



# AAD Applauds Introduction of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act to Strengthen American Diplomacy

## Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, D.C.: The American Academy of Diplomacy (AAD) applauds the efforts of Congressman Howard Berman, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in calling for 1500 additional Foreign Service Officers over the next two years to enable the U.S. State Department to respond to modern foreign policy challenges. The Congressman introduced the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY 2010 and 2011 (H.R. 2410) on Thursday, which also contains provisions on recruitment and training of officers, support for public diplomacy, and improvement of Consular services.

"This is a significant step towards advancing America's national security interests," said **Ambassador Ronald E. Neumann** (ret.), president of the American Academy of Diplomacy.

The [Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011](#) supports efforts to rebuild the capacity of the Department of State to fulfill its core diplomatic mission in fulfilling U.S. national security goals. It also authorizes the resources necessary for the United States to meet its financial commitments to the United Nations and other international organizations that support a wide range of U.S. national security, foreign policy and economic goals.

"Securing adequate staffing and resources for the U.S. State Department is paramount to fixing the human capital crisis that has hobbled US diplomacy worldwide, crippled its response to crises, and inappropriately thrown additional foreign policy burdens on the military," said **Ambassador Thomas Boyatt**, chairman of AAD's Foreign Affairs Budget Project.

According to a recent AAD report, "[A Foreign Affairs Budget for the Future](#)," the State Department, USAID, and related organizations currently lack the tools to meet today's complex global challenges. The report calls for urgent investments in diplomacy and development assistance to rebuild America's foreign affairs capability.

Specifically, the report says President Obama needs **4,735 more diplomats and development professionals**-a growth of 46%-- over the next five years, in order to implement a successful foreign policy.

Appropriately funding, staffing, and training America's diplomatic corps is in the best interests of our country's national security, and is an important reflection of America's strong commitment to diplomacy.

Access the "[Foreign Affairs Budget for the Future](#)" report  
Access the [Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011](#)

### About the American Academy of Diplomacy

The [American Academy of Diplomacy](#) was founded in 1983 by Ambassadors Ellsworth Bunker, U. Alexis Johnson, and John J. McCloy to explore ways in which persons who had served in positions of major responsibility could cooperate to promote the highest standards in the practice of American diplomacy. Today, the Academy is dedicated to strengthening the resources and tools America brings to managing its diplomatic challenges, and accomplishes this through outreach programs, lectures, awards, and writing competitions. In doing so, the Academy promotes an understanding of the importance of diplomacy to serving our nation and enhancing America's standing in the world.