



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

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SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CLEARS FY2008 FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION Full Committee Mark

Washington, DC – The Senate Appropriations Committee today cleared Fiscal Year 2008 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations legislation that makes key investments in improving government services for the American people. The bill invests in a wide range of important priorities, including: closing the tax gap, protecting investors in our financial and commodity markets, ensuring the safety of consumer products, upholding the integrity of ethical standards, preserving our history, advancing our nation's judicial system, promoting small business development, and fighting drugs in our communities.

"This bill represents an important step forward in the effort to improve and modernize government services for the American people. The priorities in this bill - improving services for taxpayers, community development, supporting small businesses, and strengthening the judicial system - are vital investments in the future of our nation. I want to thank Chairman Durbin and the members of the subcommittee for their strong effort in crafting a fiscally responsible bill that meets the needs of the American people," said Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"This is a very transparent appropriations bill - shining a light on requests from Senators and the Bush Administration. This the way it should be. We've made tough decisions, with tight funds, in the face of many worthy demands and crafted a fiscally responsible and honest bill. We're forcing members to stand by the projects they request, funding important programs from court security to consumer safety and I'm proud of the bill we've come up with," said Senator Richard Durbin of Illinois, Chairman of the Senate Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee.

Bill Total:

Senate Mark: \$21.80 billion

President's Request: \$21.78 billion

2007 Enacted: \$19.51 billion

Department of the Treasury

\$12.25 billion, \$623.9 million over FY 2007, and \$112.5 million over the President's budget request.

Community Development Financial Institution Fund (CDFI): \$90 million, \$35.5 million above FY 2007, and \$61.4 over the President's request to promote access to capital and spur economic growth in urban and rural low-income communities across the nation.

Taxpayer Services: \$2.1 billion, \$11 million above FY 2007, and \$46.1 million above the President's request. The Administration's proposed cuts would shortchange the resources available for taxpayer services. The Senate bill invests in strengthening service and advocacy, to help make the often daunting process of filing tax returns simpler and less burdensome, and to promote accurate and timely filing.

Internal Revenue Service: \$11.1 billion, \$544.5 million over the FY 2007 enacted level and \$112.5 million over the budget request.

IRS Enforcement: \$6.8 billion, equal to the President's budget request, to identify unreported, underreported, and unpaid taxes owed, crack down on tax cheats through criminal investigations, conduct audits, and collect delinquent taxes.

IRS Business Systems Modernization effort: \$282 million, \$69.4 million above FY 2007 to progress toward migrating to state-of-the-art information technology and enhance overall efficiency at the IRS.

Executive Office of the President

\$726.6 million, \$6.7 million above FY 2007, and \$10.7 million below the President's budget request.

Office of National Drug Control Policy

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA): The bill provides \$235 million, a \$15 million increase over last year for the HIDTA programs to coordinate local, state, and federal law enforcement anti-drug efforts.

Drug-Free Communities Support program: The bill provides \$90 million, a \$10 million increase above FY 2007 to support anti-drug community coalitions across the country. DFC provides the funding needed for local communities to confront local substance use problems.

National Drug Court Institute: The bill restores funding for the National Drug Court Institute, in the amount of \$1,000,000, which the President had zeroed out. This program facilitates the growth of the drug court movement by promoting and disseminating education, research, and scholarship concerning drug court programs and providing a comprehensive drug court training series for practitioners.

National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws: The bill also restores funding for the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws, in the amount of \$1.5 million, which the President had zeroed out. This national organization drafts, researches, and analyzes model drug and alcohol laws and related state statutes, provides access to a national network of drug and alcohol experts, and facilitates working relationships among state and community leaders, and drug and alcohol professionals.

US Anti-Doping Agency: The bill provides \$10.2 million for the US Anti-Doping Agency, an independent agency responsible for managing the testing and adjudication process for the US Olympic, Pan Am and Paralympic athletes. The President's budget had only provided \$2.285 million and last year, the Congress provided \$8.415 million.

The Judiciary

The bill provides \$6.3 billion in funding for the Federal Judiciary (both mandatory and discretionary), \$357.5 million over FY 2007 and \$174.3 million below the President's budget request.

District of Columbia

The bill provides \$613.7 million, \$22.7 million over FY 2007, and \$16.1 million over the President's request. The bill also approves the District's local budget of \$9.77 billion.

The bill invests \$3.4 million above the request for the District of Columbia Courts for the Capital Improvements to Judiciary Square complex. The bill provides \$14 million for the Executive Office of the Mayor for his priority programs for environmental, education, health, and financial stability of families, which include spending plans, progress reports, and performance measures.

Independent Agencies

Small Business Administration: \$567.5 million . this includes an increase of \$10 million for small business development centers. These centers provide technical assistance and training to small businesses.

- **Micro - loan Program:** \$15 million, equal to FY 2007 and not funded in the President's budget request. The program provides very small loans to start-up, new, or growing small businesses.
- **Women's business centers:** \$16.8 million, an increase of \$5 million over the request. These centers provide technical assistance to women business owners.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission: The bill provides \$116 million, \$18 million over FY 2007 and equal to the President's request, to encourage competitiveness, ensure integrity, and protect participants in the futures markets.

Securities and Exchange Commission: The bill provides \$905.3 million, an increase of \$12.7 million over FY 2007 to strengthen securities law enforcement and to protect and educate investors.

Office of Personnel Management: The bill provides an additional \$12.5 million in order to fully fund the retirement systems modernization project which will allow paper-based federal employee retirement records to become electronic records.

Postal Service: \$117.8 million, \$29 million above the budget request

Other Agencies: The following agencies are funded at the requested level:

Federal Communications Commission: \$313 million, \$21.7 above FY 2007, equal to the President's request, to improve oversight over the rapidly changing telecommunications industry.

Consumer Product Safety Commission: \$70 million

FDIC Inspector General - \$26.8 million

Federal Election Commission - \$59.2 million

Federal Labor Relations Authority - \$23.7 million

Federal Trade Commission . \$240.2 million

Merit Systems Protection Board - \$40 million

NCUA Credit Union Revolving Fund - \$950 thousand

Office of Government Ethics - \$11.75 million

Office of Special Counsel . \$16.4 million

Selective Service System - \$22 million

U.S. Tax Court - \$45.3 million

Policy Provisions

Federal Employee Pay Raise: The bill includes a 3.5% cost-of-living increase for federal employees, an increase over the President's requested 3% COLA. The House bill also includes 3.5% for federal employees and there is pay parity since, the House and Senate have both provided 3.5% for the military.

Cuba: The bill includes language prohibiting use of funds to enforce regulations that impede sales to Cuba and language to provide for a general license to travel for those people who are selling agricultural or medical goods.

Keeping Banks Out of Real Estate Business: The bill makes permanent a provision that prohibits banks from entering the real estate business as agents and brokers.

Sudan/Darfur: The bill includes language to increase civil and criminal penalties to facilitate more effective deterrent action against sanctions violators.

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