

# CONTRA COSTA TIMES

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## Restore funds

The International Affairs Account supports all U.S. foreign aid, including global health, basic education and microfinance. It also funds the Peace Corps, debt relief for poor countries, overseas embassies, contributions to multilateral organizations like UNICEF, the World Health Organization and many other investments that facilitate our nonmilitary engagement with the world.

Despite the request of eight former secretaries of state and 50 senior retired military leaders, this funding has been cut by \$4 billion.

Thank you to Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein who joined in on this request with 58 other senators, acknowledging that effective investment in global prosperity has the potential to make our country more secure. They realize that this investment will save lives and money.

Last year, Congress had to go through the process of restoring similar funding for this year's budget. I hope our senators will continue to work for this funding that will help make our nation and world safer through proven diplomatic means.

**Bill Nicholson  
Martinez**