



As 150PAC.ORG enters our tenth year, we would like to offer some thoughts about the past year and the transformation of the foreign affairs and development landscape it brought, looking to 2026 and what it means for us and for the mission you support.

Each new year has brought us to a conclusion of *now more than ever* regarding our mission and the year ahead. While the conclusion this year is no different, the reasons are different, more complex, and with greater implications for 150PAC's mission than in years past.

For the decade of 150PAC's existence, we've operated in a political landscape shaped by a general if not sometimes challenging political consensus around the role of American global leadership and the necessity of policies and funding that support that role.

The second Trump Administration's first days in office revealed that the consensus was not as strong as we'd believed, and the processes and parameters by which the Executive Branch and Congress established priorities were not a binding agreement.

Congress' deliberative decision-making and legislative calendar provided Members few options to guide or constrain a process that made little effort to distinguish the good and important from waste. In three months, most of what was built by decades of bipartisan cooperation was swept away in a process that seemed designed and conducted to maximize destructiveness.

By the summer, from the chaos a picture began to emerge where the value foreign assistance and global engagement are recognized, but where its purpose is very different from before. The long-term value of development has been set aside in favor of more direct and immediate advancement of a greater set of U.S. national interests. Influence is the measure of success and funding reductions are a measure of progress.

The Trump Administration's disruptive agenda is not arbitrary, but a response to the dramatic geopolitical changes brought by COVID-19, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the growing hostility of an ascendant China, among other subtle and apparent global shifts. In this context, the requirement for foreign assistance to clearly advance our national interests is not unreasonable, requiring some reconsideration of how we approach our mission.

It is easy to be discouraged by what has transpired over the past year. But the events have clarifying power, forcing a reckoning that we have not made as convincing a case as we expected. The events forced a reckoning with the fact that we always talked about a successful end of aid and transfer of "ownership," but we'd not taken the risks and made the hard decisions to make a meaningful transition reality.

The clarifying power for Congress made what seemed near-impossible possible: a bipartisan, bicameral, foreign operations funding bill for Fiscal Year 2026. It is a clear defense of American

leadership and Congress' belief in its abiding value, and that America's leadership in foreign affairs is not an anachronism or a drag on our ability to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

It is hard to overstate the significance of the bill. The bipartisan agreement that made it possible is not assured in the future, and the necessary compromise ahead does not guarantee a good, durable outcome. The differences between Congress and the Trump Administration cannot be easily reconciled.

For 150PAC, 2025 was a success. We engaged and supported more candidates in a more challenging environment than any other year. This milestone was made possible by your generosity.

Each year, 150PAC hosts four fundraisers to support those whose leadership and committee roles are the foundation for other members' support and whose commitment is indispensable. In 2025 hosted events for Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, chairman of the National Security, State Department, and Related Programs; Sen. Brian Schatz, ranking member of the appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations; Sen. Lindsey Graham, one of 150PAC's original supporters and ranking member of the appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations; and Sen. Patty Murray, ranking member of the full Committee on Appropriations.

Additionally, we again contributed to several members whose genuine commitment and growing leadership roles among their peers has been very important, including Rep. Young Kim, Rep. Pete Aguilar, Rep. Michael Baumgartner, Rep. Julia Letlow, Rep. Maria Salazar, Rep. Sara Jacobs, and Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove.

In the Senate, we supported four bipartisan leaders whose interest in national security has made them strong proponents for global engagement, including Sen. Mark Warner, Sen. Dan Sullivan, and freshmen Senators Tim Sheehy and Ruben Gallego.

Since our founding, one important aspect of 150PAC's engagement has been to cultivate new interest among members. In 2025, we supported two members whose own skepticism changed by witnessing firsthand the power of U.S. leadership overseas, including Rep. Chuck Edwards and Rep. Sheri Biggs. Their willingness to articulate that importance to their colleagues can be especially powerful.

Others whose bipartisan leadership 150PAC supported included in the Senate Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, Sen. John Cornyn, Sen. Katie Britt, and Sen. Martin Heinrich. In the House it included Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, Rep. Tom Cole, Rep. Hal Rogers, Rep. Joe Morelle, Rep. Julie Johnson, Rep. Lauren Underwood, and Rep. William Timmons.

Ten years of success and growth reflect the importance you place on American leadership and leaders who will sustain it. But we are conscious that this clarifying moment does not make the importance of 150PAC so self-evident, and our value-proposition so compelling, that we are relieved of the need for hard work and outreach.

The truth of *now more than ever* does not make our success a given in 2026. We are an all-volunteer effort, powered by a shared belief in the value of America to the world. With your support, we look forward to success in 2026 in the face of an unprecedented challenge to the traditions and commitments we seek to advance.

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