

## Speaking Out in Defense of Our People and Institutions

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From: DACOR (clskodon@dacorbacon.org)

To: stucallison@yahoo.com

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# DACOR

An Organization of  
Foreign Affairs Professionals

Dear members of the DACOR community,

Many of us are concerned about current political events that are impacting our colleagues, our life's work, and the institutions through which our national security interests are carried out. Many colleagues and friends have received termination notices and their lives are in turmoil. In the spirit of speaking out in defense of our people and our institutions, I have sent the following letter as president of DACOR to a couple of news outlets in Georgia, my home state. I offer it as an example of the kind of message you might want to draft and forward to your own local media outlets.

Begin text of my letter:

*President Trump's cuts of roughly \$40 billion in funding for USAID and laying off its 2,200 employees pose grave threats to America's national security. Providing food, medicine, and related help for people in distress around the world demonstrate the values of American democracy as no other programs can.*

*These cuts mean tons of fresh food aid sit spoiling on docks awaiting shipment. Markets for grain grown by farmers throughout the Midwest are closing.*

*Worse yet, eviscerating USAID is causing foreign leaders to question the United States as a partner in promoting humanitarian aid and democracy.*

*According to the Pew Research Center, the U.S. government was on track to spend about \$58.8 billion on international assistance and diplomacy in 2025 compared to \$852.2 billion for defense. Contrary to what most Americans think, our government spends less than 1 percent of the discretionary federal budget on foreign assistance.*

*A direct comparison between spending on bread and bullets in terms of advancing US interests worldwide is impossible. Both are integral to our national security.*

*I urge the President to fully restore funding for USAID. Further, we urge fellow Americans to express their support for foreign aid to their representatives in the House of Representatives and the Senate.*

*For more than a century foreign aid and diplomacy, backed by our strong military, have proved unparalleled tools in securing America's interests abroad.*

End text of my letter

Thanks for all you do for DACOR and for the people and institutions responsible for implementing our national security agenda,

Angela R. Dickey  
President





DACOR • DACOR Bacon House Foundation  
1801 F Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006  
202.682.0500 • [www.dacorbacon.org](http://www.dacorbacon.org)

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DACOR | 1801 F Street, NW | Washington, DC 20006

