



American Foreign Service Association

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September 29, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of more than 28,000 active and retired Foreign Service employees, the American Foreign Service Association would like to thank you for your vote against the amendment to cut important foreign assistance programs during debate on the Burma sanctions resolution. This amendment would have seriously undermined the United States' foreign assistance capability at a time when these programs are already facing severe cutbacks.

AFSA well understands the gravity of the fiscal challenges facing the nation. We agree that all government departments and agencies, including the international affairs budget, will need to find ways to reduce spending and use federal funds more efficiently. However, Senator Paul's amendment to strike seven billion dollars from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the State Department is not the balanced and careful approach we need to maintain diplomatic readiness and advance our foreign policy objectives. AFSA supports an international affairs budget that secures the most cost-effective investments in U.S. diplomacy and development in order to advance our nation's strategic interests.

AFSA greatly appreciates your commitment to foreign aid as one of America's most important foreign policy tools.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Johnson
President

We Thanked:

Daniel K. Akaka	D	HI	Joe Manchin III	D	WV
Lamar Alexander	R	TN	John McCain	R	AZ
Kelly Ayotte	R	NH	Claire McCaskill	D	MO
Max Baucus	D	MT	Mitch McConnell	R	KY
Mark Begich	D	AK	Robert Menendez	D	NJ
Michael Bennet	D	CO	Jeff Merkley	D	OR
Jeff Bingaman	D	NM	Barbara A. Mikulski	D	MD
Richard Blumenthal	D	CT	Lisa Murkowski	R	AK
Roy Blunt	R	MO	Patty Murray	D	WA
John Boozman	R	AR	Bill Nelson	D	FL
Barbara Boxer	D	CA	Rob Portman	R	OH
Sherrod Brown	D	OH	Mark Pryor	D	AR
Scott Brown	R	MA	Jack Reed	D	RI
Maria Cantwell	D	WA	Harry Reid	D	NV
Benjamin L. Cardin	D	MD	Jim Risch	R	ID
Thomas R. Carper	D	DE	John D. Rockefeller IV	D	WV
Bob Casey	D	PA	Marco Rubio	R	FL
Saxby Chambliss	R	GA	Bernard Sanders	I	VT
Daniel Coats	R	IN	Charles E. Schumer	D	NY
Thad Cochran	R	MS	Jeanne Shaheen	D	NH
Susan Collins	R	ME	Olympia J. Snowe	R	ME
Kent Conrad	D	ND	Debbie Stabenow	D	MI
Christopher A. Coons	D	DE	Jon Tester	D	MT
Bob Corker	R	TN	Mark Udall	D	CO
John Cornyn	R	TX	Tom Udall	D	NM
Michael D. Crapo	R	ID	Mark Warner	D	VA
Richard J. Durbin	D	IL	Jim Webb	D	VA
Dianne Feinstein	D	CA	Sheldon Whitehouse	D	RI
Al Franken	D	MN	Ron Wyden	D	OR
Kirsten Gillibrand	D	NY			
Lindsey Graham	R	SC			
Kay Hagan	D	NC			
Tom Harkin	D	IA			
Orrin G. Hatch	R	UT			
John Hoeven	R	ND			
Daniel K. Inouye	D	HI			
Johnny Isakson	R	GA			
Mike Johanns	R	NE			
Tim Johnson	D	SD			
John Kerry	D	MA			
Mark Steven Kirk	R	IL			
Amy Klobuchar	D	MN			
Jon Kyl	R	AZ			
Mary L. Landrieu	D	LA			
Frank R. Lautenberg	D	NJ			
Patrick J. Leahy	D	VT			
Carl Levin	D	MI			
Joseph I. Lieberman	ID	CT			
Richard G. Lugar	R	IN			