

Chairman Jerry Moran Opening Statement
Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Markup of the FY2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

September 24, 2019

(As prepared for delivery)

Welcome to today's subcommittee mark-up of the fiscal year 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies bill.

I want to begin by thanking Senator Shaheen and her staff for their partnership on crafting this measure.

While there is no shortage of contentious issues related to the CJS bill, I have enjoyed working with her, and I believe that this mark reflects a strong bipartisan product.

The CJS bill funds activities related to national security; federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement; space exploration; economic development; scientific research; and many other critical government activities. This measure is consistent with the subcommittee's 302(b) allocation of \$70.833 billion.

This level is \$6.7 billion above the fiscal year 2019 enacted amount and strikes a fair balance between the bill's important and competing priorities.

The Department of Commerce is funded at \$15.187 billion, which includes an increase of over \$3.7 billion for the Census Bureau to conduct an accurate 2020 Census.

Conducting the Decennial Census is a constitutionally funded mandate, and the data collected from this process is used to formulate the distribution process for federal grant dollars; determine the population for congressional apportionment; and promote economic growth.

Additionally, the bill funds the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at \$5.3 billion, which ensures the National Weather Service can continue to provide timely warnings for severe weather and keeps our next generation of weather satellites on schedule.

For our nation's coastal communities, the bill provides broad support for NOAA's ocean and coastal activities.

Critical to our nation's competitiveness and growth, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) within the Department of Commerce, bolsters the capacity of individuals, businesses, and communities by maximizing local talent and institutions to innovate and create jobs.

Specifically, I am a strong supporter of EDA's Regional Innovation Program, and I am proud to say that the program will receive its largest year-over-year increase in the program's history.

Likewise, this bill also provides increased funding for the science and research programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which will help to further the administration's Industries of the Future initiative.

NASA is funded at \$22.75 billion, providing increased resources for science missions, aeronautics, restoring critical STEM education programs, and advancing human exploration.

NASA and its missions inspires us and the next generation of scientists and engineers. The bill provides robust funding for aeronautics research and science missions that study the Sun, the far reaches of the universe, and everything in between.

This year, the Administration took a bold step in accelerating the goal of returning American astronauts to the Moon to 2024. This mission, Artemis, will cement America's leadership status in human space exploration.

Within the funding provided, NASA will be able to make significant progress in fulfilling the accelerated goal of returning astronauts, including the first woman, to the Moon by 2024.

Finally, this bill increases funding for the Department of Justice by roughly \$1.5 billion for a total of \$32.4 billion.

I met with the Attorney General last week and he is concerned about combatting mass violence and violent crime, as am I.

Senator Shaheen and I have worked to create a bipartisan bill that I believe is a substantial down payment to support these efforts, and I look forward to working with the Department and Senator Shaheen to provide DOJ Law Enforcement with the resources they need to keep our communities both in Kansas and across the nation safe.

Within this increase, funding for the Department's law enforcement components was increased by roughly three percent. This will enable the Department to hire new Agents, Deputy Marshals, and Correctional Officers as well as upgrade and enhance its cyber and digital analytic capabilities.

This funding level aligns with and supports Departmental priorities and needs, including new resources for the Department's efforts to combat mass violence and violent crime, enforce the rule of law, and promote public safety.

This measure also supports the President's request for increased funding for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), enabling the Department to hire more immigration judges and support staff, which are greatly needed to reduce the staggering backlog of immigration cases— now over 900,000.

Additionally, this bill increases funding for the Bureau of Prisons, which supports new Correctional Officer hiring, and provides the fully authorized level of \$75 million for the implementation projects and programs required under the First Step Act.

This bill also provides increased funding for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, totaling \$2.7 billion. A few of the highlights include \$545 million in Byrne JAG grants; \$100 million in STOP School Violence grants; \$78 million in N-CHIP grants to improve the background checks process; \$378 million to combat the opioid and meth crisis; and \$335 million for COPS Hiring.

Communities throughout our country, including in my state of Kansas, will be safer because of the public safety resources provided in this bill.

We have a good, bipartisan product that enables these Departments to accomplish their missions and addresses the needs of our nation.

I urge my colleagues to support moving this bill out of subcommittee, and to vote for the CJS bill at the full committee mark-up on Thursday. Senator Shaheen.

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