

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2020

U. S. Representative Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on State, Foreign Operations, and Related
Programs
HT-2, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D. C. 20515

U. S. Representative Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on State, Foreign Operations, and Related
Programs
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Rogers:

We request the Committee consider funds appropriated under Title III may be made available specifically for trauma-based care in post-conflict zones and include corresponding report language. The Title III funds would encourage local capacity building in response to humanitarian and natural disasters and provide for the early response implementation of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in conflict zones worldwide. Moreover, funding would support mental health training and education for physicians and social workers to identify and treat individuals vulnerable to post-traumatic stress. Mental health services would be integrated into health screenings and early childhood development programs as a part of primary care. Providing funding for MHPSS empowers individuals and communities to be resilient and successful.

We request the Committee include the following report language: *Psychosocial Support for Trauma-based Foreign Assistance – The Committee recognizes the necessity of rapid response planning and implementation of mental health and psychosocial support services in conflict-affected areas. The Committee supports mental health training and education for health responders and aid workers to identify and treat individuals vulnerable to post-traumatic stress and integrate basic mental health services into health screenings and childhood development programs. Program progress should be supported by ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure program design and implementation complement existing intervention structure and function.*

Foreign assistance remains a critical need in developing societies worldwide. In designing efficient programs to promote the well-being and stability of communities as they transition from conflict, it is important to integrate a mental health component into humanitarian interventions. We respectfully ask that you provide Title III funding for MHPSS programming in the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs budget for Fiscal Year 2021. Thank you for your continued support of foreign aid.

Sincerely,



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Don Beyer
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

David Trone
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Susan Wild
Member of Congress