

U.S. SENATOR THAD COCHRAN (R-MISS.), CHAIRMAN
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Statement on Consideration of FY2016 Subcommittee 302(b) Allocations
May 21, 2015

Our first order of business is consideration of the 302(b) spending allocations for the 12 appropriations subcommittees. Members have before them a table that displays the recommended allocations.

These allocations conform to the Fiscal Year 2016 budget resolution that has been adopted by Congress, and are consistent with current law. They total \$523 billion for defense programs and \$493 billion for nondefense programs, for a total of \$1.016 trillion in discretionary spending.

These allocations also allow for the appropriation of \$96 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations as approved in the budget resolution.

The constraints of these budget limitations are very real. The base statutory caps for defense and nondefense spending are roughly level with the current year.

The subcommittee allocations flow from the Budget Control Act. It is our responsibility to propose appropriations bills that conform to the law, and to do so in a way that best meets public needs.

The President has proposed a budget that ignores the spending caps entirely. His budget is based on the premise that any increase for defense spending should be matched “dollar for dollar” by an increase in nondefense spending. This sounds like a “bumper sticker” rather than a budget.

While defense programs are important to the security and well-being of our nation, the President’s budget request would increase discretionary spending by more than 7 percent. In the context of our nation’s \$18 trillion debt, such an increase is neither sustainable nor responsible.

We propose today, for the subcommittees, limitations and authorities that are consistent with both budget law and the adopted budget resolution. I recommend their approval by the Committee.

I move that the Committee report favorably the Chairman’s proposed subcommittee allocations.