

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2015

June 26, 2014

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Budget amendments for the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of State and Other International Programs (State/OIP) to fund Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). These amendments would provide \$58.6 billion for DOD OCO activities, which is \$20.9 billion less than the \$79.4 billion placeholder for DOD OCO in the FY 2015 Budget. It would also provide \$1.4 billion for State/OIP OCO activities, which is in addition to the \$5.9 billion for State/OIP included in the FY 2015 Budget. Overall, these amendments would decrease the total OCO funding requested for FY 2015 by \$19.5 billion.

Final decisions about the number and activities of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after December 2014 had not yet been made at the time the FY 2015 Budget was submitted. As a result, the Budget included a placeholder for

DOD FY 2015 OCO funding equivalent to the amount requested in the FY 2014 Budget. The Administration noted in the FY 2015 Budget that after determining required force levels in Afghanistan, a Budget amendment updating the OCO request would be submitted to the Congress. The enclosed amendments include the necessary updates to the OCO request in order to fund military operations in Afghanistan, a significant portion of the U.S. military presence around the Middle East, the Administration's proposed Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund and European Reassurance Initiative, and State/OIP peacekeeping costs in the Central African Republic.

The details of these amendments are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

Remarks at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Fundraiser in Minneapolis, Minnesota

June 26, 2014

Thank you, everybody. Everybody, have a seat. Have a seat. This is a rowdy crowd. [Laughter]

So, obviously, first and foremost, I want to thank Sam and Sylvia. It is true that the last time I was in this house, I had no gray hair. [Laughter] I'm just saying. And many people could not pronounce my name. [Laughter] But Sam and Sylvia, and some of you who are here tonight took a flyer on me.

And Minnesota actually really did have a lot to do with my deciding to run. There are a few charter members of the "Draft Obama" club, along with R.T., who started—who decided I should run for President before I had decided I should run for President. And that's not surprising, because Minnesota has a history of

putting confidence in people who represent a progressive tradition, and nobody represents that better than a man sitting right next to me, Mr. Walter Mondale. Thank you. We love Walter Mondale. Thank you so much.

Couple other people who are carrying on that tradition who are here and I just want to acknowledge very quickly. Your outstanding Senator—you've got two of them, one of them is here—Amy Klobuchar is here. Yay, Amy! Part of the extraordinary Minnesota delegation: Congressman Keith Ellison is here; Congresswoman Betty McCollum is here; Congressman Rick Nolan is here; and Congressman Tim Walz is here. Tim is getting a little too slim.