

Legislative Update from Dottie Rayburn, 28 May 2026

SECRETARY RUBIO HEARINGS on the Administration's FY 27 budget

Secretary Rubio testified on the Administration's Fiscal Year 2027 foreign affairs budget request before the four principal oversight committees on June 2 and 3.

The hearings can be viewed in real-time and/or videos can be found after the fact at the respective Committees' websites. See schedule below:

Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) June 2 at 10am

<https://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/review-of-the-fy27-state-department-budget-request>

House Appropriations Committee June 2 at 2pm

<https://appropriations.house.gov/schedule/hearings/budget-hearing-department-state-and-related-programs-0>

House Foreign Affairs Committee June 3 at 10am

foreignaffairs.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/department-of-state-fy-2027-budget-request-a-commitment-to-america-first-foreign-policy

Senate Appropriations Committee June 3 at 3pm.

<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/a-review-of-the-presidents-fiscal-year-2027-budget-request-for-the-department-of-state>

LEGISLATION of INTEREST

Titus/Schatz Path to Foreign Service Act.

On April 30, Congresswoman Dina Titus (NV-01) introduced her *Pathways for Advancement, Transition, and Hiring (PATH) to the Foreign Service Act* with Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) leading companion legislation in the Senate. This bill would provide a foreign service career pathway for certain former United States Agency for International Development (USAID) officers.

Critical Minerals: The bipartisan DOMINANCE Act – led by Reps. Young Kim (R-CA) and Ami Bera (D-CA) – to strengthen U.S. international engagement on critical minerals, passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) unanimously (45-0) and is expected to receive floor consideration the second week of June.

Foreign Service Reform: HFAC is also expected to move forward in early June with markup of its Foreign Service Act reform package focused on workforce modernization, training, and capacity-building.

- See Chairman Mast's op-ed [HERE](#).

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

Congress is continuing to try and exercise more oversight of the use of appropriated foreign assistance funding. Of particular concern is the recent, April 20, notification to Congress of the

Administration's intent to withhold \$19 billion in taxpayer dollars as part of its plan to cover "costs associated with the close-out of terminated foreign assistance awards." The plan includes spending up to \$3.2 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 development and global health funding on close-out costs, instead of lifesaving and other congressionally directed programs. Key Members are seeking an explanation and/or breakdown of these costs. See member letters at links below.

House NSRP Dems letter: <https://frankel.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=5010>

House HFAC Dems letter: <https://www.devex.com/news/democrats-demand-answers-on-usaid-closeout-process-112534>

Senate Dems letter: <https://www.schatz.senate.gov/news/press-releases/schatz-leads-group-of-17-senators-in-demanding-trump-administration-comply-with-law-use-foreign-assistance-funding-to-support-global-health-food-aid-help-save-lives-as-congress-directed>

Related CNN story here:

CNN: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1swIzoGT4SOLZusFFhcZlmUuFTo2Uio/view?usp=sharing>

<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/a-review-of-the-presidents-fiscal-year-2027-budget-request-for-the-department-of-state>