

Congressional Caucus *for*
**Effective
Foreign
Assistance**



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**CRENSHAW, SMITH: LEGISLATION MAKES STRIDES IN MODERNIZING
DELIVERY OF U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE**

Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act Passes House

WASHINGTON, DC -- United States Representatives Ander Crenshaw (R-FL) and Adam Smith (D-WA), Co-Chairmen of the Congressional Caucus for Effective Foreign Assistance, today (12/30) said legislation passed by the House on December 30 provides valuable improvements to the way the United States conducts and monitors its foreign assistance program.

The Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act (H.R. 3159), introduced by Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX), requires the President to establish - and the heads of federal agencies to implement - measurable goals, performance metrics, and monitoring and evaluation plans for all foreign assistance programs. By requiring agencies to keep the American people informed about where their money is spent and how effective the aid is, the bill brings transparency and accountability to the foreign assistance process.

Crenshaw and Smith issued the following statement:

“For our assistance to be most effective, it is critical that Congress and the American taxpayer have an accurate picture of how our foreign assistance programs are working. This legislation will require more transparency and accountability to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our foreign assistance resources. By capitalizing on the best practices in monitoring and evaluation of assistance developed by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act will help ensure that our foreign assistance dollars are maximized.”

The *Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act* is a sensible, bipartisan proposal and was reported favorably by both the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The ONE Foundation and Modernize Foreign Assistance Network have also expressed support for the bill.

BACKGROUND: Crenshaw and Smith launched the Congressional Caucus for Effective Foreign Assistance in May of 2012. Created for the purposes of examining the way the United States currently delivers foreign assistance, the Caucus will continue to explore success stories found in the efficient delivery of assistance with the goal of helping to further the overall effectiveness of foreign assistance.

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