



News from Congresswoman
Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman, State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

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**State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill
Addresses National Priorities, Supports Development Abroad**

*Bipartisan, Bicameral Process Produces Bill That Limits Damage of
President Bush's Misplaced Priorities*

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-Westchester/Rockland), the Chairwoman of the House State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, said today that this section of the Omnibus Appropriations bill will strengthen and protect our nation by helping others around the world. The bipartisan and bicameral process that produced the bill limited the damage that President Bush's misplaced priorities could have caused.

“President Bush's refusal to meet domestic priorities like health, education, and veterans benefits has resulted in difficult cuts to programs that make our nation safer and stronger,” said Lowey. “Despite this unwillingness to compromise with Congress, the State and Foreign Operations portion of the bill makes key investments in economic security, development, and relief that will make our nation more secure and increase stability around the world.”

Lowey expressed disappointment that a key provision allowing international health organizations to receive donated contraceptives to prevent disease and unintended pregnancies and reduce abortions was dropped from the bill.

“The poorest men and women around the world need an American President who does not place ideology ahead of proven results,” said Lowey. “I am disappointed that President Bush was willing to veto all domestic and international appropriations in order to prevent international health organizations from receiving donated contraceptives. This dogmatic adherence to an illogical position diminishes our influence around the world and prevents us from working effectively to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and unintended pregnancies and reduce abortions.”

The State and Foreign Operations portion of the bill includes the following key investments:

Global Health: \$6.5 billion, \$1.4 billion above 2007 and \$796 million above the President's request, for critical global health programs to strengthen the global public health infrastructure and surveillance network in order to save lives overseas and to protect the health of the United States.

- **HIV/AIDS:** \$5 billion, \$1.2 billion above 2007 and \$544 million above the President's request, for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care programs around the world.
 - **Global Fund:** \$546 million, \$546 million above the President's request, for the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. With \$295 million included in the Labor, Health and Education Appropriations bill, the overall contribution to the Global Fund is \$841 million - \$115 million above 2007.
- **Global Health and Child Survival:** \$1.8 billion, \$360 million above 2007 and \$284 million above the President's request (includes \$347 million of HIV/AIDS funding). This funding includes an

increase of nearly \$100 million increase for maternal and child health programs, \$101 million for malaria, and \$72 million for tuberculosis.

Sudan: \$1 billion, \$209 million of which is for critical humanitarian and peacekeeping programs in Darfur (\$99 million above the President's request) and approximately \$550 million of which supports the new UN Mission in Darfur.

Basic Education: \$694 million for basic education programs, including \$189 million to help countries that have national education plans reach the goal of education for all.

Improving Access to Safe Drinking Water: \$298 million for safe water programs, to help high priority countries address water issues, including: providing sources for safe drinking water such as pumps and wells; building water systems; and increasing safe hygiene programs.

Environment: \$510 million for clean energy and biodiversity programs worldwide, including funding for the Global Environmental Facility and international conservation programs to work with developing nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, preserve parks and protect wildlife.

World Wide Embassy Security Protection: \$968.5 million, \$190 million above 2007, for ongoing security protection to ensure that diplomatic and embassy personnel are safe and secure.

Refugee Assistance: \$1 billion, \$60 million above 2007 and \$55 million above the President's request (including FY 2008 emergency supplemental requests), to help refugees with food, water, shelter and other basic needs. This includes significant resources to assist the growing number of Iraqi refugees.

Disaster Assistance: \$430 million, \$10.5 million above 2007 and \$23 million above the President's request, to avert famines and provide life-saving assistance during natural disasters and for internally displaced people in Iraq and elsewhere around the world.

Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Countries: \$690 million, \$36 million below 2007 and \$49 million above the President's request, to slow the President's cuts to assistance for young democracies, specifically Kosovo and Macedonia, and to continue civil society assistance in Russia and Central Asia.

Broadcasting: \$682 million, \$25 million above 2007 and \$14 million above the President's request, for broadcasting critical to the nation's overall public diplomacy efforts.

Peacekeeping Activities

- **Dues for U.N. Peacekeeping Missions:** \$1.7 billion, for Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (CIPA). These funds include at least \$550 million to support the UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur as well as peacekeeping operations throughout the world, including operations in Liberia, The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Haiti, Timor-Leste, the Middle East, and Kosovo.

- **Targeted Peacekeeping Operations:** \$261 million, \$40 million above the President's request for Peacekeeping Operations (PKO), targeted missions that are of particular interest to the United States. Within the amount provided approximately \$50 million is included to meet our commitment to critical security sector needs in Liberia.

Educational and Cultural Exchanges: \$501 million, \$36 million above 2007 and \$15 million above the President's request, to fund the participation of over 42,000 individuals in educational, cultural and professional exchange programs worldwide.

Peace Corps: \$331 million, \$11 million above 2007 for a program which has over 7,000 volunteers in 67 posts serving 73 countries.

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