



# U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

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## **Senate Appropriations Committee Clears Fiscal 2008 Legislative Branch Funding Legislation**

Washington, D.C. . Today, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved Fiscal Year 2008 legislation that invests in the agencies that support the work done in the nation's capitol. The Legislative Branch bill totals \$2.8 billion, which is an increase of \$138 million over FY 2007 and \$289 million below the budget request. This is fiscally responsible legislation that supports such agencies as the Architect of the Capitol, the Government Accountability Office, Government Printing Office, and the United States Senate.

Chairman Byrd called upon us to make sure the Senate had the resources needed to do its work effectively, and to demonstrate fiscally responsible leadership in providing them. This bill delivers both, coming in at 11 percent below the budget request while providing Senate offices, the Capitol Police, the Sergeant at Arms and our other support services with appropriate increases to continue their dedicated service to the People's business. I am particularly proud that we have included measures to preserve our nation's growing digital history, move toward completion of our beautiful Capitol Visitors Center and set an example for the country by steering the Capitol complex toward greater energy efficiency.

This legislation makes it clear that with Democrats in control there is more oversight of the Executive Branch, that we are working longer hours and more days than the previous Congress, and we have invested in the hard working Senate staffers, police, and Sergeant at Arms who make this body run smoothly, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said.

### **Legislation Highlights:**

- **\$842 million** to fund the Senate, which is \$38.5 million or 5% above FY 2007. The Secretary of the Senate is funded at **\$24 million** and the Senate Sergeant at Arms is funded at **\$207 million**.

- **\$284 million** is included to fund the Capitol Police. This is an increase of \$18 million or 7% above FY 2007. The increase supports the current staffing of 1,691 sworn officers, and an additional 16 civilian employees for financial management and other administrative duties, bringing the total of civilians to 430. The bill also includes legislation to finalize the merger with the Library of Congress police.
- **\$352.5 million** to fund the Architect of the Capitol (AOC). This is \$37 million below FY 2007, including \$50 million in emergency funding AOC received for repairs to the utility tunnels in the Supplemental. Only safety and security-related projects are funded in the bill. The bill also includes **\$28.7 million** for construction completion and operational expenses for the Capitol Visitor Center.

The bill includes language directing the AOC to work with the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy to develop a preliminary engineering design of carbon capture technologies that could be applied at the Capitol Power Plant within available funds.

- **\$577 million** to fund the Library of Congress, which is \$68 million or 13% above FY 2007. Included in the funding is \$12.5 million for the Digital Talking Books for the blind program, which is \$7 million less than the President's request.

The bill also provides **\$7.5 million** to the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program.

- **\$510 million** to fund the Government Accountability Office (GAO), which is \$29 million or 6% above FY 2007. This includes funding for GAO to initiate a Technology Assessment function within its office. Several Senators requested funding to restore the former Office of Technology Assessment which was closed in 1995. GAO believes they can provide this service to Congress at a minimal cost to taxpayers.
- **\$3.8 million** to fund the Office of Compliance, which is \$703,000 or 23% above FY 2007. The increase supports additional employees and oversight provided to the AOC for work in the utility tunnels.
- **\$38.5 million** to fund the Congressional Budget Office, which is funded at \$3.3 million or 9% above current year. The increase supports the additional hiring for oversight and CBO's expanded role in the analysis of health care spending.
- **\$139 million** to fund the Government Printing Office (GPO), which is \$17 million or 14% over FY 2007, and \$43 million below the President's request. Due to budget constraints, the subcommittee was not able to

fund \$20 million in technology upgrades and Congressional Printing and Binding increases that GPO anticipates in FY08 due to the increase in hearings and time spent in session. The increase covers expenses previously incurred for Congressional Printing and Binding and the update of the U. S. Code, a mandatory requirement every 6 years.

- **\$13.5 million** to fund the Open World Leadership Center, which is \$360,000 below FY 2007 and \$900,000 below the President's request. The House initially funded this program at \$1 million and instructed it to close down, but a full committee amendment restored half of the funding and transfers the program to the State Department, effective FY 2009.