



December 2022

In last year's annual letter, we looked ahead at the coming year with a sense that the dramatic shifts we were experiencing in the political landscape in the United States – and globally – would be as difficult to anticipate as those ahead of us this time last year. We pointed to the pandemic and to China's and Russia's growing aggressive posture as drivers of the uncertainty and risk that only global leadership by the United States could counter.

Last year's "predictions" required no special insights and were more of a recognition of what was at stake. But even with such anticipation, the events that came to pass were a shock as disorder suddenly gave way to a decisive and violent course in Europe.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine came less than a month after last year's letter, thrusting us into an era of challenges and demands for American leadership and strength not seen since the Cold War, and prompting a rapid expansion of NATO that, just five years ago, would have seemed unlikely and perhaps even unnecessarily provocative. Addressing China's increasingly aggressive behavior has gained an unanticipated urgency, with the possibility of military aggression against its neighbors transformed from a growing concern to a clear and present danger. The pandemic's contribution to geopolitical disorder is becoming clear, and the scale of human and economic damage of pandemic threats demands rethinking traditional definitions of national security.

At home, the political landscape seems to have shifted significantly but evolved little. The narrow margins of control in both chambers of Congress that should foster bipartisanship has at times done the opposite. Partisanship ending at the water's edge is not dead, but the understanding of the necessity of unity of purpose at home to meet global threats is sick and faces an uncertain prognosis. This comes at a time when U.S. leadership has been compelled from "nice to do" to "must do" across the activities of the government that are supported through the foreign affairs budget.

This assessment of the past year and anticipation for the coming year is not meant to sound bleak or pessimistic. It is instead an observation of the abiding importance of 150PAC's mission. We fulfill our mission by supporting leadership on issues that are not everyday dinner table topics but are of fundamental importance to our lives.

To the Members of Congress we support, our message is often a sober appeal to take sometimes politically challenging positions and support foreign affairs funding in the face of the pull of money, public visibility, and partisan satisfaction of issues that work against us. The good news is that our appeal is common-sense, clear, and successful. For members who are new to our list of targets, 150PAC's mission and existence is always a welcome surprise.



During the past year, with your generosity and commitment, we have supported both stalwart defenders of funding for America's global leadership as well as cultivated new and promising allies. In the House, that included established and reliable leaders like Tom Cole, Barbara Lee, Mario Diaz-Balart, Cathy McMorris Rogers, Kay Granger, Nancy Pelosi, Joe Wilson, and Adam Smith – all of whom will maintain or step into key leadership positions. Reps. Granger, Wilson, and Smith sought input and provided guidance on engagement of incoming members to help shape their understanding of the critical role of foreign affairs funding for our national interests.

We continued to advance our mission through support and cultivation of emerging leaders in the House, including Mike Gallagher, Juaquin Castro, Andy Kim, Maria Salazar, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chrissy Houlahan, Chris Stewart, and Brian Fitzpatrick. Each of these members has deliberately sought leadership positions in foreign affairs and national security as part of their own, personal commitments to American leadership. Each of them also was pleased to support the mission of 150PAC, with Rep. Fitzpatrick providing guidance on which of his colleagues showed promise as emerging leaders, Rep. Gallagher engaging a thoughtful discussion on connecting national security to foreign affairs for voters, and Rep. Houlahan discussing new issues and avenues for engagement of new targets among her colleagues.

In the Senate, we supported Jim Risch, ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, as well as active committee members Todd Young and Tim Kaine. Jeanne Shaheen, Marco Rubio, and Bill Hagerty, who sit on both Foreign Relations Committee as well as Appropriations' Foreign Operations subcommittee, were also 150PAC targets this year. We supported both incoming Appropriations full committee chair Patty Murray and ranking member Susan Collins. In addition, we supported especially active Foreign Operations Appropriations leaders Lindsey Graham, whose steadfast leadership is essential and support for 150PAC unwavering, and John Boozman, who has emerged as a strong and proactive supporter of foreign affairs funding and engagement.

We continued our tradition of organizing and hosting fundraisers, pulling together committed supporters and donors for two members in each chamber, this year including Rep. Mike McCaul, the incoming chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; Rep. Barbara Lee, chair of the House State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee; Sen. Lisa Murkowski, whose leadership in the Appropriations committee and across the aisle is increasingly important for our work; and Sen. Robert Menendez, whose chairmanship of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and strong belief in American global leadership continues to be critical for Congress' engagement. Rep. McCaul was engaged and hungry for input for his coming bipartisan agenda and eager to help, clearly thriving on the lively, detailed discussion on shared objectives and his vision for a bipartisan committee agenda.

Political giving and popular elections are not a no-risk endeavor, and we were saddened by the losses of members we supported, including Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, who lost her primary to



a challenger who was defeated in November, and Rep. Tom Malinowski (supported in 2021), who lost his hotly contested race. Along with the retirement of establish leaders on foreign affairs, especially Pat Leahy, Roy Blunt, and Richard Shelby, these losses highlight the essential importance continued engagement and cultivation of new leaders.

The coming year in Congress and the transition from a narrow Democratic majority to a narrow Republican majority brings some uncertainty, but also a clear opportunity to advance our work and mission. Rep. McCaul has been vocally committed to continuing the tradition of bipartisanship demonstrated by Chairman Meeks, Chairman Royce, and Chairman Engel before him as chairmen of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Important opportunities for bipartisan leadership are included in his agenda, including opportunities to advance their colleagues' understanding of the importance of leadership through bipartisan legislative pushes on issues such as reauthorization of PEPFAR, which, perhaps more than anything in recent memory, has helped solidify understanding of the power and importance of enlightened foreign assistance leadership.

For the PAC itself, our all-volunteer model continues to be an essential contributor to our success, with *de minimis* operating expenses allowing all contributions to go toward advancing our mission. The transition in recent years from a fundraising approach built on an initial strategy of tapping our shared networks that evolved into a longer-term model for sustainability built on a loyal base of contributors who make recurring annual contribution has again proven to be an effective and cost-effective model.

We look forward to the coming year and all its challenges. Together, everyone from one-time, small-dollar contributors to our “max-out” annual supporters, are essential to our success. We are grateful for all the confidence you’ve show, your generosity, and especially your shared commitment to our mission throughout 2022 and for your continued commitment in the year to come.

With Best Regards,

The 150PAC.ORG Team

Andrew King

Todd Webster

Michael Miller

Nathan Daschle