Pakistanis burning the U.S. flag and shouting, "Whoever is a friend of America is a traitor of the land." Clearly, Mr. Speaker, instead of winning the hearts and minds, we are giving terrorists a recruitment tool.

Pakistan has not always been the most trustworthy, but they are an ally—and let's not forget, a nuclear power—with whom we share important mutual interests. We need their cooperation if there is going to be political reconciliation and long-term stability in the region as neighboring Afghanistan. This incident leads me to believe more strongly than ever that we must redeploy our troops out of Afghanistan. We have very difficult diplomatic work to do there—work that is being complicated, not facilitated, by our military presence.

After more than 10 years of failed war that is undermining our security interests, it's time to change our role in the region from one of military occupation to partners in a more balanced relationship based on mutual trust, one that will lead to the stabilizing influences of 100,000 troops from the United States. Perhaps instead of de-stabilizing Afghanistan, this SMART security strategy I've talked about so many times from this very spot.

While it's true that we send enormous amounts of foreign aid to Pakistan, the overwhelming majority of it goes to the military, with very little trickling down to the people. We could instead spend more to boost Pakistan's literacy rate, or more investment in key infrastructure projects, the growth of civil society, or life-changing humanitarian efforts.

To give one specific example, Pakistan is one of four countries on Earth—and Afghanistan is one of the others—that hasn't completely eradicated polio. For pennies on the dollar, compared to our military expenditures, we can help provide the vaccination that would enter this letter into the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years later, we continue to shortchange HIV efforts in poverty-stricken communities; we fail to fully include women in outreach education and treatment; and we lack the resources for communities of color. This is just simply unacceptable. So I hope the House will be willing to break the unjust and ineffective HIV travel ban.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I was proud to have played a role in overturning the unjust and ineffective HIV travel ban in 2013. And, now, for the very first time in 20 years, the International AIDS Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in July of 2012. So let me encourage every Member and their staff to engage with the leading researchers and doctors in the worldwide fight against HIV and AIDS. Our global leadership will never be more important than at this promising moment of reversal, when we could move forward or we could go back to where we were.

OFFERED AS AN AMENDMENT TO HR. 1661, THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND OTHER AREAS

Mr. Speaker, it’s time for SMART security strategy I’ve talked about so many times from this very spot. While it’s true that we send enormous amounts of foreign aid to Pakistan, the overwhelming majority of it goes to the military, with very little trickling down to the people. We could instead spend more to boost Pakistan's literacy rate, or more investment in key infrastructure projects, the growth of civil society, or life-changing humanitarian efforts.

To give one specific example, Pakistan is one of four countries on Earth—and Afghanistan is one of the others—that hasn’t completely eradicated polio. For pennies on the dollar, compared to our military expenditures, we can help provide the vaccination that would enter this letter into the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years later, we continue to shortchange HIV efforts in poverty-stricken communities; we fail to fully include women in outreach education and treatment; and we lack the resources for communities of color. This is just simply unacceptable. So I hope the House will be willing to break the unjust and ineffective HIV travel ban.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I was proud to have played a role in overturning the unjust and ineffective HIV travel ban in 2013. And, now, for the very first time in 20 years, the International AIDS Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. in July of 2012. So let me encourage every Member and their staff to engage with the leading researchers and doctors in the worldwide fight against HIV and AIDS. Our global leadership will never be more important than at this promising moment of reversal, when we could move forward or we could go back to where we were.
markets. More specifically, we urge you to support, at the very least, $9.25 billion for the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and $700 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as explicitly allocated in S. 1601. In total, we support $10.85 billion for the Global Fund of which $380 million is contained in the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill. Moreover, we are strongly opposed to language contained in the House Subcommittee Mark prohibiting funding for syringes exchange programs, which are proven to reduce the incidence of HIV infection.

U.S. global health programs, including PEPFAR, along with U.S. contributions to the Global Fund, are reducing disease burden in low- and middle-income countries, and these programs support national security and diplomatic elements for the United States. Global health programs directly impact American security interests by stabilizing parts of the world where extremism and a lack of alternatives are a recipe for future conflict. The economic impact of global health activities is also felt in the U.S., including millions of jobs and a boost to the U.S. economy, which ensures that countries themselves are responsible for building their own sustainable programs. The Global Fund has a robust history of improving its function and continues to do so through its recent announcement of an improvements agenda to further ensure every dollar is utilized effectively, remains accountable, and is transparent.

We also welcome PEPFAR's leadership on advancing combination HIV prevention approaches and urge the conferences to ensure that these interventions are implemented to their fullest and meet the needs of those most at-risk, especially marginalized populations. Moreover, integration of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programs—and where appropriate, other critical global health programs funded by this bill, including maternal health, child survival, family planning, and a health and nutrition—critical for ensuring that the health needs of individuals are met and the impact of funding is maximized.

In recent months, U.S.-funded research has made enormous progress in shaping the response to AIDS and malaria worldwide. These remarkable scientific advances call for a renewed emphasis on ensuring that we maintain robust support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund and continue the vital U.S. commitment to the fight against global HIV/AIDS epidemics.

These programs amount to a fraction of one percent of the federal budget, but they affect millions of lives and are a powerful weapon against future conflicts, open up developing markets, and will have lasting impact on the global AIDS epidemic in the long term.

Thank you for considering this request. Barbara Lee, Member of Congress; Wm. Lacy Clay, Member of Congress; Bobby Rush, Member of Congress; Maurice Hinchry, Member of Congress; Donna Christensen, Member of Congress; Donald Payne, Member of Congress; John Lewis, Member of Congress; Keith Ellison, Member of Congress; Emanuel Cleaver, Member of Congress; Dale Kildee, Member of Congress; Sheila Jackson Lee, Member of Congress; Pete Stark, Member of Congress; Tommy Baldwin, Member of Congress; John Conyers, Jr., Member of Congress; John Sarbanes, Member of Congress; Mike Quigley, Member of Congress; Eleanor Holmes Norton, Member of Congress; Gwen Moore, Member of Congress; Karen Bass, Member of Congress; Frederick Wilson, Member of Congress; Diana DeGette, Member of Congress; Yvette Clarke, Member of Congress; Edolphus Towns, Member of Congress; Lynn Woolsey, Member of Congress; Bruce Braley, Member of Congress; Raúl Grijalva, Member of Congress; Barney Frank, Member of Congress; Donna Edwards, Member of Congress; Lucille Roybal-Allard, Member of Congress; Nick Rahall, Member of Congress; Theodore Deutch, Member of Congress; Alcee Hastings, Member of Congress; Terri Sewell, Member of Congress; Carolyn Maloney, Member of Congress; Tim Ryan, Member of Congress; Grace Napolitano, Member of Congress; Russ Carnahan, Member of Congress; Mario Díaz-Balart, Member of Congress; Colleen Hanabusa, Member of Congress; Hansan Clarke, Member of Congress; Sanford Bishop, Member of Congress; Ed Perlmutter, Member of Congress; Charles Rangel, Member of Congress; Robert Brady, Member of Congress; G.K. Butterfield, Member of Congress; Elijah Cummings, Member of Congress; Eddie Bernice Johnson, Member of Congress; Henry Waxman, Member of Congress; Danny Davis, Member of Congress; Mike Honda, Member of Congress; Sam Farr, Member of Congress; David Scott, Member of Congress; Joe Baca, Member of Congress; Betty Sutton, Member of Congress; John Garamendi, Member of Congress; Melvin Watt, Member of Congress; Dennis Kucinich, Member of Congress; Peter DeFazio, Member of Congress; Cedric Richmond, Member of Congress; Jackie Speier, Member of Congress; Doris Matsui, Member of Congress; Carolyn Maloney, Member of Congress; Bobby Scott, Member of Congress; Steve Cohen, Member of Congress; Laura Richardson, Member of Congress; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Member of Congress; Rubén Hinojosa, Member of Congress; James Moran, Member of Congress; Gary Ackerman, Member of Congress; Andre Carson, Member of Congress; Bennie Thompson, Member of Congress; Hank Johnson, Member of Congress; Corrine Brown, Member of Congress; Al Green, Member of Congress; Judy Chu, Member of Congress; Bob Filner, Member of Congress; Jared Polis, Member of Congress; Cory Booker, Member of Congress; Chaka Fattah, Member of Congress; Albio Sires, Member of Congress; Joseph Crowley, Member of Congress; Ed Pastor, Member of Congress; Zoe Lofgren, Member of Congress; Michael Capuano, Member of Congress; Louise Slaughter, Member of Congress; Chris Van Hollen, Member of Congress; Shelley Berkley, Member of Congress; Howard Berman, Member of Congress; José Serrano, Member of Congress; Rosa DeLauro, Member of Congress; Lois Capps, Member of Congress; Luis Gutierrez, Member of Congress; David Cicilline, Member of Congress; James McGovern, Member of Congress; Jerrold Nadler, Member of Congress; David Price, Member of Congress; Sander Levin, Member of Congress; Madeleine Bordallo, Member of Congress; Rush Holt, Member of Congress; Gregory Meeks, Member of Congress; John Olver, Member of Congress; Elijah Cummings, Member of Congress; Earl Blumenauer, Member of Congress; George Miller, Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Jay Therrell, Cape Coral First United Methodist Church, Cape Coral, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father. Your word says that “from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.” Today, we offer our gratitude for the blessings of freedom You have given our Nation. You have blessed us with our Constitution. Acknowledging our blessings, we pray that You would continue to remind us that America has been blessed to be a blessing to others.

Grant the Members of this House of Representatives Your wisdom and grace to provide leadership at home and around the world. Help our country to continue to be a light to everyone by pointing all people to true freedom and justice that can only come from You.

As we enter this season of hope, please bless this Congress and all of our leaders with Your guidance to make decisions filled with Your love. God, please continue to bless America, but please help America to bless You.

We ask these things in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HULTGREN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The House stood at attention until the conclusion of the Pledge of Allegiance.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.