Atlantic Alliance: The NATO alliance has been a cornerstone of American national security strategy, promoting stability in Europe, and the advancement of our shared values. Our allies came to our defense after 9/11, going to war with us in Afghanistan. More broadly, the U.S. partnership with the EU has been critical to the stability of the West. President Trump has wavered in his support for the NATO alliance, initially refusing to affirm the U.S. commitment to NATO’s Article 5 provision for collective defense, and expressed open hostility to the EU. This is particularly alarming at a time of growing Russian aggression. Russia has attacked and supports separatist movements in Ukraine, annexed Crimea, and disrupted elections in the U.S. and European countries. We ask Members of Congress to affirm our Article 5 commitment to our European allies and partners and take steps to strengthen the NATO alliance.

Climate Change: Resource competition driven by worsening droughts, severe floods and storms, and climate-induced displacement is a large and profound threat to global stability. The sobering Fourth U.S. National Climate Assessment, released in November 2018 by thirteen federal departments and agencies including the State Department and Defense Department, showed that climate change is harming Americans now and estimated that it could cost the U.S. economy tens to hundreds of billions of dollars a year. The science is clear: only concerted and cooperative international action can adequately respond to this global challenge. Nonetheless, in 2017, President Trump pledged to withdraw the U.S. from the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change and to de-fund overseas climate assistance. We ask Members of Congress to publicly support the Paris Agreement and demonstrate bold global leadership on climate change through support for a robust national climate policy, federal scientific research, and foreign assistance.

Cybersecurity: The cyber capabilities of US adversaries and competitors have rapidly expanded in recent years, including capabilities for cyber attacks against military systems and critical infrastructure, cyber espionage targeting governments and corporations, and cyber influence operations such as the Russian campaign to influence the 2016 U.S. elections. At present, there is no legally binding international framework to govern states’ behavior in cyberspace during peacetime. Some authoritarian states, including China, have exercised increasing control over the internet, limiting their citizens’ access to online information. Former U.S. Government employees have now been accused of working as cyber mercenaries for foreign governments, including taking actions against Americans. We call on Congress to advance new measures to protect American elections and key infrastructure from attack, and to promote international efforts with our democratic allies to advance cyber security and stability.
Defense Budget: The U.S. military is and must remain the strongest in the world to defend our vital national security interests. However, nearly two decades of inconclusive war has distracted the U.S. Government from other serious national security threats, including from Russia and China, while diverting resources from domestic investments in education, infrastructure, technological innovation, and efforts to fight climate change - all of which are critical for our future security. The national defense budget now stands at $716 billion or roughly 17% of the total federal budget. For 2020, President Trump has proposed a national defense budget of $750 billion, which includes a 150% increase (totaling over $173 billion) in Overseas Contingency Operations in order to stay under congressional budget caps set by the Budget Control Act. This is a blatant abuse of a fund that White House Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney has criticized as a “slush fund,” particularly as the administration proposes a 24% cut in funding for diplomacy. We ask Congress to fully exercise its oversight responsibilities and to authorize and fund the Defense Department at a sustainable level tied to future national security challenges.

Democracy and Human Rights: The United States is founded on the principle that all people are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights. Democratic governments are less likely to engage in aggression and launch attacks against the U.S., their neighbors, or their own people. They are more likely to uphold the dignity of their citizens and protected minorities and less likely to become breeding grounds for instability, extremism, terrorism, or forced migration. The U.S. can play an important role in encouraging political, economic, and social reforms, particularly among partner states. We advocate for the U.S. to elevate support for democracy and human rights in U.S. bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

Fighting Corruption: Global corruption, and related threats to the rule of law, have emerged as an important national security challenge. In a number of U.S. partner states, mineral revenues have contributed to corruption, leading to poverty, hunger, and instability, with consequences for American national security. In the U.S., shell companies have facilitated money laundering, including through the real estate sector. Transparency measures can mitigate each of these risks. The bipartisan Cardin-Lugar anti-corruption legislation, enacted in 2010 as Section 1604 of the Dodd-Frank reform bill, addresses the first challenge by requiring that oil, gas, and mining companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges disclose their royalties and other payments to foreign governments. It must now be implemented by the SEC. New legislation to clamp down on anonymous shell corporations and money laundering could address the second issue. We ask Congress to support new legislation to fight global corruption at home and abroad.

Gender Equality: Around the world, women and girls face significant obstacles to their full participation in society. These include forced marriage, physical and sexual abuse, denial of the right to work or own property, lack of access to banking and loans, illiteracy, sex trafficking, and lack of access to critical health services. Studies have shown that when women are empowered and included, they strengthen whole economies and enhance efforts to prevent and end conflicts. Investing in and promoting equality, health, and human rights regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity is vital to advance our broader development and foreign policy goals. The State
Department and USAID have a well-established history of working to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, prevent gender-based violence, and engage women in peacebuilding efforts around the world. We ask Congress to provide strong support for initiatives to promote gender equality around the world.

Global Health: Championing global health has been a signature focus of U.S. international assistance. Bipartisan support for the President’s Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the President’s Malaria Initiative, each launched by President George W. Bush, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, has saved tens of millions of lives. U.S leadership on health is humanitarian, while also promoting stability, growing trading partners, and developing good will for the U.S., and combating China’s growing influence. At the same time, policies like the Mexico City Policy, which requires foreign non-governmental organizations to certify that they will not use their own funds to provide information, referrals, or services for legal abortion, as a condition of receiving U.S. assistance, compromise our ability to be a strong global health partner. President Trump’s expanded policy, also known as the “Global Gag Rule,” now applies to all “global health assistance furnished by all departments or agencies.” The practical effect has been to reduce the availability of all health services for the world’s most vulnerable people. We advocate for the U.S. to increase support for global health, including efforts to end epidemics, and ask Congress to end the harmful Mexico City Policy.

International Affairs Budget: America’s tools for civilian power are underfunded and understaffed. The current Administration has proposed 24% cuts to these agencies – the State Department, US Agency for International Development, and others – that were rejected by bipartisan majorities in Congress. In 2018, over 150 retired three- and four-star generals and admirals sent a letter to House and Senate leadership asking them “to ensure our nation also has the civilian resources necessary to protect our national security, compete against our adversaries, and create opportunities around the world.” We ask Congress to maintain or increase funding for the International Affairs budget.

Iran: In July 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the Iran Nuclear Deal, was agreed among Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany), and the European Union. The agreement forced Iran to accept restrictions on its nuclear program, effectively halting the production of nuclear weapons, and a strict new inspections regime, in exchange for sanctions relief. It received the unanimous backing of the UN Security Council via the passage of UNSCR 2231. A 2017 Morning Consult/Politico poll showed that 54% of voters supported the deal, with just 28% opposed. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors and U.S. officials have repeatedly reported that Iran remains in compliance with the deal. But in May 2018, the Trump administration announced it would violate American commitments and angered our allies by reinstating harsh secondary sanctions targeting most foreign business with Iran. We ask members of Congress to support US re-entry into the JCPOA, oppose measures that would prevent the United States from coming back into compliance with the JCPOA in the future, and to take proactive steps to avoid a war of choice with Iran.
**Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:** For decades, the United States has led international efforts to advance a solution to the conflict that offers both Israelis and Palestinians dignity, security, and self-determination. A two-state solution, which has been U.S. policy since the George W. Bush administration, is crucial for the parties to the conflict and for advancing American regional interests in stability and security. The Trump administration’s actions put the two-state solution, and America’s leadership in Arab-Israeli peacemaking, at risk: by prejudging the outcome of negotiations over Jerusalem; by cutting off aid to Palestinians in the West Bank that supports civilian needs; by withdrawing US funds from UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine) and putting hundreds of thousands of children in Gaza at risk; by recognizing the annexation of the Golan Heights; and by creating an enabling environment for the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements. These policies undermine Israel’s security and set back the human rights, civil rights, and right to self-determination of the Palestinians. **We ask members of Congress to take proactive steps to maintain the viability of the two-state solution aligned with international law and to reject actions that undermine that possibility.**

**Mexico Border Wall:** The Trump Administration has called on Congress to fund construction of a wall on the U.S. border with Mexico, estimated to cost between $20 and $70 billion. When Congress refused to pass legislation to provide the funds for building the wall, President Trump first shutdown the government then declared a National Emergency in order to evade congressional will. Building President Trump’s wall, rooted in his racist campaign rhetoric, will have little to no impact on drug trafficking, which largely passes through legal ports of entry, or illegal immigration, the majority of which results from visa overstays. As one Republican member of Congress put it, the wall is “a third-century solution to a 21st-century problem.” There is bipartisan support for sensible immigration reform, but President Trump’s wall is not the way forward. **We advocate against appropriating funds to build President Trump’s border wall and support policies that enhance a mutually beneficial relationship with the people of Mexico and Central America.**

**Military Service:** The diversity of our all-volunteer military is a source of national strength. In 2010, Congress passed the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act, allowing lesbian, gay, and bisexual members of the military to serve openly. In December 2015, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced that all combat roles would be open to women. In June 2016, Secretary Carter announced that transgender recruits could serve openly. In January 2017, the U.S. Army announced that accommodations could be made for service members who wear beards, turbans, or hijabs for religious reasons. According to a RAND report, these changes have had “no significant effect on unit cohesion, operational effectiveness, or readiness.” However, challenges remain for many troops serving their country. Women service members continue to face sexual harassment and assault by their peers and retaliation when they report claims up the chain of command. The Trump Administration issued a directive blocking transgender troops from serving openly in the military. Recent press reports have highlighted significant problems in programs recruiting immigrants with special skills into the armed forces. **We ask Congress to ensure that all individuals who meet required standards are allowed to serve in the U.S. military openly and safely.**
**North Korea:** North Korea’s nuclear weapons program represents one of the gravest threats to the security of the U.S. and our allies. The despotic Kim Jong Un regime has used money laundering, counterfeiting, drug trafficking, and assassinations to prop itself up and pay for its nuclear weapons program. President Trump’s June 12, 2018 summit with North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un was a historic step but has subsequently failed to produce tangible steps toward denuclearization. Experts believe denuclearization of the Korean peninsula would take several years to achieve, and that an incremental and reciprocal approach is the only viable path forward. A military conflict with North Korea could result in the deaths of at least several hundred thousand people, including thousands of U.S. service members and civilians stationed in South Korea. **We ask Members of Congress to support good faith diplomatic efforts to freeze and eventually roll back North Korea’s nuclear program and secure peace on the Korean peninsula, and to oppose Congressional sanctions that would impede diplomatic negotiations.**

**Nuclear Security:** Every U.S. president since John F. Kennedy has sought to negotiate and has secured nuclear risk reduction and arms control agreements. As President Reagan put it: “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.” The extraordinary costs of nuclear arms races crowd out investments in domestic sources of national strength, like education and healthcare. The Trump administration, however, has adopted a dangerous position by walking away from Reagan’s 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty before exhausting all reasonable options to deal with Russian non-compliance. It has also proposed development of dangerous “low yield” nuclear weapons, which Congress has repeatedly rejected in the past. The 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), which verifiably caps U.S. and Russian deployed strategic warheads at 1,550 each, will expire in early 2021 unless the administration takes action. President Trump’s erratic behavior has raised the question of whether a single individual should have the authority to launch a first strike nuclear attack. **We ask Members of Congress to take proactive steps, including supporting direct negotiations with Russia, to reduce global nuclear risks and excess nuclear weapons.**

**Refugees:** The United States is a nation of immigrants and refugees. For centuries, people fleeing violence and persecution have come to America because it stands as a beacon of freedom and hope to the world. But in January 2017, President Trump issued an executive order that halted refugee resettlement from around the world and temporarily suspended visits from several predominantly Muslim countries. At the U.S.-Mexico border, U.S. government officials have begun turning away legal asylum seekers at official land crossings in violation of international law. We live in a time of global humanitarian crisis, with 68.5 million people — including 25.4 million refugees — forced from their homes by war, violence, economic deprivation, and climate change. But instead of leading the world to meet this challenge, the current administration has undermined global diplomatic efforts and all but barred refugees fleeing war-torn societies in Syria, Yemen, and Iraq. **We ask Congress to take action to protect and welcome refugees, and deepen America’s commitment to international law.**
Trade: International trade is central to the United States’ economy and has created economic opportunities for millions of people around the world. In order to continue to harness trade as a positive force in the global economy, the United States should work to ensure that global trade rules promote high labor standards and economic security for working people and protect the environment and consumer safety. Trade agreements should be negotiated in a transparent, democratic, and participatory fashion. They should include strong enforcement provisions and fair and open means of resolving disputes. **We support trade agreements that promote prosperity and inclusive growth for all and effectively protect workers and the environment.**

United Nations: The administration’s FY2020 International Affairs budget calls for significant cuts to U.S. funding for the UN, including our contributions to global peacekeeping efforts. The U.S. is now $750 million in arrears on its peacekeeping dues over the last three years. UN peacekeeping operations advance U.S. foreign policy interests and promote American values by stabilizing fragile states, protecting civilians from violence, preventing civil wars from metastasizing into full-blown regional conflicts, and supporting democratic elections and peaceful transitions of power. They are extremely cost-effective, having been found by the GAO to be eight times less expensive than deploying U.S. forces, and, by relying on troop contributions from more than 120 countries, are an excellent example of global burden-sharing in action. Polling in September of 2018 found that more than 7 in 10 voters support the United States paying our dues to the UN and UN Peacekeeping. **We support fully funding the U.S. dues to the United Nations.**

Use of Military Force: For more than 17 years the United States has been enmeshed in an expanding “war on terror” with no clear end in sight, based the 2001 Authorization of the Use of Military Force (AUMF) passed by Congress in the fearful days after 9/11. In Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan alone, the fighting has killed more than half a million people, created 21 million refugees and displaced persons in the region, and cost the United States six trillion dollars. While transnational terrorism remains a threat, the nature and location of the threat, as well as our understanding of what is needed to address it, have changed considerably since 2001. It is well past time for Congress to reassert its constitutional role in authorizing and overseeing the prudent use of military force. **We support the repeal of the 2001 AUMF as well as the passage of new time-limited legislation that authorizes the use of military force in specific countries against specifically named groups while enhancing congressional oversight and public transparency.**

Yemen: The Saudi Arabia-led coalition has repeatedly failed to take steps to prevent civilian casualties from its airstrikes in Yemen and to alleviate humanitarian suffering in the country, exacerbating a crisis that has placed millions of Yemenis on the brink of starvation. The U.S. has participated in the military intervention – refueling Saudi and UAE jets conducting air strikes, providing targeting assistance, and selling weapons. As a result, the U.S. is now in the position of enabling a steadily worsening humanitarian disaster. **We ask Congress to halt U.S. military involvement in the conflict and to support diplomatic efforts to end the war.**