

Amendment to the Chairman’s Mark

Offered by Representatives Moulton, Yarmuth, Lee, Jeffries, Higgins, Boyle, Khanna, Jayapal, Jackson Lee, and Schakowsky

Reject Cuts to Diplomatic and Foreign Aid Operations

1. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 150 (International Affairs) by the following amounts in billions of dollars to ensure full funding of diplomatic and foreign aid operations, which are critical components of our national security.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
BA	11.171									
Outlays	5.851	3.348	1.159	0.302	0.316					

2. Adjust the aggregate levels of revenue by amounts equal to the foregoing outlay changes in paragraph 1, reflecting the reduction of tax expenditures for the top one percent of income earners, or unjustified corporate tax breaks, including special depreciation for corporate jets, loopholes that allow inversions and encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, the “carried interest” loophole that allows hedge fund managers to disguise their compensation as capital gains, tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies, or corporate deductions for CEO bonuses and other excessive executive compensation exceeding \$1 million per year.
3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman’s mark.
4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution assumes a robust level of funding for diplomatic and foreign aid operations, which are critical components of our national security. 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. While these investments are critical to preventing conflict, they are also important when the country sends its military into harm’s way. Our 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.

Our military leaders recognize the significance of diplomacy and foreign aid to our national security. 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.” And, more than 120 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.” The country’s investment in diplomatic operations and foreign aid together currently make up only 1.6 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.

To accommodate adequate investments, the resolution assumes that Congress will amend the Budget Control Act and increase the austerity-level discretionary funding caps, with parity for defense and non-defense increases.

The resolution accommodates this necessary level of diplomacy and foreign aid funding by reducing tax expenditures for the top one percent of income earners, or by reducing unjustified corporate tax breaks, including special depreciation for corporate jets, loopholes that allow inversions and encourage firms to ship jobs and capital overseas and shelter their profits in foreign tax havens, the “carried interest” loophole that allows hedge fund managers to disguise their compensation as capital gains, tax subsidies for the major integrated oil companies, or corporate deductions for CEO bonuses and other excessive executive compensation exceeding \$1 million per year.