

REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES

Proposed Appropriation Language

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For representation allowances as authorized, [~~\$7,484,000~~] *\$7,679,000*.

REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 CR ⁽¹⁾	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
Positions - Enduring	0	0	0	0
Enduring Funds	8,030	7,345	7,679	(351)

(1) The FY 2013 CR is based on the annualized continuing resolution calculation for FY 2013 (P.L. 112-175).

Program Description

Pursuant to Section 905 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, as amended, Representation Allowances permit Ambassadors, principal officers at constituent posts, and other Foreign Service officers with critical contacts in the host country, to obtain partial reimbursement for expenses incurred while on official commission overseas. The development and maintenance of official contacts abroad, either through host-country government official counterparts or through influential host-country private citizens and opinion makers, are a vital tool to diplomats who pursue policy outcomes through dialogue and negotiations that both, convey U.S. foreign policy goals and objectives as well as inform U.S. bilateral and multilateral policies.

Representation Allowances support advancing U.S. foreign policy goals such as economic and environmental security, enabling a dialogue that opens new markets for American products and helps secure jobs and businesses in the homeland. For example, Embassy Beijing hosted bilateral discussions to increase visa reciprocity. Changing reciprocity will greatly increase Chinese businesses and tourism to the United States, and at the same time increase the productivity of consular visa operations. Also, many embassies conduct events in support of strategic economic dialogue facilitating technical discussions on economic issues such as intellectual property rights, and opening markets to level the playing field and help American businesses.

Representation Allowances also help facilitate opportunities to communicate American values to promote a better understanding of U.S. investments in diplomacy and development on a wide range of issues ranging from security to human rights, rule of law, gender equality, to changing climate concerns. Representation Allowances expenses represent a small investment rendering returns potentially valued many times over in terms of policy impact.

Justification of Request

The FY 2014 Request is \$7.7 million, a net \$334,000 increase over FY 2013 CR levels. Representation activities directly contribute to engagement with foreign counterparts, thus enabling the environment for diplomacy, advancing U.S. led development efforts, and aligning with Presidential Policy Directives on global development and with the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR).

Major priorities in FY2014 include:

- Seek, develop and promote initiatives and opportunities to deepen economic and trade ties between the United States and Africa through continued support for representational activities at the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) bi-annual conference;

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- Support formal and informal opportunities to pursue economic outreach and meetings with key local officials and business communities to increase trade with China and other Asian countries;
- Facilitate bilateral engagement that promote economic growth benefitting both European and American economies on issues such as the climate change, data privacy standards and most importantly on the development of a newly announced US-EU comprehensive economic partnership;
- Continue to support ongoing efforts to effectively manage transitions in frontline states by facilitating coordination with host country officials and with other international donors;
- Foster and maintain stable and productive partnerships in the Western Hemisphere that support critical U.S. national interests as well as enable new opportunities to advance democracy and expand economic ties.

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

Representation Allowances (REPA)	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 CR	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
2500 Other Services	8,030	7,345	7,679	(351)
Total	8,030	7,345	7,679	(351)