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Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy in permitting me to speak and for her kind words and for the work that she and Mr. Kolbe have done in this important bill, fashioning, I think, something that is very, very good, given the minimum amount of money they have been given.

Across the world, this bill will enable the United States to cooperate with other donors, to partner with people in extreme poverty to improve their lives and well-being; but, Mr. Chairman, I am hopeful that we can do a little modification to make this difficult bill a little better.

During consideration here, I will be offering an amendment with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. Leach) to increase the Development Assistance Account by \$250 million in order to support these smart investments to reduce poverty of the 1 billion people around the world who live on less than \$1 a day, the children who will die every 15 seconds because they do not have access to clean water and sanitation.

The proposed increase would be offset by a reduction in equal amount from unearmarked funds in the Foreign Military Financing Account. This will not affect the almost \$4 billion that is set aside for Israel, for Egypt, Jordan, or Colombia.

Mr. Chairman, the American people overwhelmingly support these investments to fight against global poverty. Recently, the Program on International Assistance Policy Attitudes found that 65 percent of the American public would support significant increases in U.S. assistance to fight poverty and disease.

This amendment will represent an all-too-rare occasion in this Chamber for bipartisan cooperation to shift money away from what are largely repressive regimes for unnecessary military assistance and put it where it will make a difference, saving the lives of poor families and especially their children around the world.

# Blumenauer Pushes to Increase the Development Assistance Account

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