

Legislative Update from Dottie Rayburn, UAA, 25 April 2026

On Thursday, April 23, the House Appropriations National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs (NSRP) Subcommittee met to consider its [Fiscal Year 2027 bill](#). The Subcommittee approved the measure, and the Full Committee markup is scheduled for [Tuesday, April 28, at 11:00 am](#). As it currently stands, the bill [provides \\$47.32 billion for foreign assistance](#), which is \$2.69 billion (6%) below the Fiscal Year 2026 enacted level, but more than twice the [President's request of \\$19.8 billion](#).

Many advocates have been working to elevate the critical issue of staffing in the FY 27 appropriation process, and are pleased to see this important language on staffing included in the House bill text, which requires the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress that includes *“a detailed description of staffing levels used to plan, budget, execute, monitor, evaluate, and audit foreign assistance during fiscal year 2026, and any planned changes to these staffing levels for fiscal year 2027.”*

- The House bill stands in contrast to the Administration's FY 27 budget request which would reduce funding for America's diplomatic and international affairs agencies and programs by nearly one-third.
 - Specifically, the request includes a **total of \$35.1 billion for the State Department and other U.S. international affairs agencies and programs – \$16.2 billion (32%) below the FY26 enacted level of \$51.3 billion.**
 - State Department's Congressional Budget Justification can be found [here](#).

State Department Promotion Lists Moving: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) favorably reported three State Department Senior Foreign Service promotion lists ([PN893](#), [PN894](#), and [PN895](#)) on April 15. Just eight Foreign Service promotion and tenure lists have been sent to the Senate in the 119th Congress so far..

Introduction of the FAIR Act in the House: Representatives Olszewski (D-MD) and Lawler (R-NY) [introduced](#) the House companion of the Foreign Service Age Integration and Reform (FAIR) Act on April 16. The bill would raise the Foreign Service mandatory retirement age by aligning it with the Social Security full retirement age, which is currently 67. The Senate's FAIR Act was [introduced](#) on March 5.