

Highlighted FY 2015 State and Foreign Operations Provisions

1. Senate Provision on Prioritization of Policewomen in Pakistan

Bill Language: *Funds appropriated by this Act under the heading “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement” that are available for assistance for Pakistan should be made available to enhance the recruitment, retention, and professionalism of women in Pakistan’s police and other security forces.*

Committee Report Language: The Committee directs that priority be given to the recruitment, retention, and professionalization of women in Pakistan’s police forces. Funds should be focused on investing in targeted female recruitment initiatives, providing appropriate equipment for female police officers, strengthening policewomen networks and associations, improving policewomen’s access to training in specialized policing skills, and promoting gender-sensitive training of all police forces.

2. Senate Provisions on Afghan Women

Bill Language: Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “Economic Support Fund” and “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement” for assistance for Afghanistan[...]shall be prioritized for programs that promote women’s economic and political empowerment, strengthen and protect the rights of women and girls, and to implement the United States Embassy Kabul Gender Strategy.

Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “Economic Support Fund” and “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement” for assistance for the central Government of Afghanistan may not be obligated unless the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the Committees on Appropriations that [...] the Government of Afghanistan [...] is taking consistent steps to protect and advance the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan.

ENDOWMENT TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS.—Funds appropriated under the heading “Economic Support Fund” in this Act and prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs may be made available for an endowment to empower women and girls in Afghanistan, following consultation with the appropriate congressional committees.

Report Language: The Committee is concerned with the impact of the U.S. military withdrawal on the political, social, and economic gains of Afghan women. The Committee expects that gender-related programs and activities will remain a top U.S. Government priority during the transition, particularly those that prioritize women’s inclusion in political and security processes well as efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. In addition, the Committee supports the direct participation of women in any reconciliation negotiations and reintegration efforts.

To protect the legacy of U.S. support for Afghan women and girls, section 7044(a)(7) of this act provides authority for the establishment of an endowment to empower women and girls in that country. The Department of State and USAID, as appropriate, shall consult with the Committee on the specific requirements and parameters of such endowment.

3. Senate Provision on Women's Inclusion in Syria Negotiations

Bill Language: Funds appropriated under title III of this Act and prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law for humanitarian and other assistance for programs to address the needs of civilians affected by conflict in Syria, and for programs that seek to [...] expand the role of women in negotiations to end the violence and in any political transition in Syria.