



## U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Senate Passes FY 2006 Legislative Branch Spending Bill

WASHINGTON – The Senate gave approval today to the fiscal year 2006 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. The bill provides \$3.83 billion for the Legislative Branch, an increase of \$230 million (6 percent) over the current year budget and \$194 million below the request.

Major amendments accepted by the Senate:

Highlights are:

**Senate:** \$785 million, \$65 million over the current budget (8% increase)

**Joint Items:** \$19.730 million for Attending Physician, Joint Economic Committee and Joint Committee on Taxation, the same as the budget request.

**Capitol Police:** \$264.6 million, \$23 million above the current year budget (9.5%).

**Office of Compliance:** \$3.12 million, \$710,000 over FY05.

**Architect of the Capitol:** \$427 million, \$67 million above the current budget (19%). Included is \$42 million for the Capitol Visitor Center construction and \$2.3 million for CVC operations. The Library of Congress' storage module project at Fort Meade will receive \$40.7 million.

**Library of Congress:** \$580 million and approximately 4,292 staff. This funding provides for 20 additional staff for such programs as the new National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, information technology improvements, and Congressional Research Service enhancements. A total of \$9.8 million is included for Books for the Blind digital talking book program, which will replace the current cassette playback system.

**Government Printing Office:** \$126.9 million, which is \$4 million below the President's request. This funding includes \$5 million to re-train staff for the new digital environment.

**Government Accountability Office:** \$484 million, \$15 million above the current level.

**Open World Leadership Program:** \$14 million (same as budget request level).

**Congressional Budget Office:** \$35.8 million, which is equal to the budget request.

**Stennis Center for Public Service:** \$430,000 for Congressional staff education and training, including the Stennis Fellowship Program.

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