



EAGL Coalition Applauds First Step Toward Long Overdue Accountability and Transparency at International Organizations

Senate Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Bill Includes Report Language Stressing Greater Accountability and Transparency at International Organizations

Washington, D.C., September 14, 2017 – Today, the EAGL Coalition applauded the Senate Appropriations Committee for stressing the need for U.S. leadership and for greater accountability at international organizations in language included in the Senate Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Bill Report. The report includes language requiring a cost-benefit analysis for contributions to certain international institutions to ensure that they adhere to U.S. national interests and are cost effective.

National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Vice President of International Economic Affairs Linda Dempsey said,

“As we discuss the United States’ role abroad and at international institutions, businesses and constituents across the nation have sent a clear message: our government must engage these institutions – but also must see transparency and accountability.

It appears Congress is starting to take notice.

Language in the report accompanying the Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Bill – passed this week by the Senate Appropriations Committee – requires a cost-benefit analysis of U.S. contributions to a number of international organizations. While this bill has not yet gone all the way through Congress, it is an important first step toward long overdue accountability and transparency at these institutions.

These institutions are vital for global prosperity and integration and the U.S. must remain at the table and active. However, this most recent appropriations language is a clear signal that the United States will not sit on the sidelines, but will push for much-needed reform. I’m encouraged that Congressional leadership has taken notice of the need for accountability at these organizations, to address activities that undermine U.S. manufacturers, workers, and interest.

We hope Congress will continue to show leadership on these issues, and pave the way for greater collaboration and fairness abroad.”

BACKGROUND

The Senate Appropriations Committee last week [marked up](#) the State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) bill. Final language in the accompanying report, just been released today, stresses the importance of U.S. engagement but also the need for greater accountability and transparency at international organizations. The language is as follows:

Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Bill

The Committee recognizes the importance of United States engagement with international organizations, including the United Nations [U.N.], the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the World Trade Organization. The Committee believes that fully meeting U.S. commitments to such organizations, combined with robust engagement to promote transparency and accountability to member states, is important to U.S. security and economic interests. The Committee recognizes and appreciates the leadership of the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and the U.N. Secretary-General in advancing reforms within the United Nations.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Not later than 180 days after the enactment of the act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a cost-benefit analysis of each contribution made to an international organization receiving \$5,000,000 or less in the most recent report of U.S. contributions to international organizations submitted pursuant to section 4(b) of the United Nations Participation Act (22 U.S.C. 287b(b)). The analysis shall include an assessment of: (1) the extent to which the U.S. contribution and the mission of such organization align with the U.S. national interest; (2) the efficacy and cost effectiveness of the operations and programs conducted by such organization; and (3) whether the organization conducts or funds programs and activities similar to other organizations included in the report, and the extent of any such overlap. The Secretary of State shall consult with the Committee prior to conducting the cost-benefit analysis.

Earlier this year, in a poll conducted by Morning Consult, the EAGL Coalition found that 60 percent of U.S. voters believe that international organizations play a necessary role, but over 75 percent of registered voters believe that the United States must do a better job in promoting our interests at international institutions.

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Comprising 26 industry associations throughout America's dynamic manufacturing economy, Engaging America's Global Leadership ([EAGL](#)) promotes strong U.S. leadership at the United Nations and champions outcomes in all global forums that support manufacturing and jobs.