

Youtube Video Script

Esther: Senator Brown, My name is Esther Elliott. I'm from Northfield Ohio, and I want you to protect the International Affairs Budget.

Esther: Global poverty is difficult to address mainly because of ignorance and misinformation. According to the World Bank about 700 people all over the world experience extreme poverty. Studies show that 2.5 million newborns die in a month after birth, almost 200 million children under 5 years old are frail and 19.4 million babies lack immunity to diseases.

Esther: People may ask “don’t we spend enough on foreign aid?” The reality is only 1% of our federal budget is being spent on foreign aid. Most of it goes toward the military.

Esther : The military believes that the US should put in more effort to address global poverty for two reasons: 1) According to Majority leader Mitch McConnell diplomacy makes a better impact, and doesn’t cost as much as the military. 2) Unstable conditions can lead to terrorism. The most dangerous countries are also the poorest.

Esther: John O. Brennan, Deputy National Security Advisor for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism states “We are not saying that poverty causes terrorism, or disenfranchisement causes terrorism, but we can’t mistake there are certain phenomena that contribute to it. Terrorism needs to be fought against and certainly attacked, but some of the underlying grievances that might in fact lead individuals astray to terrorism cannot be ignored.”

Esther: By protecting the international affairs budget, we are not only prioritizing the world’s interests but also our own. Diplomacy protects us from invasion, threats, and opens the US job market.

Esther: Senator Brown

Esther: Please protect the international affairs budget.