

Congressman Ander Crenshaw (R-FL)

Co-Chair, Congressional Caucus for Effective Foreign Assistance

Comments at Caucus Kick-Off , May 13, 2011

Thank you all for attending the launch of the Congressional Caucus for Effective Foreign Assistance. Our membership includes a group of like-minded Members of Congress for the purposes of examining the way the United States currently delivers foreign assistance, exploring success stories found in the efficient delivery of assistance, and furthering the overall effectiveness of foreign assistance.

With today's current economic climate, it is even more important for government to use each and every dollar more efficiently and effectively. The way we deliver foreign assistance should not be immune from this analysis, and must be balanced to ensure that the United States successfully achieves its critical international policy objectives.

As we launch this caucus will examine how our nation delivers its foreign aid, outline success stories, and target how aid can be distributed effectively in the coming years. Stable international partners, accountability and transparency, access and development of sustainable global markets, poverty reduction, and greater national security can be developed from the effective delivery of foreign assistance. In our increasingly interconnected world, these goals are in everyone's best interest.

I want to take a moment to also thank those who have discussed the concept of the caucus and worked with us over the last few months as we prepared for today's event. Specifically, I want to acknowledge the insights and suggestions provided to our offices by Jim and Erin from the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Porter Delaney from the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network, and many others from many of the organizations that are represented here today.

In a moment, we will hear from the Caucus' co-chair and our Keynote Speaker, but before I turn to Congressman Smith for his remarks, I want to make sure that everyone understands that our launch today is a two-part event.

First we will hear from our distinguished guest speaker, Dr. Raj Shah and then after a short break, we will move into the Caucuses first Roundtable discussion - "The Importance of Effective Foreign Assistance."

Unfortunately, I will not be able to stay for the entire event today, but I wanted to thank our panel of experts for being here today –

- Mark Green, Senior Director USGLC, member of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Board of Directors, ret. Member of Congress and Ambassador
- Ray Offenheiser, President of Oxfam America
- David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World (Co-Chair, Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network)
- Asif Shaikh, President and CEO International Resources Group, and
- Dr. Jonathan Quick, President and CEO of Management Sciences for Health

Again, thanks for being here today – if you are with a Member’s office and you would like to join the caucus, we welcome your support – just see John or Katy before you leave today and we will add you to the group.

With that, I’d like to introduce our co-chair, Congressman Adam Smith for any comments he may have.

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