

## 119th Congress Policy Agenda

**Atlantic Alliance:** For 75 years, the NATO alliance and our broader transatlantic relationships have kept Americans safe and ensured that in times of crisis we never stand alone. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, European Union countries stood with the U.S. in applying far-reaching sanctions on Russia while matching and exceeding U.S. aid to Ukraine. 23 of the 32 NATO allies now meet the 2% defense spending target. The EU Commission has called for over \$800 billion in new investments to strengthen Europe's defense posture. Beyond security cooperation, the European Union is our largest trading partner, indispensable in our efforts to compete with China, build more resilient supply chains, and lead the global clean energy transition. **We urge Congress to deepen cooperation with our European allies and partners while opposing actions that would fundamentally undermine the NATO alliance.**

**China:** Managing competition between the U.S. and China is one of the most complex and consequential tasks facing policymakers today. Failure could result in spiking prices for consumers, devastating setbacks for our high-tech industries, a global economic depression, or catastrophic conflict. The United States must continue to work closely with Asian allies and partners to deter Chinese coercion in the South China Sea, uphold freedom of commerce and navigation, and oppose unilateral actions that change the status quo across the Taiwan Strait. It must also protect American workers and businesses from unfair trade practices and safeguard our technologies. At the same time, we must keep open channels of dialogue with China to reduce the risk of armed conflict and facilitate cooperation in pursuit of shared goals. **We ask Congress to responsibly manage the U.S.-China relationship by supporting diplomatic and security investments to deter Chinese coercion, sustaining appropriate export controls, opposing costly trade wars, and supporting high-level diplomacy between Washington and Beijing.**

**Climate and Energy:** Every day, the impacts of climate change are becoming more severe and evident in our daily lives. Delay and inaction are driving more frequent and intense flooding, droughts, wildfires, and extreme weather events, destroying lives here at home and around the world. Recent investments in American clean energy leadership have laid the foundation for meaningful climate action while also creating millions of jobs in communities across the country. By sustaining this foundation along with support for global energy transition and resilience efforts, the U.S. can reduce climate risk and unlock economic opportunity. **We ask Congress to defend investments in U.S. clean energy competitiveness and strengthen national and global resilience to mounting climate and energy security challenges.**

**Democracy and Human Rights:** Strong democracies are better strategic allies and trading partners, and 77% of Americans believe that the United States has a moral obligation to stand up for human rights and democracy around the world. As dictators and armed groups employ increasingly sophisticated means to undermine free societies, deny civil rights, crush dissent, and sow division, the United States faces a practical and moral choice: will we continue to lead international efforts to make the world safe for free societies, with protections for human rights for all, or seek instead to accommodate the world's authoritarian governments? **We ask Congress to maintain funding for U.S. assistance and diplomatic efforts to support human rights and democracy around the world.**

**Development and Humanitarian Assistance:** The unlawful dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development removed one of America's most cost-effective tools for influencing the world and addressing the worst humanitarian crises. From Central America to Sudan and Syria, our food aid, disaster relief, and development programs save lives while combatting global challenges like violent extremism, global health threats, forced migration, and fentanyl trafficking. The administration's termination of these efforts has created a win for our adversaries, who are eagerly capitalizing on the vacuums left by America's absence around the world. There are smarter, bipartisan ways to strengthen our foreign assistance programs. **We ask Congress to restore the U.S. government's capacity to deliver foreign aid while supporting innovation in global development, increased mobilization of private capital, and greater reliance on locally led development and humanitarian responses.**

**Diplomacy:** America's diplomats protect U.S. citizens around the world, promote American businesses, and negotiate to secure our interests, often operating behind the scenes to keep Americans safe. Our diplomatic presence in other countries also allows us to strengthen our relationships and compete for influence. Policymakers must ensure that the State Department, as the principal agency in charge of U.S. diplomacy, is effectively staffed, trained, and organized to meet the unparalleled global challenges facing us. **We ask Congress to pass a State Department authorization act that empowers U.S. diplomats, at least maintains America's diplomatic footprint abroad, and promotes greater U.S. leadership in multilateral institutions.**

**Emerging Tech/AI:** As artificial intelligence and advances in quantum computing and biotech begin reshaping our lives, with significant implications for national security, the U.S. must stay at the forefront of these revolutions – both to ensure that Americans can benefit from these technologies and also to ensure their applications do not pose a national security risk. As these technologies mature, the U.S. has the opportunity now to continue to develop domestically, and to lead the development internationally, of rules and norms to govern applications of AI and other technologies, with a focus on catastrophic risk reduction, individual liberties, and workforce development and protections. **We ask Congress to support investments and policies to promote U.S. leadership in emerging technologies, secure relevant supply chains, and encourage their responsible global use.**

**Fentanyl & International Narcotics:** The illicit trafficking and use of synthetic opioids like fentanyl are devastating communities across the United States. More than 100,000 Americans die of drug overdoses each year. In 2019, U.S. diplomatic efforts succeeded in pressing China to crack down on the development and shipment of fentanyl to the United States, but in the years since, as the bilateral relationship deteriorated, China-based groups have shifted to shipping precursor chemicals to Mexican drug cartels, who have increasingly turned to fentanyl and other synthetic opioids due to their low production costs. The U.S. can and should increase pressure on China, India, and other countries to crack down on smugglers and money launderers facilitating the trade in chemical precursors to drug traffickers. At the same time, the U.S. should prioritize a renewal of law enforcement cooperation with Mexico, particularly in the wake of the July 2024 arrest of the heads of the two branches of the Sinaloa cartel. **We ask Congress to support diplomatic and law enforcement efforts aimed at disrupting the global supply chain of synthetic opioids.**

**Fighting Corruption:** Once the leader in the global fight against corruption and illicit finance, over the past decade the United States has become a preferred destination for oligarchs and kleptocrats to hide their ill-gotten gains. Meanwhile, the Trump administration has halted enforcement of key U.S. anti-corruption laws, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act as well as the Corporate Transparency Act of 2021, which Congress passed to shed light on anonymous shell companies used by autocrats and drug kingpins. Fully enforcing our laws is necessary to tackle international money laundering, foreign bribery, and other corrupt practices that fuel instability, prop up dictators, and disadvantage American businesses that play by the rules. **We ask Congress to provide robust funding for the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and support rigorous enforcement of anti-corruption and transparency laws as a national security priority.**

**Gender Equality:** Women and girls are half of the world's population and half of its talent and potential. This is true in every sector of society. Yet around the globe, women and girls face significant obstacles stemming from discrimination, legal barriers, and cultural norms. Women and girls bear the brunt of negative consequences from poverty, conflict, and climate change, but their voices and views are often excluded from leadership and decision-making structures. Studies have shown that the full inclusion of women at all levels of society grows economies, prevents conflict, and builds sustainable peace, all of which benefit the national security of the United States. **We ask Congress to support legislative initiatives that support the health, rights, and political and economic empowerment of women and girls, promote their access to education at all levels, address gender-based violence, and promote women in peacebuilding efforts.**

**Global Health:** Americans understand that outbreaks of infectious diseases don't stop at the border. By supporting global health programs like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, we prevent the spread of diseases to the United States while saving lives. The President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) alone has saved over 26 million people since its creation in 2003. However, President Trump's haphazard foreign aid freeze and withdrawal from the World Health Organization leave us exposed to worldwide health threats and unable to shape global responses to infectious disease. **We ask Congress to restore U.S. leadership on international efforts to address pandemics and support a long-term reauthorization of PEPFAR and full replenishment of the Global Fund.**

**International Organizations:** Disengaging from the United Nations and other international organizations diminishes our ability to shape global efforts to curb drug trafficking, the spread of diseases, environmental harm, and other transnational threats to Americans. Ceding U.S. leadership at these organizations also gives our adversaries and competitors opportunities to advance their own agendas at our expense. Sustained U.S. engagement is needed to secure our interests and ensure that individual rights and the rule of law remain at the heart of international organizations. **We ask Congress to support enhanced U.S. leadership at the UN and other international organizations and to support investments in the UN regular and peacekeeping budgets and specialized agencies.**

**Iran:** For many years, Iranian-backed militant groups have fueled instability across the Middle East. Its nuclear program threatens to make matters far worse. But the fall of Syria's Assad and the weakened states of Hamas and Hezbollah have diminished Iran's influence. At the same time, domestic unrest and a struggling economy create growing threats to Iran's clerical rulers. The Trump administration has an historic opportunity to use diplomacy to move Iran away from its dangerous nuclear brinkmanship and toward a better future for the Iranian people. **We ask Congress to support diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring or developing a nuclear weapon.**

**Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:** Until there is lasting peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike, we will see continued cycles of violence that threaten U.S. interests, put American lives at risk, and undermine U.S. standing and credibility at a time of rising global competition. In the wake of Hamas' horrific attack on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent Israeli military operation and resulting humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the United States will need to take proactive steps to secure the release of hostages, peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and a path to two states living in dignity and security. While affirming Israel's right to defend itself, Washington must reject any attempts to forcibly displace populations or use the withholding of humanitarian assistance as a tool of war, which are violations of international law, or to change the territorial status quo in Gaza or the West Bank. The U.S. should also join with our allies in insisting that Israelis and Palestinians alike enjoy equal rights under the law. **We ask members of Congress to support diplomatic steps to end the war in Gaza and to reject the forced displacement of populations, withholding of humanitarian assistance, and unilateral territorial changes in Gaza or the West Bank.**

**Migration and Refugees:** The United States is a country of immigrants, enriched by generations who have fueled our shared economy and contributed to American culture. In 2024, 46% of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or the children of immigrants. But accelerating immigration across our Southern border has challenged communities and overwhelmed our immigration courts. There's a clear need to modernize immigration laws to welcome immigrants in a fair and orderly way. Donald Trump has helped none of this – his bigoted language and politicization of the issue have served only to block bipartisan approaches such as those negotiated by Senators Lankford and Murphy in 2024. As President, he has repeated the cruelty of his first term, upending communities with his "largest deportation program in American history" and even invoking the Alien Enemies Act, a 1798 law last used in World War II, to deport people without federal court review. Shamefully, Trump has also sought to end protections for asylum seekers and dismantle the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, terminating all contracts with resettling organizations. **We ask Congress to reject appropriating funds for an inhumane mass deportation effort or for using the military to engage in immigration law enforcement functions, and instead pass comprehensive immigration reform that secures the border, protects asylum seekers, and restores the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.**

**National Security Workforce:** Every day, U.S. service members, diplomats, and development professionals risk their lives to keep Americans safe and promote our interests around the world. To be successful, these career national security personnel must be able to do their work free from discrimination, undue political interference, or fear that they or their family members will be used as partisan pawns. **We ask Congress to support our career national security workforce, strengthen programs that address discrimination and harassment in the federal workplace, and ensure that our military and Foreign Service families are adequately taken care of.**

**North Korea:** North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile program remains one of the most vexing deterrence challenges for the U.S. and our allies. The despotic Kim Jong Un regime has used money laundering, overseas labor, cyberattacks, and illegal arms sales to sustain its weapons program all while committing gross human rights violations at home. Renewed diplomacy between the U.S. and North Korea must head off further escalation and reduce nuclear risk on the Korean Peninsula. With more than 28,000 U.S. troops on the Korean Peninsula, there is no alternative military solution to this challenge that does not include the high risk of mass casualties, potential use of nuclear weapons, or escalation into regional conflict. **We ask Congress to support sustained diplomatic efforts to roll back North Korea's nuclear program, support confidence building measures, and oppose any new sanctions that would hinder the provision of humanitarian assistance.**

**Nuclear Risk Reduction:** After four decades of steady decline in global nuclear weapons inventories, we face the possibility of a new and more dangerous arms race. With Russia's suspension of the New START Treaty, the last remaining constraint on the world's two largest nuclear powers is set to expire in 2026. The Department of Defense estimates that China could have over 1,000 operational nuclear warheads by 2030, creating a three-competitor future. At the same time, advances in artificial intelligence, including for military applications, have injected new and evolving risks. President Trump has said he would welcome "denuclearization" talks with China and Russia, following in the footsteps of President Ronald Reagan, who stated with Russia's Mikhail Gorbachev that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." **We ask Congress to support renewed nuclear diplomacy with Russia and China and reject actions such as the resumption of nuclear testing that would undermine strategic stability.**

**Russia and Ukraine:** Ensuring that Ukraine remains free and independent is essential for the stability of Europe, the largest market for American goods and services and home to some of our closest democratic allies. With bipartisan support from Congress, the Biden administration worked with our NATO partners to freeze Russian assets, impose far-reaching sanctions, and equip Ukraine with the military means to deny Putin a decisive victory. As the Trump administration pursues a diplomatic breakthrough, the U.S. will best achieve lasting peace by recommitting to the principle "nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine," working closely with our allies to guarantee Ukraine's future security, and making clear that in no circumstances is it acceptable for countries to use military force to pursue territorial conquest. **We ask Congress to support measures that enable the United States, Ukraine, and our European partners to negotiate from a position of strength and ensure Ukraine's long-term security, while holding Russia accountable for the cost of its actions.**

**Trade and Economic Security:** The benefits of international trade and investment have always been uneven, and in recent decades the costs of unfair trade practices have disproportionately affected American manufacturing workers and communities – damage now compounded by corporate investments in automation. Selectively applied tariffs, in response to unfair trade practices, can help protect workers and incentivize investment in U.S.-based manufacturing. By contrast, President Trump's economy-wide tariffs on our largest trading partners and his escalating trade wars could result in large-scale job loss, rising inflation, and unprecedented disruption to U.S. alliances. A better approach would be to fully enforce existing U.S. trade laws and to sustain and deepen investments in the American workforce and industries of the future. **We ask Congress to insist on the responsible use of trade enforcement tools like tariffs, reject actions that risk escalating trade wars, and support trade and investment partnerships with strong protections for workers and the environment.**