

Congressman Rothman Votes for State and Foreign Operations Bill

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

(Washington, DC) — Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D — NJ), a member of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, voted in favor of H.R. 3081, the Fiscal Year 2010 State and Foreign Operations Act. The Act passed the U.S. House 318 to 106 and now goes to the Senate for approval. This spending measure determines all federal funding for the Department of State, making key investments in combating terrorism, national security, global health and diplomacy.

"I am proud to support this Act, which helps protect our national security through diplomacy and economic development," said Rothman. "To support our allies and the Mid-East peace process, Israel will receive \$2.775 billion, Egypt will receive \$1.3 billion and Jordan \$300 million."

On the House floor today, Congressman Rothman said, "This bill includes language that improves transparency and accountability at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East, commonly called UNRWA." The language requires the State Department to undertake a review of educational materials used in UNRWA schools to ensure that there are no calls for hatred or intolerance, including anti-Semitism, in the textbooks. In addition to this language, the legislation requires the State Department to report on whether UNRWA is complying with current U.S. law, which states that no American taxpayer dollars be directed to terrorists or to further terrorist propaganda.

"In an effort to combat terrorism and protect America's national security, the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act includes vital resources to improve U.S. diplomatic efforts around the world, and, among other things, includes significant funding to help stabilize the key countries of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan," said Rothman. "It also invests in economic development programs that help bring education systems, food security, and agricultural development assistance, as well as safe drinking water, to under-developed communities around the world."

The bill also maintains our commitment to programs that help save lives overseas and protect the health of Americans here at home by boosting funding for global public health infrastructure. It increases funding for programs that fight against serious diseases like HIV/AIDS and the global flu pandemic as well as programs that support maternal and child health and family planning.

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