



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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Appropriations Committee Reports FY 2006 Legislative Branch Spending Bill

WASHINGTON – The Senate and House Legislative Branch Appropriations bill conferees agreed today to approve the fiscal year 2006 Legislative Branch spending 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.

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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