

PRESS RELEASE: Burma Funding Passed in Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations

March 25, 2024

Washington, DC ----- On Saturday, March 23, President Biden signed H.R. 2882, the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, into <u>law</u>. The Act appropriates not less than \$121 million in funding for Burma through the Economic Support Fund for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024. It also provides guidance on how the Biden administration should spend the money.

The \$121 million figure under Section 7043(a), page 882, is an increase over the previous year's appropriations of \$50 million through the Economic Support Fund and \$40 million in Development Assistance (since discontinued).

The \$121 million figure does not include Global Health Programs (GHP) or funding streams related to the National Endowment for Democracy or the U.S. Embassy in Burma. If GHP funding continues at the same level, the budget could be as much as \$167 million.

The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 provides the following guidance on how the administration should spend these funds:

- Accountability and justice for Rohingya- \$1,000,000
- Atrocity prevention and accountability, including the documentation and preservation of evidence, and transitional justice programs- \$7,000,000
- Support for deserters- \$1,500,000
- Technical support and non-lethal assistance-\$25,000,000
- Assistance and cross-border programs, including in Thailand and India- \$75,000,000
- Governance/federalism programs- \$10,000,000
- Support for current and former political prisoners- \$1,500,000

CAM welcomes the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which preserves the \$121 million figure and allocation guidance that were two of CAM's major advocacy goals this year. In particular, CAM advocated for the inclusion of humanitarian assistance and cross-border programs via India in the text for the first time. Further analysis can be found here. As Fiscal Year 2024 ends on September 30, 2024, CAM will now begin advocacy for Fiscal Year 2025.

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The Chin Association of Maryland (CAM) is a non-profit organization based in Ellicott City, Maryland with an office in Washington, DC. CAM advocates for Chin and other refugees and internally displaced persons in Burma, religious freedom, and human rights. CAM also works to empower the local Chin community in Maryland to successfully integrate into American society.