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One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

August 9, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director of the Office of Management and Budget
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable John Bolton
National Security Advisor
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Mulvaney and Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing to express concern over the Administration's ongoing foreign assistance reviews and budget rescission deliberations, and to request your immediate assistance in providing the Committee with the information necessary to execute its Constitutional responsibilities related to the U.S. foreign operations budget.

As you may know, I have supported the concept of a broad foreign assistance review, as well as specific reviews of U.S. programs in Syria, South Sudan, and the West Bank and Gaza. It is critical that U.S. taxpayer dollars be spent efficiently and effectively to best advance our national interests.

However, despite our requests, the Committee still lacks critical information about who is conducting the reviews, the criteria being used to determine effectiveness, and the anticipated timeline for completion. Further, it appears the Department of State and USAID – the agencies responsible for designing and implementing these programs – have been kept out of the review process.

With the end of the fiscal year being near and the aid reviews still ongoing, the Administration should not seek to achieve the damaging cuts it sought in fiscal years 2017 and 2018 – reductions that were roundly rejected by Congress – by simply allowing funds to expire and proposing the rescission of unobligated balances. Funds for critical foreign assistance programs, including security and life-saving humanitarian assistance, should be released without further delay.

I urge you to provide the Committee more information on the ongoing foreign assistance reviews, to solicit and incorporate feedback from the impacted agencies, and to facilitate the timely obligation and expenditure of funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Royce".

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman