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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Appropriations**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6015**

June 6, 2025

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SUSAN ROSS  
CHIEF CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR  
(202) 225-2771

Dear Colleague:

On Tuesday, the President submitted a proposal under the Impoundment Control Act (ICA) of 1974 to rescind \$9.4 billion in previously enacted funding, gutting foreign assistance programs and eliminating all federal support for public broadcasting. As Ranking Members of the Appropriations Subcommittees responsible for these programs, we write to highlight the devastating consequences of this proposal and urge you to oppose it.

Because the proposal was submitted under the ICA, it can be passed with a simple majority in both the House and Senate - bypassing regular order and rubber-stamping these harmful cuts. We implore our colleagues to reject this request and to encourage others to do the same. Enacting these cuts would not only destabilize global partnerships but also harm American families - raising costs, risking health and security, and weakening our international leadership.

**The Facts: \$9.4 Billion in Cuts to Foreign Assistance and Public Broadcasting**

1. \$8.3 billion would be slashed from international development and humanitarian programs - most of which is typically spent in spring and summer. These cuts would effectively eliminate a full year of assistance.
2. \$1.1 billion would be rescinded from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, wiping out all current federal funding for the next two years.

**The Context: Damage Already Done Without Authority**

The President does not have legal authority to freeze (impound) congressionally appropriated funds, either permanently or temporarily, without explicit statutory approval. Yet over the first 134 days of this Administration, hundreds of billions in funding have been unlawfully withheld while the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) dismantled programs and terminated staff - without congressional review.

Courts have already intervened in several cases, but the damage is mounting: agencies are hollowed out, employees have fled, and national security has been compromised. This proposal seeks to retroactively legalize that damage, locking in long-term consequences for Americans and global partners alike.

### **The Consequences: Domestic, Global, and Devastating**

The rescission proposal offers little detail, leaving broad funding categories at the discretion of the President and political appointees. If enacted, the result would be sweeping cuts to programs that:

1. Prevent deadly diseases and pandemics;
2. Support democracy, peace, and economic development abroad;
3. Create markets for American businesses;
4. Provide trusted public news, emergency alerts, and educational programming, especially in rural areas.

These are not just numbers on a spreadsheet - they represent lives saved, conflicts prevented, and opportunities created. We urge you to stand up for congressional authority, sound policy, and the well-being of our constituents by rejecting this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely,



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations



Lois Frankel  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Security,  
Department of State, and Related  
Programs

Enclosure

| Account  | Cuts          | Consequences   |
|--|---------------|--|
| Global Health Programs – State and USAID           | \$900 million | <p>Expect \$400 million to be cut from the <b>United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)</b> after White House Budget Director Vought testified that preventing AIDS is not a priority.</p> <p>PEPFAR has saved an estimated 26 million lives and helped ensure 8 million babies were born free of HIV. Research shows the program also contributes to lower overall mortality rates, higher childhood immunization rates, improved economic growth, and better school attendance for children. Ending PEPFAR could result in as many as 11 million new HIV infections by 2030.</p> <p>Eliminate <b>family planning programs</b>. These programs currently support nearly 48 million women and couples with modern contraceptive care, stabilizing health systems and reducing strain on global resources. Cutting U.S. funding for international family planning could lead to 17.1 million more unintended pregnancies and 34,000 additional maternal deaths each year.</p> |
| Contributions to International Organizations (CIO) | \$202 million | <p>Withholds funding the U.S. is treaty-bound to provide to the United Nations, undermining our credibility as a reliable global partner. Delaying payment doesn't erase the obligation—it only weakens our standing. In contrast, China has already stepped in, boosting its contribution to the World Health Organization by \$500 million and expanding its influence at America's expense.</p>   |

| Account  | Cuts          | Consequences   |
|--|---------------|--|
| Contributions to International Peacekeeping (CIPA) | \$361 million | Withholds funding for U.N. peacekeeping missions authorized by the Security Council, despite the U.S. currently owing \$1.1 billion for its share of global conflict prevention. These cuts would undermine operations like the United Nations Mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL), where progress is already underway. Weakening this mission could jeopardize peace in southern Lebanon and heighten uncertainty for displaced Israeli communities.  |
| Migration and Refugee Assistance                   | \$800 million | Cuts over 25 percent of the funding that supports people escaping violence and hunger—at a time when global displacement is at a record high. Refugee populations are rapidly rising in regions surrounding Sudan, Burma, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Venezuela, placing immense strain on neighboring countries already struggling to provide shelter and aid.  |
| Complex Crises Fund & Transition Initiatives       | \$100 million | Cuts rapid response funding that helps communities facing violence and instability—or working to recover from it. These areas are especially vulnerable to extremist groups like ISIS and al Qaeda, and without timely support, can become breeding grounds for further radicalization and conflict. This funding has supported the Syrian Civil Defense (“White Helmets”), who provide essential services in war-torn areas; empowered marginalized communities in Benin, Ghana, and Togo battling extremism in the Sahel; aided in the demobilization of combatants in Libya; and helped establish early warning systems to protect civilians from military violence in Burma. |

| Account  | Cuts           | Consequences  |
|--|----------------|---|
| Democracy Fund                                 | \$83 million   | <p>The United States invests in democracy activists and independent journalists worldwide to help foster future allies and encourage the adoption of democratic values. Without this funding, authoritarian regimes will face less resistance and feel emboldened to continue silencing dissent. Human rights defenders and pro-democracy voices in countries like Venezuela, Cuba, Georgia, and Yemen will be left more vulnerable and exposed.</p>  |
| Economic Support Fund & Development Assistance | \$4.15 billion | <p>Cuts to the Economic Support Fund jeopardize vital assistance to key U.S. allies such as Egypt, Jordan, and the Pacific Islands, and weaken efforts to counter China's growing influence.</p> <p>Reductions in Development Assistance strip away critical resources for the world's poorest countries to meet urgent needs, build resilience to extremism, and grow into future markets for American goods. Cuts of this magnitude are likely to result in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Forcing more than 40 million children out of school;</li> <li>2. Denying over 6 million smallholder farmers access to improved seeds and fertilizer—heightening the risk of future food crises; and</li> <li>3. Halting clean water access for more than 3.6 million people, increasing the spread of disease and preventable deaths.</li> </ol> |

| Account   | Cuts          | Consequences   |
|---|---------------|--|
| Clean Technology Fund                           | \$125 million | Cuts to the Clean Technology Fund limit developing countries from accessing clean energy solutions through private-sector partnerships. These cuts undermine U.S. efforts to shield Americans from the health and environmental impacts of global pollution and leave countries trapped in dependence on coal and other dirty fuels. They also eliminate a U.S.-led alternative to Chinese financing, weakening America's position as a trusted global economic partner.   |
| International Organization and Programs         | \$437 million | Cuts off funding to trusted global partners such as UNICEF, UN Women, the UN Development Program, UNFPA, and the Montreal Protocol, crippling efforts to protect vulnerable children, promote gender equality, reduce poverty, improve maternal and reproductive health, and combat climate change. These agencies deliver frontline services in some of the world's most fragile regions—providing vaccines, safe childbirth care, education, and disaster recovery. Eliminating U.S. support would severely limit their reach, disrupt lifesaving programs, and diminish America's leadership in addressing global challenges. |
| Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia | \$460 million | Ukraine is the largest recipient of the eliminated funding, which was directed to anti-corruption activities, agriculture and food security, and resiliency of their energy grid. Eliminated funding also impacts support for neighboring states like Moldova, Armenia, and Georgia which count on U.S. assistance to counter the threat of Russian aggression.  |

| Account                           | Cuts          | Consequences   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| International Disaster Assistance | \$496 million | These cuts would put the world’s most vulnerable people in even greater danger. Today, 305 million people urgently need life-saving aid due to conflict or disaster, and nearly 400 million children—about one in five globally—are living in or fleeing from war zones. Women and girls face the greatest risks, with limited access to health care and widespread gender-based violence. Slashing this funding severely undermines America’s ability to respond. |
| Operating Expenses (USAID)        | \$125 million | These cuts undermine the oversight of development and humanitarian programs, reducing transparency and accountability. Abruptly ending partnerships and pushing out technical experts will only accelerate the loss of U.S. leadership on the global stage—opening the door for strategic adversaries like China to take our place.  |

| Account   | Cuts          | Consequences  |
|---|---------------|---|
| Inter-American Foundation (IAF), U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF), U.S. Institute for Peace (USIP) | \$64 million  | Cuts funding to three specialized U.S. agencies—IAF, USADF, and USIP—whose staff were unlawfully terminated without Congressional approval and are now contesting the closures in court. The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) invests directly in grassroots organizations across Latin America and the Caribbean to reduce poverty and strengthen civil society. The U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF) supports African-led solutions that empower small businesses, farmers, and entrepreneurs in underserved communities. The U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) deploys expert mediators and peacebuilders to help fragile states prevent and resolve conflict. Eliminating funding would cripple these agencies and strip the United States of key tools for advancing stability, development, and diplomacy. |
| Corporation for Public Broadcasting (including PBS and NPR)   | \$1.1 billion | Rescinding advance funding for over 1,500 locally-owned public television and radio stations would slash access to PBS KIDS educational programming and force many rural stations to shut down—cutting off coverage of local news, high school sports, and community events. It would also jeopardize public safety, as these stations play a critical role in delivering emergency alerts when other communication systems fail.   |