Atlantic Alliance: The NATO alliance and the U.S.-European Union relationship are a cornerstone of American national security strategy, promoting democracy and security in Europe and the advancement of our shared values globally. Our European allies are indispensable partners in efforts to promote democracy and human rights, counter Russian aggression, combat the climate crisis, prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, establish new norms for technology policy, and, today, to respond to the global pandemic and economic recession. But the transatlantic relationship also faces key challenges fueled by democratic backsliding and right-wing populism. The Biden Administration has pledged to reverse Trump’s damaging trade wars and revitalize our relationships with our European allies. We ask Congress to affirm our NATO commitments including Article 5 and support renewed cooperation on global challenges including COVID-19, climate change, nuclear non-proliferation, and authoritarianism.

China: As Secretary of State Blinken explained in his first press conference, “the relationship between the United States and China is arguably the most important relationship that we have in the world.” It is a complex relationship, requiring confidence in U.S. and Allied interests and strengths as a base for more effective economic and political competition, forthright pushback on China when necessary, and cooperation in areas of vital – even existential – common interest such as climate change and non-proliferation. The China relationship runs through many of our most pressing challenges, such as developing industrial investments that meet the economic requirements of the middle class while providing a basis for economic competition. For the U.S. to be effective and credible in addressing Chinese challenges to democracy and human rights abroad, Congress must take the lead in addressing the visible weaknesses in our own politics. U.S. competition with China is not primarily military in nature, and it will only be to our detriment to fall into the trap of imagining otherwise. We ask Congress to fund critical industrial policy investments to help the United States better compete economically, to provide economic tools to raise the costs of gross human rights abuses, and to support our re-engagement with regional Allies and partners as well as multilateral institutions.

Climate Change: Climate change is a profound threat to global stability – worsening droughts, increasing the destructiveness of severe floods and storms, and causing resource competition and displacement. With the U.S. re-entering the Paris Agreement, and President Biden pledging to center our domestic and foreign policy around the climate crisis, we have the chance to mount an effective and cooperative response with international partners and to participate in the trillions of dollars of markets that will be created in the transition to a global clean energy economy. Congress set an important precedent for bipartisan cooperation in late 2020 by tackling super-polluting hydrofluorocarbons, which aligns the U.S. with the requirements of the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol, and by increasing clean energy investments and important tax credits. But much more action is needed to align with our major allies and trading partners. We ask Congress to robustly fund climate change foreign assistance, including key adaptation and mitigation investments, and to demonstrate strong support for the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol.
Cybersecurity: The cyber capabilities of U.S. adversaries and competitors have rapidly expanded in recent years, including capabilities for cyberattacks against military systems and critical infrastructure, cyber espionage targeting governments and corporations, and cyber influence operations such as the Russian campaign to influence U.S. elections. The recent SolarWinds hack exposed the vulnerability of even the most sensitive U.S. government agencies, and foreign threat actors continue to seek to obtain access to U.S. infrastructure and to threaten our cyber supply chain. At the same time, social media platforms have enabled malicious actors to sow division and spread disinformation. **We call on Congress to advance new measures to protect U.S. government agencies and critical infrastructure from cyberattacks and stem the flow of disinformation on social media platforms.**

Defense Budget: The U.S. military is and must remain the strongest in the world to defend our vital national security interests. However, two decades of counterterrorism wars have fueled misguided spending levels, diverting resources from domestic investments in healthcare, education, infrastructure, and technological innovation, all of which are critical for our future security, and distracted the U.S. government from critical national security challenges, including from Russia and China. Under President Trump, the national defense budget increased by 26% to $741 billion, or roughly 54% of the total federal discretionary budget, including needless and excessive spending on nuclear modernization. That represents 12 times what we spend on diplomacy and development. At a time when American families are grappling with the direct effects of a global pandemic and climate crisis, Congress should take an integrated look at our strategies and spending in pursuit of national security. **We ask Congress to authorize spending levels for the Defense Department that are sustainable and tied to current and future national security challenges, and to reduce unnecessary spending.**

Democracy and Human Rights: As President Biden put it: “Democracy is the root of our society, the wellspring of our power, and the source of our renewal.” And yet, today, the foundations of democracy face growing challenges at home and abroad. Corruption and inequality undermine citizen confidence. Malicious actors have attacked the integrity of elections, leading in the U.S. to the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. New technology has empowered oppressive regimes and accelerated the spread of hate and misinformation. Americans have an abiding interest in the spread of democracy around the world: democratic governments are less likely to launch attacks against the U.S., their neighbors, or their own people, or to become breeding grounds for instability, terrorism, or forced migration. They are more likely to uphold the dignity of their citizens and protect minorities. The U.S. can play an important role in encouraging political, economic, and social reforms, particularly among partner states. That starts by renewing the foundations of our own democracy and, after centuries of struggle, achieving racial equity. **We ask Congress to take action to renew American democracy at home and to strengthen U.S. support for democracy and human rights in U.S. bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.**
**Diplomacy:** The United States is best able to advance its interests and provide for its national security when we lead with diplomacy. That requires concerted efforts to support and empower our talented Foreign Service Officers and other civil servants. Even before 2017, the State Department was a remarkable institution in desperate need of updating to attract and retain a diverse and talented workforce, to meet modern family and career patterns, and to more flexibly draw in expertise and assign resources in response to changing priorities. The Trump Administration’s hostility and neglect damaged the civil service across the government, but did particular damage at the State Department, which saw a significant exodus of highly trained diplomats. **We ask Congress to pass a State Department Authorization Bill, ramp up funding for diplomacy, and support comprehensive reform of the Foreign Service Act.**

**Extreme Poverty:** The United States has been a leader in efforts to reduce extreme poverty around the world through foreign aid and the promotion of good governance. That leadership helped produce results: over the last thirty years, the global poverty rate has dropped from 36% to 10%, with 1.1 billion people lifted out of extreme poverty. Global poverty eradication has meant new markets for U.S. businesses, new opportunities for youth that reduce the pull of extremism, and strengthened health systems to prevent and manage pandemics. The United States drove the adoption in 2015 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a comprehensive blueprint to end extreme poverty by 2030. Unfortunately, according to the World Bank, global extreme poverty rates increased in 2020 for the first time in over 20 years due to the compounding challenges posed by COVID-19 and climate change. **We ask Congress to increase U.S. development assistance and other efforts to end extreme poverty.**

**Fighting Corruption:** Global corruption, and related threats to the rule of law, have emerged as a growing national security challenge. In a number of U.S. partner states, mineral revenues have contributed to government corruption, leading to poverty, hunger, and instability, with significant consequences for American national security. In the U.S., shell companies have been used to facilitate money laundering, including through the real estate sector, and to funnel money illegally to American political campaigns. Congress took strong bipartisan action by passing the Corporate Transparency Act, which requires transparent beneficial ownership of all U.S. companies. But more is needed to prevent illicit money from flowing through the American financial system, to block foreign actors from influencing our democracy, and to combat bribery abroad. **We ask Congress to support new legislation to fight global corruption at home and abroad and to increase funding for existing anti-corruption programs.**
Gender Equity: Around the world, women and girls face significant obstacles to their full and equal participation in society. Women and girls are often excluded from leadership and decision-making structures despite facing the brunt of negative consequences from poverty, conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The intersecting identities of women and girls, including their race, ethnicity, religion, ability status, and other identities can create additional vulnerabilities and risks for further marginalization. But studies have shown that gender equity strengthens economies and enhances efforts to prevent and end conflicts and sustain peace. Investing in and promoting equality, health, and human rights regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity is vital to the advancement of our broader development, foreign policy, and national security goals. The State Department and USAID have a well-established history of working to promote gender equity, encourage the political and economic empowerment of women and girls, prevent gender-based violence, and engage women in peacebuilding efforts around the world. We ask Congress to support comprehensive and intersectional approaches to advancing gender equity through U.S. foreign policy.

Global Health: With the spread of COVID-19, pandemics have emerged as a top national security priority for the United States. COVID-19 has shown that no one is safe from pandemics until everyone is safe from pandemics. Global health programs, like the President’s Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President’s Malaria Initiative, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which have long enjoyed bipartisan support, are all the more important today to advance global security, assist the development, stability, and growth of our trade partners, and compete against China’s growing influence. At the same time, it is essential that the U.S. renew its leadership in international partnerships like the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, and permanently end harmful policies like the Mexico City Policy, which punishes foreign non-profit organizations for even speaking about abortion providers. We ask Congress to increase U.S. support for international efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future pandemics, and support legislation to permanently repeal the Mexico City Policy.

Immigration: The United States is a nation of refugees and immigrants, and for centuries has stood as a beacon of freedom and hope. President Ronald Reagan pointed to the extraordinary value of welcoming immigrants: “They brought with them courage, ambition and the values of family, neighborhood, work, peace and freedom. We all came from different lands but we shared the same values, the same dream.” But under the Trump Administration, the U.S. government turned away legal asylum seekers in violation of international law, expressly attacked Muslims fleeing conflict zones, and admitted historically low numbers of refugees at a time of rising global conflict. In place of smart investments in border technology, he announced a wall, rooted in racist campaign rhetoric. In place of foreign aid to address underlying causes of migration from Central America, Trump implemented inhumane border measures to deter families, including family separation and child imprisonment. President Biden has committed to reverse each of these policies. We ask Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that strengthens our asylum system, protects the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, prohibits discrimination based on religion, and addresses underlying causes of migration in Central America.
International Affairs Budget: As the Biden Administration enters office facing a global pandemic and recession, America’s diplomatic and development tools are underfunded and understaffed. Bipartisan majorities in Congress repeatedly rejected President Trump’s attempts to slash funding for American diplomacy and foreign aid programs. But under his leadership, the State Department was hollowed out, with talented senior leaders forced out of their roles and mid-career professionals abandoning their careers in large numbers. Highly effective USAID programs were cut. Today there is an urgent need to ramp up investment in our non-military toolkit for advancing U.S. interests in the world. We ask Congress to reject politicized attacks on foreign aid programs, and to increase funding for the International Affairs budget.

International Organizations: Since World War II, U.S. leadership in international organizations has played an important role in advancing our security and interests. However, that leadership was deeply undermined when the Trump Administration moved to pull out of the WHO in the midst of a global pandemic, withheld and delayed funds to pay our UN regular budget assessments, cut off funding for UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) and UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine), and withdrew from the U.N. Human Rights Council. Making matters worse, an outdated congressional cap on U.N. peacekeeping dues has left the U.S. with more than $1.1 billion in arrears. These policies have imperiled valuable U.N. activities and left a vacuum at the same time that China and Russia have significantly expanded their engagement at the U.N. President Biden has moved to reverse some of these harmful decisions, signing an order to halt the U.S. withdrawal from WHO. But far more is needed to rebuild U.S. leadership and influence at the UN and other international organizations. We ask Congress to support paying U.S. dues to the UN on-time and in-full, appropriate funds necessary to pay our arrears, and increase voluntary contributions including renewing U.S. support for UNFPA and UNRWA.

Iran: In May 2018, the Trump Administration broke with U.S. commitments to the JCPOA and imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran as part of a so-called “maximum pressure” campaign. Also known as the Iran Nuclear Deal, the JCPOA was negotiated and signed by the U.S., European Union, Germany, China, Russia, France, the UK, and Iran. It blocked Iran’s pathways to a nuclear weapon and required Iran to accept a strict new inspections regime in exchange for an end to its international isolation and sanctions. The JCPOA worked: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors and U.S. officials repeatedly reported that Iran was in compliance with the deal. But since Trump’s decision, Iran has increased its uranium enrichment capacity, and is threatening to take further steps to violate the JCPOA. The Biden Administration has made clear its intent to return the U.S. to compliance with the JCPOA, so long as Iran does the same, and to use that as a foundation for further diplomacy. We ask members of Congress to support these diplomatic efforts and to reject new sanctions that would impede a U.S. return to compliance.
**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 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 U.S. 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 encouraged unilateral actions that take the parties farther away from a negotiated peace, and set back the quest for dignity, security, and self-determination for Palestinians as well as Israelis. **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.**

**North Korea:** North Korea’s nuclear weapons and ballistic missile program remains one of the most challenging threats to the security of the U.S. and our allies. A military conflict with North Korea could result in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and could spiral out of control into a broader regional conflict. The despotic Kim Jong Un regime has used money laundering, counterfeiting, overseas labor, and drug trafficking to enrich itself and pay for its WMD program, all while committing gross human rights violations at home. The U.N. estimates that 40% of the population is in need of some form of humanitarian assistance related to chronic food insecurity, widespread malnutrition, and limited access to clean water and quality health services - challenges likely compounded by the pandemic. Sustained and agile diplomacy is needed to make progress on an incremental and reciprocal approach to the North Korean nuclear issue with the ultimate goal of full denuclearization. **We ask Members of Congress to support diplomatic efforts to verifiably freeze and eventually roll back North Korea’s nuclear program and to oppose Congressional sanctions that would impede diplomatic negotiations or hinder the provision of humanitarian assistance.**

**Nuclear Risk Reduction:** Every U.S. president since John F. Kennedy, with the exception of Donald Trump, has sought to negotiate and has secured nuclear risk reduction and arms control agreements. Instead of reducing nuclear risks, President Trump increased them. Not only did he walk away from President Reagan’s 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and fail to extend the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), President Trump deployed dangerous “low yield” nuclear weapons and accelerated an extraordinarily expensive and excessive project to replace every leg of the nuclear triad. For example, he fast-tracked a project to replace all 400 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), which is estimated to cost $264 billion over the entire lifecycle of the system. The ground-based ICBM is uniquely prone to accident and miscalculation because, unlike nuclear missile armed submarines and strategic aircraft, the president has only minutes to decide whether to launch them on warning of an attack. **We ask Members of Congress to eliminate wasteful spending in the nuclear modernization program and to support nuclear negotiations with Russia and other nuclear powers.**
**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 for the American middle class and the global economy, the U.S. should work to ensure that global trade rules enforce core labor standards and promote economic security for working people and advance climate protections 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 ask Congress to support trade agreements that promote shared prosperity and effectively protect workers and the environment, and to fund the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the Department of Commerce to undertake robust enforcement of existing trade agreements.*

**Use of Military Force:** Article I of the Constitution assigns to Congress the power to declare war. But today, two decades after the passage of the 2001 Authorization of the Use of Military Force (AUMF) in the wake of 9/11, the United States remains enmeshed in an expanding “war on terror” without clearly defined limits or congressional oversight. These wars have cost U.S. taxpayers over $6 trillion, left hundreds of thousands dead, and displaced millions more. More recently, the 2002 AUMF to invade Iraq was invoked by the Trump Administration to justify escalating hostilities with Iran. Transnational terrorism remains a threat today, but it is long past time for Congress to reclaim its constitutional authority on matters of war and peace. *We support the repeal of the 2002 AUMF and 2001 AUMF, and the replacement of the 2001 AUMF with new time-limited legislation that authorizes the use of military force in specific countries against specifically named terrorist groups while enhancing congressional oversight and public transparency.*