

HSGAC Hearing
Eliminating Waste by the Foreign Aid Bureaucracy
February 13th, 2025
Opening Statement as delivered

Today, we are going to dive into the reckless and wasteful spending of our federal government—particularly when it comes to foreign aid. The United States should not be the sugar daddy for the entire world, especially not for countries and organizations who act contrary to our nations' beliefs.

Our country is \$36 trillion in debt, yet we continue to send billions of dollars overseas, often funding projects that are not just useless but, in many cases, actively harmful.

Taking the path to fiscal responsibility is often a lonely journey, but thanks to Elon Musk and DOGE they've brought to light the waste that I've been highlighting for over the last decade. Every year, I release my *Festivus Report* to expose the ridiculous spending of the federal government, and this past year was no exception. I uncovered over \$1 trillion in government waste, with the State Department and USAID being some of the worst offenders. Let me give you just a few examples of what these unelected bureaucrats are spending your hard-earned money on:

- \$4.8 million went to Ukraine’s public affairs office in Kyiv—to fund social media influencers.
- Instead of protecting our own border, \$2.1 million was sent to Paraguay to “enhance” their border security.
- USAID also funded a group of Ukrainian women-led designers to travel to the Paris Fashion Show. I don’t know about you, but I’d imagine Ukrainian women have more important things to worry about than appearing in the Paris Fashion Show.
- USAID spent \$2 million on transgender surgeries, hormone therapy, and gender-affirming care in Guatemala.

- \$3 million was spent to promote “girl-centric climate action” in Brazil. I’d love to picture what a conversation about girl-centered climate action looks like. “Hey, Barbie. Do you know what girl-centered climate change is?” Since when do we believe arguments need to be tailored for girls to understand? How insulting to women, at-large, that they think there are special arguments for girls to understand that are different than boys?
- \$25,000 to fund a transgender opera in Colombia. Was nobody in Colombia willing to buy a ticket?
- USAID spent \$32,000 in Peru to create a comic featuring a Trans hero to address social and mental health

issues. What does that have to do with diplomacy?

- \$20,000 to fund a DEI promoting drag theater in Ecuador.
- \$20 million was spent to produce a new Sesame Street show in Iraq.
- USAID spent \$6 million to promote a project boosting sustainable tourism in Egypt. I guess the U.S. is now the travel agent for the entire world—since they spent \$50 million on Tunisia’s tourism, even though it is already one of the most visited countries in Africa.
- USAID gave \$87.9 million to help Afghans farm and incendetly, farm poppy—the plant from which opium is extracted. As of 2021, Afghanistan supplied 90% of the world’s heroin. I

thought the saying in the U.S. was just say no to drugs. How about we just say no to wasteful foreign aid?

- \$70,000 for a live musical event to promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Ireland.
- State Department paid \$330 thousand to compile a disinformation index to “blacklist” conservative media outlets.
- USAID funneled over \$54 million to EcoHealth Alliance—funding the very organization linked to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, the likely origin of the COVID-19 pandemic. Disgraceful.
- \$15 million was awarded to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan to distribute oral contraceptives and condoms. There’s still a \$3 billion fund for

Afghan reconstruction that I've tried to take that money to pay for other things that the government is spending money on, and yet there's been resistance by the other side—to deplete that fund and say, “We're done funding things in Afghanistan.”

This is just the tip of the iceberg. These are taxpayer dollars being used to fund ideologically misguided, ineffective, and unnecessary projects thanks to the blundering bureaucracy, while our own citizens struggle to put food on the table. This is not what our government was designed to do. The U.S. government is not a charity, and it should not be doling out cash to foreign organizations, some of

which actively oppose the United States, with no oversight.

And we don't have the money to give. We're borrowing the money we send. We need to ask a simple question: Why are we borrowing money to send money overseas? Even if USAID eliminated the crazy left-wing grants for trans operas, it still makes no sense to borrow money to, then turn around, and send it overseas. Borrowing money to send as charity is like the worker who has no money left after paying for their food, rent, and gas saying, "Oh, well I see this homeless person, I have such great sympathy. I'll go to the bank, and I'll borrow \$1,000 to to give to this person." That's what we are doing. We

can't pay for our own, and we are borrowing the money we send overseas.

That money could be used to pay down our \$36 trillion debt and take care of the American people—the very people who actually pay these taxes in the first place.

It's time for a real change. America should not continue to be the world's piggy bank. It is time to end the waste of foreign aid and end the bureaucracy and for once, do what's right by the American taxpayer.