5 billion for Egypt, a key ally, to support development and fight extremism.
- The bill provides \$2.995 billion in Economic Support Funds (ESF), \$562.6 million above the FY08 enacted level for critical allies.

“This bill invests in improving lives and expanding opportunity in the developing world as well as fighting terrorism and enforcing international sanctions,” said Lowey. “We must pursue aggressive diplomacy, including strong sanctions without loopholes, to confront the threat that Iran poses to us and the world.”

### **Foreign Assistance Infrastructure**

- Combined with the FY08 emergency supplemental, the bill provides funding for approximately 1,061 new positions at the Department of State as part of the Diplomatic Workforce Initiative.

- The bill provides \$809 million for USAID operating expenses, \$41 million above the President's request and \$179 million above last year's total. Combined with funding included in the 2008 emergency supplemental, this will fund 400 new employees at USAID.

“Robust funding for our diplomatic corps and the agencies with experience and a track record of development successes is critical for rebuilding and revitalizing our foreign policy and assistance infrastructure,” said Lowey. “To meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we must have a 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.”

### **Global HIV/AIDS and Other Global Health Priorities**

- \$7.278 billion for global health programs, including:
  - \$5.519 billion total funding for global HIV/AIDS programs, which is \$400 million above the President's request, including \$600 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is \$400 million above the President's request.
  - \$1.86 billion for the Global Health and Child Survival account, which is \$283 million above the President's request and \$147 million above the FY08 enacted level.
  - \$600 million for family planning and reproductive health, nearly doubling the President's request, including \$60 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which is limited to specific purposes such as safe motherhood initiatives, reproductive health services, and fistula care.

“We have a moral obligation and a national interest in fighting diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and supporting family planning and reproductive health in developing nations,” said Lowey.

### **Improving Aid Effectiveness and Strengthening Development Assistance**

- \$1.728 billion in the Development Assistance account, which is \$90 million above the President's request. An additional \$200 million was included in the 2008 supplemental appropriations.
- \$750 million to support basic education, \$50 million above the FY08 enacted level, continuing last year's significant increase by the Subcommittee.
- \$824 million for refugee assistance, which is \$59.9 million above the President's request. An additional \$350 million was included in the 2008 supplemental appropriations.
- \$310 million for Disaster Assistance in addition to \$200 million in the 2008 supplemental appropriations.

“Promoting educational and economic opportunity and fostering the institutions of democracy around the world will help ensure global security,” said Lowey.

### **Additional Provisions**

- **IRAQ:** The bill does not include any funding for Iraq but notes that a total of \$2.565 billion was provided for State Department and USAID operations and security in Iraq, the Special Inspector General's oversight, reconstruction, and democracy building in the 2008 supplemental appropriations.
- **PUBLIC DIPLOMACY:** The bill provides \$394.8 million for public diplomacy at the State Department and \$522 million for educational and cultural exchanges to strengthen America's image abroad.
- **LATIN AMERICA:** The bill continues the realignment of Plan Colombia assistance to focus on institution-building and alternative development, and provides \$470 million to continue funding the Merida Initiative in line with policies in the 2008 emergency supplemental.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE:** The bill includes \$544 million for climate change, biodiversity, and clean energy programs and encourages the Export-Import Bank to increase exports in renewable energy and other environmentally beneficial products. \$80 million is included for the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The bill requests additional information on the Administration's plan for expenditures on the Clean Technology Fund before assistance will be provided.

- **FOOD and AGRICULTURE:** The bill provides \$375 million for agricultural programs to help increase food security and mitigate and prevent global food crises, in addition to the \$200 million provided in the 2008 emergency supplemental.
- **SUDAN:** The bill includes a total of \$778 million for humanitarian and peacekeeping needs in Sudan, including \$414 million for the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), \$16 million for peacekeeping operations, and \$245 million in the Economic Support Fund.

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