

OMNIBUS SUMMARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Bill Summary

The fiscal year 2018 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill provides a total of \$23.01 billion for the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration. This is \$2.133 billion more than fiscal year 2017 and \$2.485 billion more than the Senate bill. The final bill also provides \$249 million for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which was not included in fiscal year 2017 or the fiscal year 2018 Senate bill.

Advancing Rural America

The bill makes substantial investments in improving the quality of life and infrastructure in rural America, made possible because of the bipartisan budget deal.

Specifically, an additional \$600 million in budget authority is provided for a combination loan/grant broadband pilot program. Without access to high-speed internet services, rural producers and businesses are crippled in their ability to compete, and their communities are being left further and further behind. Broadband access is critical to try to level the playing field. This funding will create – and maintain – good jobs in rural America.

The agreement also provides an additional \$500 million to support loans and grants for clean water and sanitary waste disposal systems in rural communities. Sufficient clean drinking water and sanitary waste disposal systems are essential to sustain rural communities and attract new employment opportunities. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates a 20 year capital improvement need totaling \$384.2 billion for clean water and \$271 billion for sanitary waste treatment. This additional funding will go a long way to reducing the \$2.5 billion application backlog facing USDA.

Addressing the Opioid Crisis

Increased funding to address the opioid crisis was made available because of the bipartisan budget deal, and this bill includes \$114 million in new funding directly tied to this initiative. According to the Food and Drug Administration, there is an increasing trend in the number of deaths involving fentanyl in combination with other drugs, including cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. Drug traffickers are selling counterfeit pills, heroin, and non-opioid drugs, such as cocaine, that often include fentanyl, and many of them are being brought into the country illegally through international mail facilities (IMFs). FDA is provided an increase of \$94 million to strategically strengthen its presence at IMFs. These funds will be used to better identify and target firms and organizations importing into the U.S., as well as upgrade equipment and

increase staff. Additionally, at USDA, \$20 million is provided to Distance Learning and Telemedicine grants to address the opioid crisis in rural America.

Key Points & Highlights

Agriculture Research

The Agricultural Research Service is funded at \$1.203 billion, \$32.5 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level. Agricultural Research, Buildings and Facilities is funded at \$140.6 million or \$40 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture is funded at \$1.408 billion. The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, USDA's premiere competitive research account, is funded at \$400 million, \$25 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level. The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program receives an \$8 million increase, bringing total funding to \$35 million.

Farm Service Agency

Funding for Farm Service Agency loan programs are maintained or increased to ensure farmers and ranchers have access to credit to improve or maintain their operations. An additional \$8 million is included for FSA to hire new loan officers.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Operations is funded at \$874 million, \$10 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level. The Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations account is funded at \$150 million. These funds are used to prevent erosion, flood water, and sediment damage and to further improve other conservation measures.

Rural Development

Rural Development loan and grant programs are increased by \$1.1 billion over the fiscal year 2017 levels. The recently passed bipartisan budget agreement emphasized the needs for infrastructure funding in rural America. This bill addresses these needs in several ways.

Water and Waste Disposal programs are funded at \$1.06 billion, a net increase of \$489 million over the fiscal year 2017 level. While loan and grant totals are not prescribed, this initiative could support a doubling of the program to \$3.6 billion in fiscal year 2018. These loans and grants are combined to fund clean water and sanitary waste disposal projects in small rural communities.

The bill funds a new combination broadband loan/grant pilot program at \$600 million, which addresses one of the tenets of the budget agreement discussed earlier. Assuming a loan grant budget authority split of 50/50, which has been suggested by the Administration, total funding available would be \$1.8 billion.

Rural housing programs are all increased or maintained at fiscal year 2017 levels, with the exception of Rental Assistance. Rental Assistance can be reduced by \$60 million due to a reduction in the number of rental agreements projected to expire during the year. Direct single family housing loans are increased by \$100 million from \$1 billion in fiscal year 2017 to \$1.1 billion.

Domestic Nutrition Programs

The bill invests in America's children and our most vulnerable populations. Mandatory programs including Child Nutrition Programs and SNAP are fully funded. The WIC program is funded at \$6.175 billion which will meet expected participation. Within this amount an additional \$25 million is provided for the contingency reserve. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program is funded at \$238 million and will continue to provide low-income seniors with supplemental nutrition. The Emergency Food Assistance Program storage and distribution is increased by \$5 million for a total funding level of \$64.4 million. For the first time, discretionary funding of \$5 million is provided for the Farm to School grant program. Finally, the agreement provides an increase of \$5 million for Summer EBT. These funds will benefit children during the summer months when schools are not in session.

Foreign Assistance

Food for Peace Title II grants are funded at \$1.716 billion. PL 480 Title II grants are an important part of ensuring hungry and vulnerable populations worldwide receive lifesaving food. The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program is funded at \$207.6 million. Within this amount is \$10 million for local and regional procurement. This program has significantly improved the attendance, nourishment, and learning capacity of school-age children throughout the world.

Food and Drug Administration

The Food and Drug Administration is funded at \$2.906 billion, an increase of \$134 million above fiscal year 2017. Nearly all of this increase (\$94 million) is to be used by the FDA to step up its efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. Additional increases for FDA include \$15 million for FDA to enhance its Oncology Center of Excellence, \$10 million to address increased workload needs in the animal drug centers, and \$10.5 million for FDA to work with states to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Bipartisan Budget Deal

This bill reflects the priority investments agreed upon as part of the bipartisan budget deal to improve America's aging and lacking infrastructure, as well as addressing the opioid crisis. Specifically, this bill provides \$600 million for a new loan/grant broadband pilot program to provide high-speed internet service to rural America, to help these communities grow and prosper. Additionally, an increase of \$500 million is included to support loans and grants for

clean water and sanitary waste disposal systems in rural communities. To address the opioid crisis, the Food and Drug Administration is provided \$94 million to increase their inspection capacity at international mail facilities, where illicit fentanyl is being brought into the United States, and \$20 million is provided for USDA's Distance Learning and Telemedicine program to provide rural America with immediate access to 21st century medical assistance.

Agreement vs. House Passed Bill

The agreement provides substantial increases in most accounts and programs over the House passed bill. With this increased funding, the bill invests substantially in rural America, provides increases for important nutrition programs, addresses the looming opioid crisis, and will help save the lives of millions of vulnerable populations around the world.

Research programs, vital to the success of America's farmers and ranchers, are increased by more than \$237 million above the House bill.

The Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations account is funded at \$108 million above the House level.

Water and Waste disposal grants are increased by \$41 million above the House level. These funds are used for clean water and sanitary waste disposal in remote rural areas.

For direct single family housing loans, an increase of \$200 million is provided above the House level. This will allow low and very low income rural households to have the opportunity for home ownership.

For P.L. 480 Title II grants, an increase of \$316 million is provided over the House level. Roughly 6 million more people will be fed with this increased funding. With famine declared in several countries, these funds are critical and will save lives.

Policy Riders

The agreement does not include a House rider that would have made it easier for thousands of new tobacco products to come to the market without any review by the Food and Drug Administration.

The agreement does not include a House rider that would stop FDA from enforcing FDA's final deeming rule on tobacco unless premium cigars are excluded.

The agreement does not include language that would impact FDA's final rule regarding menu labeling.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES FISCAL YEAR 2018 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Bill Summary

The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) bill totals \$59.6 billion proposed discretionary budget authority, which is \$3 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$6.2 billion more than the Senate Committee mark for fiscal year 2018.

The CJS bill invests in a wide range of critical programs that affect the lives of all Americans. The bill provides \$30.3 billion for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to keep America safe from criminals and terrorists and fight the opioid crisis. Funding also allows DOJ to provide grants and assistance to state and local law enforcement that help put police officers on the beat, equip them with bulletproof vests, test backlogged DNA evidence, protect schools and college campuses, and assist victims of violent crime and sexual assault.

The bill makes investments in public safety, economic growth, innovation, job creation and trade promotion. The Department of Commerce receives \$11.1 billion to forecast and predict severe weather, promote American businesses and exports, improve cybersecurity standards, protect American ideas, foster economic development, enable sustainable use of ocean resources, and fulfill the Constitutional responsibility to fairly and accurately conduct the Census.

Science agencies supported by the bill include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). These agencies fund research that not only wins Nobel prizes, but also makes our lives better – from finding ways to give Americans more time between the warning and when the severe weather hits, to coming up with the next technological breakthroughs that will lead to entirely new industries. Innovation leads to economic growth and prosperity as discoveries turn into new products and new technologies that create jobs.

Key Points & Highlights

- **Opioid Crisis.** This bill provides \$446.5 million in DOJ grant funding to help communities and law enforcement fight heroin and the illegal distribution and use of opioids and provide treatment and prevention services. This is \$299.5 million higher than the fiscal year 2017 funding level and \$284.5 higher than the House bill. The largest part of this funding is \$330 million for Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) grants, an increase of \$227 million above the fiscal year 2017 funding level. Funding includes \$32 million in grant funding for State-wide anti-heroin task forces as part of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. Communities cannot just enforce their way out of this epidemic, so the bill strongly supports comprehensive prevention and treatment programs within DOJ as well as dedicated funding for programs to help youth impacted by the opioid crisis.

- **School Safety.** The bill provides \$75 million for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative (CSSI), a program established by this Committee in fiscal year 2014 and administered by the National Institute of Justice. The CSSI aims to prevent school-based tragedies by making funding available for developing and updating school safety assessments and plans, technical assistance, training, and technology that enhances overall school safety efforts. Grants under this program must have a research component which will help us further understand the root causes of school violence, develop strategies for increasing school safety, and rigorously evaluate innovative school safety strategies through pilot programs.
- **Infrastructure.** The bill provides an additional \$1.08 billion for infrastructure investments above the amounts included in the fiscal year 2017 bill, as follows:
 - An additional \$25.5 million for Economic Development Administration (EDA) infrastructure grants.
 - \$7.5 million for National Telecommunications and Information Administration broadband mapping coordination.
 - An additional \$41 million for Department of Commerce headquarters renovation and repairs.
 - An additional \$210 million for construction at NIST.
 - An additional \$48 million in NOAA infrastructure costs for facilities construction, aircraft procurement, and continuation of critical weather satellite and ship procurement.
 - An additional \$43 million for U.S. Marshals Service Construction.
 - An additional \$32 million for Bureau of Prisons Buildings and Facilities.
 - An additional \$466 million for NASA exploration infrastructure, including ground systems and \$350 million for a mobile launch platform.
 - An additional \$202 million for construction and deferred maintenance at NASA.
- **Census Bureau.** The Census Bureau is funded at \$2.8 billion, \$1.3 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 level. The bill provides \$2.1 billion for the 2020 Decennial Census. This amount is sufficient to keep the 2020 Decennial Census on track and to smooth the transition as operations ramp up in fiscal years 2019 and 2020. During fiscal year 2018, the Census will perform an End-to-End Test for the 2020 Decennial Census. The bill ensures Census has needed resources to immediately address any issues discovered during the 2018 End-To-End Test and provides required funding for crucial partnership and communications activities.
- **Addressing Violence Against Women.** The bill contains \$492 million, the highest funding level ever, for grants administered by the Office on Violence Against Women. Funding is provided for multiple competitive and formula grant programs that support training for police officers and prosecutors, state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions, rape prevention programs, lethality assessment and homicide reduction initiatives, domestic violence hotlines, and women's shelters and transitional housing support services. In order to meet the growing demand for services for both the Transitional Housing and Rural grant programs, increases of \$5 million have been provided for each program.

In addition, the bill provides \$47.5 million for a competitive grant program to support multi-disciplinary community response teams tasked with developing and implementing comprehensive reform regarding sexual assault, including reducing the backlog of rape kits at law enforcement agencies. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is provided \$379.5 million, a \$15 million increase to address increased sexual harassment claim volume.

- **Crime Victims Fund.** The bill allows spending of \$4.4 billion from the Crime Victims Fund, the largest amount ever, to help victims of violent crime and their families receive critical care and services, provide federal victim witness coordinators, and operate the Federal Victim Notification System. States will be able to increase direct compensation to victims of violent crime, which includes medical care costs, as well as victim assistance grants provided to non-profit organizations for counseling, legal assistance and outreach services to victims.
- **Science.** Federal investments in scientific research and development are critical to maintaining U.S. economic competitiveness. The bill makes significant investments in federal scientific research programs, providing significant increases from fiscal year 2017 levels for NASA Science (nearly 8 percent or \$457 million), NSF Research (5 percent or \$301 million), NIST Research (5 percent or \$35 million), and NOAA Research (6 percent or \$30 million). These increases, enabled by the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, stand in stark contrast to the Trump Administration budget request, which proposed deep cuts in these activities – NASA Science (-1 percent), NSF Research (-11 percent), NIST Research (-13 percent), and NOAA Research (-32 percent). For example, the level provided in the bill for NSF Research is \$6.3 billion, which is \$972 million higher than the fiscal year 2018 Budget request.
- **Federal Law Enforcement.** The bill provides nearly \$24 billion to fund the critical core national security, law enforcement, investigation, and prosecution missions of the Justice Department to protect the safety and security of our communities, and to help ensure that criminal perpetrators are brought to justice.
 - *Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)* – The bill provides \$9.03 billion for FBI salaries and expenses, \$263 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$307 million above the fiscal year 2018 request, to investigate terrorism, violent crime, election fraud, crimes against children, and cybercrime.
 - *Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)* – The bill provides total resources of \$2.61 billion for the DEA, \$124 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, to target and dismantle criminal narcotics activities and regulate and combat prescription drug abuse.
 - *Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)* – The bill provides \$1.29 billion for the ATF, \$35 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, to enforce Federal firearms and explosives laws.

- *U.S. Marshals Service* – The bill provides \$1.31 billion for U.S. Marshals Service salaries and expenses, \$62 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, to apprehend dangerous fugitives, protect the Federal judiciary, and transport prisoners for court proceedings.
- *U.S. Attorneys* – The bill provides \$2.14 billion for the U.S. Attorneys, \$102 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, to prosecute cases in international and domestic terrorism, mortgage fraud and financial crime, human trafficking, child exploitation, and firearms and violent crime.
- *Federal Prison System* – The bill provides \$7.11 billion for the salaries and expenses of the Bureau of Prisons, \$105 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. This funding will maintain staffing levels at existing prisons to ensure safe and adequate facilities to house the inmate population, continue the activation of newly constructed or acquired prison facilities, and expand reentry programs for eligible inmates to successfully transition back into the community.
- **Community Safety.** To help keep our communities safer, funding of \$225.5 million in COPS Hiring grants to put 1,100 new officers on the beat is provided, as well as \$75 million for grants to States to improve the quality of criminal and mental health records entered into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.
- **Economic Development.** The bill includes strong funding for Department of Commerce programs that invest in our local communities, and provides \$301.5 million for the Economic Development Administration. This is an increase of \$25.5 million above the fiscal year 2017 funding level, and includes \$117.5 million for Public Works infrastructure grants and \$21 million for the Regional Innovation Program. The Minority Business Development Administration is funded at \$39 million, a \$5 million or 15 percent increase. These programs had been targeted for elimination by the Trump Administration.
- **NOAA Research, Education, and Coastal Programs.** The bill provides \$508 million for NOAA’s Oceanic and Atmospheric Research programs, an increase of \$30 million above fiscal year 2017 level, and provides \$28 million for NOAA Education programs, an increase of \$1 million. The bill also rejects the President’s proposal to eliminate – and actually provides increases for – programs critical to coastal and Great Lakes states, including Sea Grant, Coastal Zone Management Grants, and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Additionally, the Regional Coastal Resilience Grants program is renamed as the National Ocean and Coastal Security Fund and federal investment is doubled to \$30 million, from \$15 million in fiscal year 2017. The bill also provides \$20 million to help communities recover from regional fishery disasters.
- **Weather.** This bill provides \$419 million to continue building new polar weather satellites. Polar satellites provide 85 percent of the data used to forecast the weather, and are a vital component of Americans’ personal, property and economic security. The National Weather Service is funded at \$1.16 billion and the National Centers for Environmental Information are funded at \$61 million. In addition, the bill provides \$16 million more than

the fiscal year 2018 House and Senate bills to ameliorate deferred maintenance on Weather Forecasting Office facilities. Last year, the U.S. faced 16 extreme weather events that caused more than \$1 billion worth of damage each. The total cost of these events was \$306 billion, the most expensive year on record. But the costs would have been even higher without National Weather Service prediction and forecasting.

- **NOAA Ships.** The bill provides \$216 million to operate and maintain National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) vessels, an increase of \$25 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. NOAA operates 16 vessels that are critical to agency operations: mapping the ocean floor, supporting National Weather Service activities, conducting oceanographic and climate research, and supporting ecosystem and fisheries management. The bill also includes \$75 million toward the construction of a new Ocean Survey Vessel to replace one of several NOAA ships nearing the end of their designed life.
- **NOAA Aircraft.** NOAA operates 9 aircraft, including several specialty planes that are critical for hurricane forecasting and research, as well as for coastal mapping and emergency response. The bill provides \$133 million to procure a new high-altitude Hurricane Hunter and a new hydrological survey aircraft, an increase of \$121 million above the fiscal year 2018 Senate bill and \$133 million above the fiscal year 2018 House bill and fiscal year 2017 enacted level.
- **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters.** No funding is included for FBI headquarters construction.
- **NASA.** This bill provides \$20.7 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) which is \$1 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The bill supports a space program balanced among aeronautics, science, technology development, and human space flight. NASA Science is funded at \$6.2 billion which is \$456.6 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level. The bill includes full funding for the James Webb Space Telescope, which will be 100 times more powerful than the Hubble, and continues support for Earth Science at the fiscal year 2017 level, rejecting House and Trump Administration-proposed cuts. The bill continues funding for the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, and Ocean Ecosystem (\$147 million), Climate Absolute Radiance and Refractivity Observatory-Pathfinder (\$17 million), Deep Space Climate Observatory (\$1.7 million), Orbiting Carbon Observatory-3 (\$9.5 million), and Wide-Field Infrared Space Telescope (\$150 million).

Aeronautics is supported at \$685 million, an increase of \$25 million above the fiscal year 2017 level, to ensure continued U.S. leadership in aviation. For human space flight, the bill contains full support for commercial cargo and crew to support the International Space Station and increases investments in new vehicles that will take humans beyond low Earth orbit, the Space Launch System (\$2.15 billion) and Orion (\$1.35 billion). The bill contains full funding for Exploration Ground Systems (\$545 million) plus \$350 million to build a second mobile launch platform as recommended by the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel. Building on 30 years of NASA expertise in repairing satellites in space, the bill includes

\$130 million for the Restore-L satellite servicing mission. The proposal to cancel key NASA Education programs is rejected, and these programs continue to be funded in the bill – Space Grant (\$40 million), the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (\$18 million), and the Minority University Research and Education Project (\$32 million).

- **National Science Foundation.** The National Science Foundation (NSF) is funded at \$7.77 billion, \$295 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level. This funding includes \$6.3 billion for NSF’s research and development facilities to support today’s scientists, engineers and technicians, \$902 million for NSF’s education and training programs to build tomorrow’s innovation workforce, and \$183 million for scientific infrastructure, including funds to continue building 3 new academic research vessels. The bill also provides \$30 million to double a program supporting STEM students attending Hispanic Serving Institutions first funded in fiscal year 2017.
- **National Institute of Standards and Technology.** The bill provides \$1.199 billion for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an increase of \$247 million above the fiscal year 2017 level. NIST research and grant programs develop measurements and standards for private sector innovation, help aspiring start-up companies commercialize new technologies, and provide technical and workforce development support to American manufacturers. The bill includes a five percent increase for research programs. The bill also includes \$140 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, \$15 million for the National Network of Manufacturing Institutes, and \$319 million to invest in NIST’s aging research infrastructure, including a 54-year old radiation physics laboratory.
- **Medical Marijuana.** This bill again contains language preventing the Justice Department from interfering with states that have medical marijuana laws, ensuring that the prescribing and dispensing of medical marijuana in those states is both legal and regulated. Patients and doctors in states that have approved medical marijuana need to know that they are safe from arrest and prosecution by the federal government.
- **Legal Services Corporation.** The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) is provided \$410 million, an increase of \$25 million above the fiscal year 2017 level, rejecting the Administration’s proposal to shutter the agency. LSC helps more than 1.8 million low-income Americans gain access to the courts for cases including domestic violence, housing, and child custody.
- **Marine Mammal Commission.** The bill provides \$3.4 million for the Marine Mammal Commission, rejecting the Administration’s proposal to eliminate it.
- **No new harmful policy riders.** The bill does not include new harmful policy riders that were in the House bill, including four gun riders that would have been made permanent and one that would have affected ATF’s ability to monitor multiple gun sales on the Southwest Border. The bill also rejects several controversial policy riders including: a rider overturning an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) rule intended to gather data on the gender pay gap; a provision intended to strengthen states’ rights that could have had major

impacts on civil rights litigation; restrictions on the Department of Justice's ability to determine case settlements; and a restriction on trademark approvals.

Bipartisan Budget Deal

As described in more detail above, the bill includes major funding increases above the fiscal year 2017 level to address the opioid crisis (\$299.5 million); scientific research (at least 5 percent); infrastructure (\$1 billion); and the Census (\$1.3 billion). These major increases far exceed the amounts included in the President's budget request or the House bill, and were enabled by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

Comparison to House Bill

Due to the resources provided in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, this bill avoids painful cuts included in the House-passed fiscal year 2018 CJS bill. The House bill included a cut of \$702 million for NOAA below the fiscal year 2017 level. This bill increases NOAA to \$5.9 billion, \$234 million above the fiscal year 2017 level and \$936 million above the House-proposed level. The House would have cut NIST by \$82 million, including a \$25 million cut to the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). Instead, the bill increases NIST to \$1.2 billion with an increase for MEP of \$10 million. This level is \$247 million above the fiscal year 2017 level and \$329 million above the House bill. The House bill also cut the Economic Development Administration (EDA) by \$100 million, while this bill includes \$302 million for EDA, an increase of \$26 million from the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$126 million above the House bill. The bill also includes \$9 billion for Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) salaries and expenses, which is \$215 million more than provided by the House bill. Rather than cutting the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) by \$85 million, as proposed by the House, or eliminating it altogether, as proposed in the President's budget request, the bill increases LSC by \$25 million above the fiscal year 2017 level and \$110 million above the House bill to \$410 million.

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SUMMARY
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The fiscal year 2018 Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations bill provides \$654.9 billion in base and Overseas Contingency Operation (OCO) funding, compared to \$577.8 billion enacted in fiscal year 2017, and \$630.7 billion in the amended President's budget request for 2018. The base budget appropriation is \$589.8 billion, with \$65.2 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations of the Department of Defense.

The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018 emphasizes the following priorities:

- (1) Responsibly Meets the Nation's National Security Needs**
- (2) Fully Funds Contingency Operations and Other OCO Priorities**
- (3) Supports our Troops, Veterans, and their Families**
- (4) Invests in Medical Research and Technological Innovation**

Responsibly Meets the Nation's National Security Needs

Flexibility – Due to the second year of substantial delays in enacting a defense appropriations bill, the bill provides the Department of Defense with two new tools to improve management of funds.

- The bill relaxes the “80/20 rule,” which requires that no more than 20 percent of operation and maintenance funds may be spent in the last two months of the fiscal year. The rule is designed to stop last-minute spending sprees on low priority items, but due to the late budget, the bill provides for a “75/25 rule” to allow more time for contracts for important items to be negotiated.
- The bill raises the thresholds for most reprogrammings in operation and maintenance accounts from \$15 million to \$20 million, giving Department leaders more flexibility on non-controversial movements of funds.

Both new authorities were requested by the Department, and are consistent with Congress' constitutional duty to maintain strong oversight of the defense budget.

In addition, the defense budget increases provided for under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 are primarily given to budget lines that can be spent over multiple years, such as procurement and research and development accounts. This includes an acceleration of \$300 million of funding for “preferred munitions,” for which the DoD asked for major spending increases in 2019, but will now be funded in 2018.

Environmental Issues – The bill contains several provisions to address the growing crisis of water contamination near military bases caused by perfluorinated chemicals, such as PFOS and PFOA. First, the bill adds \$20 million for various types of health studies on impacted communities. Second, the bill fixes a technical error in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2018 that could have prevented a study planned by the Centers for Disease Control from moving forward. Third, environmental remediation accounts for the Navy and Air Force are increased by approximately 15 percent for remediation of these specific hazards. The Army environmental remediation account is provided a 9 percent general increase for all types of environmental concerns. Finally, the bill directs quarterly reports from the Pentagon to Congress on the status of studies and remediation efforts related to this contamination.

In addition, the bill provides \$30 million targeted to the remediation of lead hazards at National Guard armories across the country.

Gun Background Checks – The bill maintains a Senate provision to strengthen DoD reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to prevent gun sales to service members who have been convicted of serious crimes.

F/A-18 Super Hornets – The bill adds \$739 million for 10 additional aircraft.

F-35 Lightning II – Adds \$2.67 billion for 20 additional aircraft.

Icebreaker – A new Polar-class icebreaker for the Coast Guard is an integral part of the U.S. national security policy toward the Arctic. The bill adds \$150 million for advanced procurement in fiscal year 2018, in advance of a full procurement decision in fiscal year 2019.

Shipbuilding – The bill provides \$23.8 billion for shipbuilding, including \$1.8 billion to accelerate production of a new amphibious ship, \$450 million to fully fund an additional Littoral Combat ship, and adds \$225 million in advance procurement for the Virginia-class submarine.

National Guard and Reserve Equipment – Provides \$1.3 billion to address equipment shortfalls in the National Guard and Reserve components.

Army Network – Supports the Army's decision to truncate radio and network programs, and move toward an agile procurement and fielding program based on competition, commercial innovation, and rapid testing.

Fully Funds Contingency Operations and Other OCO Priorities

Full Funding – The bill provides \$65 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations, a level consistent with the President's request. The bill does not employ funding gimmicks to artificially inflate OCO with items properly funded in the defense base budget.

Afghan Security Forces and Human Rights – The bill contains a new provision to tighten oversight of cases of gross violations of human rights by Afghan security forces. Recent inspector general reports have raised serious concerns about Defense Department aid continuing to Afghan units for which there is credible information of severe wrongdoing. The provision requires the Secretary of Defense to provide detailed reports to the congressional defense committees on actions taken with respect to such security forces, with regular updates. While the provision provides for improved reporting, this is only a first step in taking stronger action against human rights abuses by Afghan security forces.

European Reassurance Initiative – The defense appropriations bill fully funds the revised budget request of \$4.7 billion for the European Reassurance Initiative. This a \$1.3 billion increase over the 2017 funding level.

Ukraine – The bill provides \$200 million for lethal and non-lethal aid to Ukraine to counter Russian aggression.

State Department Global Engagement Center – Provides \$40 million for the Global Engagement Center, a State Department office charged with countering terrorist and hostile state propaganda. The amount supports a recent DoD-State memorandum to fund the Center for the remainder of fiscal year 2018.

Supports our Troops, Veterans, and their Families

Pay Raise – Fully funds a 2.4 percent percent pay raise for service members and 1.9 percent for civilian employees.

School Construction – Adds \$235 million for the construction of schools on military installations to replace facilities to improve capacity or material conditions. These funds are subject to cost-sharing with state or local authorities.

Special Victims' Counsel - Provides an additional \$35 million to the President's request for continuation and expansion of the Special Victims' Counsel Program that provides victims of sexual assault with legal assistance and support.

Beyond Yellow Ribbon - Provides an additional \$20 million to the President's request for the Beyond Yellow Ribbon program, which supports National Guard members, Reservists and their families throughout their deployments.

Impact Aid – Adds \$30 million for Impact Aid, which provides educational resources for the children of military families. Also includes an additional \$5 million for Impact Aid for children with disabilities.

Invests in Medical Research and Technological Innovation

Research and Development – The bill provides nearly \$83 billion for defense research and development activities, an increase of nearly \$16 billion over the fiscal year 2017 budget. These increases include a variety of urgent research and development projects to defend deployed troops from new threats, including cyber attacks and enemy drones; an increase of \$192 million for directed energy programs; \$100 million to accelerate a demonstration of light attack aircraft

for the Air Force; \$100 million for the replacement of the Russian-made RD-180 rocket engine; \$250 million for the Rapid Innovation Fund; and \$100 million for artificial intelligence research.

Medical Research – Adds \$1.49 billion for medical research that helps our warfighters and veterans as well as their families and all Americans. This is a 5 percent real increase in medical research funding compared to last year’s defense appropriations act.

Israeli Missile Defense – The bill fully funds U.S.-Israeli missile defense programs, with an increase of \$558.4 million over the budget request of \$147.4 million. The total of \$705.8 million is an increase of \$105.4 million over last year’s enacted level.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT FISCAL YEAR 2018 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The U.S. Senate Appropriations Energy and Water Development fiscal year 2018 funding legislation totals \$43.2 billion in discretionary budget authority, \$5.429 billion more than fiscal year 2017.

Bill Summary

The Energy and Water Development bill invests in a wide range of critical programs that are vital to America's economic competitiveness and protect Americans from the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The bill provides \$34.520 billion for the Department of Energy to develop clean energy technologies that combat climate change and create U.S. jobs, modernize the nuclear deterrent, secure dangerous nuclear and radiological materials around the world, and clean up the country's Cold War environmental legacy.

The bill provides \$6.827 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge America's waterways to support the movement of critical commodities, reduce the impact of natural disasters by focusing on flood control efforts, and provide recreation opportunities at campgrounds, lakes and marinas. The bill also provides \$1.48 billion for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Project to improve the management of water resources in 17 states, and to mitigate the impact of droughts in Western states.

Bipartisan Budget Deal

The bipartisan budget deal added \$5.4 billion compared to fiscal year 2017 levels, including \$1.8 billion for defense programs and \$3.6 billion in non-defense programs. Among defense programs, this increase funds the modernization of our nuclear weapons complex, including an additional \$300 million to improve infrastructure at nuclear weapons sites and \$200 million to recapitalize facilities for our nuclear navy. Among non-defense programs, the budget deal enables a substantial investment in our water infrastructure, including \$200 million for new and existing construction projects and \$480 million to revitalize existing port and riverine facilities and waterways. It also supports a nearly \$900 million increase in our investment in basic scientific research, including \$400 million for new or upgraded facilities and equipment. The budget deal also supports a \$544 million increase to applied research and development for fossil, renewable, and nuclear energy sources, bringing new technology to market and ensuring American leadership in advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and grid resilience.

Infrastructure

Within funds for these agencies, the bill provides \$8.979 billion to improve the nation's water and infrastructure, including maintaining America's ports and harbors, inland waterways, and oil reserve facilities. This includes \$6.827 billion for the Army Corps' Civil Works program, \$1.47 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, and \$252 million for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). The bill also includes authorization of the sale of \$350 million worth of crude oil, which will help modernize the SPR's infrastructure. The bill provides the Office of Science an increase of over \$400 million across various facilities and research machines, including computing, light source upgrades, new buildings, and basic infrastructure at the national laboratories.

Scientific Research

The bill also provides \$11.115 billion to support basic and applied scientific research to make America more competitive in clean energy and other high-technology endeavors. ARPA-E is increased by \$47 million for a total of \$353 million. The Office of Science is increased by \$868 million for a total of \$6.260 billion, with the increase being divided between increased research and infrastructure investments.

Title I—Corps of Engineers

The Energy and Water bill provides \$6.827 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, \$789 million more than fiscal year 2017. Every dollar spent on Army Corps of Engineer Civil Works' projects nets \$16 in economic benefits.

Highlights

Investigations: The bill provides \$123 million for water resources studies. The bill includes six new study starts pertaining to navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

Construction: The bill provides \$2.085 billion for construction of water resources projects that provide for improvements to navigation, flood risk management and ecosystem restoration. This amount is \$209 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The bill includes five new construction starts pertaining to navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

Mississippi River and Tributaries: The bill provides \$425 million for the study, construction, and operation and maintenance of navigation, flood control, and ecosystem restoration projects along the Mississippi River and its tributaries from Cairo, Illinois to the mouth of the Mississippi River. This amount is \$63 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The bill includes a new study start in the MR&T account.

Operation and Maintenance: The bill provides \$3.63 billion for operation and maintenance of water resources projects that are vital to the nation’s economy, security, and public safety. This amount is \$481 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The bill provides \$1.4 billion for eligible activities that are reimbursed by the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

Title II—Department of the Interior

The bill provides \$1.48 billion for the Department of Interior, which is \$163 million more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. This amount includes \$10.5 million for the Central Utah Project and \$1.47 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Highlights

Providing water and power to the West: \$1.332 billion is provided for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Water and Related Resources account to address water storage and conveyance, power and environmental compliance, and restoration activities in the West. Within this amount, \$196 million is provided for implementation of the drought-related provisions of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016.

Title III-Department of Energy (DOE)

The Energy and Water bill provides \$34.520 billion for DOE. This amount is \$3.774 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 level.

Highlights

Scientific Discovery: The bill provides \$6.26 billion, \$868 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level, for the Office of Science. The Office of Science is the largest federal sponsor of basic research in the physical sciences, and supports 22,000 researchers at 17 national laboratories and more than 300 universities. The bill continues to advance the highest priorities in materials research, high performance computing and biology to maintain U.S. scientific leadership.

Applied Energy Research and Development: The bill provides \$4.855 billion for applied energy programs, \$544 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level. This funding supports research, development, demonstration and deployment of an extensive range of clean energy technologies, including for nuclear, fossil and renewable energy applications, that keep the United States at the forefront of energy innovation. This amount includes \$353 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) to develop next-generation, innovative energy technologies.

Nonproliferation: The bill provides \$2.048 billion for nonproliferation activities that reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism. This amount will continue efforts to secure and permanently eliminate remaining stockpiles of dangerous nuclear and radiological materials around the world.

The bill also invests in new technologies that can detect uranium and plutonium production activities in foreign countries.

Nuclear Weapons: The bill provides \$10.642 billion, which is \$1.324 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 level, for nuclear weapons activities. This amount will invest in the science, technology and engineering needed to maintain a safe and secure stockpile without underground nuclear weapons testing; and upgrade or replace aging infrastructure, especially for uranium and plutonium activities. No funding is provided for the new nuclear capabilities proposed in the recently released Nuclear Posture Review.

Naval Reactors: The bill provides \$1.620 billion, which is \$200 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level, for naval reactors. This amount includes \$157 million to continue the design of a 40-year nuclear reactor core to power the Ohio-class submarine, and \$250 million to refuel a research and training reactor in New York.

Environmental Cleanup: The bill provides a total of \$7.126 billion, \$706 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level, for environmental cleanup activities across the DOE complex.

Title IV—Independent Agencies

The Energy and Water bill provides \$391 million for eight independent agencies, including the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, five regional commissions, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. This amount includes \$132 million for the NRC.

Agreement vs. House Passed Bill

The budget deal adds \$5.6 billion compared to the FY18 House bill, including \$1.3 billion for defense programs and \$4.3 billion for non-defense programs. The House bill severely shortchanges investments in water infrastructure and basic and applied scientific research, jeopardizing American technological and economic leadership. The House bill cut energy efficiency and renewable energy programs by half, slashing investments to make American manufacturing more competitive and save citizens on their energy costs. It also zeroed out the highly-successful Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy that makes small, targeted investments in breakthrough technologies that have the potential to transform our economy. The budget deal restores and increases funding to these areas along with investments in legacy energy sources like coal, natural gas, and nuclear to reduce costs and help the overall economy. The budget deal also invests in cleaning up the environmental legacy of the Cold War, adding \$731 million to protect nearby communities from contaminated buildings, soil, and groundwater. The budget deal also adds more than \$900 million above the House bill to improve our water infrastructure, including flood control facilities such as dams and levees, our riverine shipping systems, and ports and harbors. ###

OMNIBUS SUMMARY

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Bill Summary

The fiscal year 2018 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) Appropriations bill includes a total of \$23.423 billion in discretionary budget authority, \$2.158 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. This level is \$3.2 billion more than the House level, and \$725 million more than the President's request.

The bill includes \$11.431 billion for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), \$196 million more than fiscal year 2017. The bill includes \$7.111 billion for the Judiciary, \$9.951 billion for the General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Buildings Fund, \$1.896 billion for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and \$701 million for the Small Business Administration (SBA), and \$380 million for election security grants.

Key Points & Highlights

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund:

Investing in our communities is more critical than ever as our economy works to recover from the Great Recession. The CDFI Fund has the unique ability to leverage private sector investment in community development projects like affordable housing, retail development and lending to small businesses, filling some of the gap left by private sector investment after the financial crisis. The agreement supports community development in underserved areas, including in Tribal nations, by providing \$250 million for the CDFI Fund, \$2 million more than fiscal year 2017 and \$236 million more than the President's budget request, which proposed to eliminate these grants. The agreement includes \$22 million to expand access to healthy foods, \$25 million for the Bank Enterprise Award program, and \$16 million for CDFIs that benefit native communities. The agreement authorizes the Department of the Treasury to guarantee \$500 million in bonds to CDFIs, at no cost to the taxpayer, by providing long-term, low-rate financing for development in communities hit hardest by the economic downturn.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS):

The bill includes \$11.431 billion for the IRS, an increase of \$196 million more than fiscal year 2017 and \$456 million more than the President's budget request. This includes an increase of \$141 million for taxpayer services, helping the IRS assist taxpayers as they file their taxes. This also includes \$320 million for the IRS to implement new tax laws enacted in calendar year 2017.

Office of National Drug Control Policy:

The agreement provides \$415 million, an increase of \$27 million above fiscal year 2017 and \$47 million more than the President's budget request, to help reduce drug trafficking and drug use. For the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, the agreement provides \$280 million, \$26 million more than fiscal year 2017 and \$33 million more than the President's budget request. For Drug-Free Communities (DFC), the agreement provides \$99 million, \$2 million more than fiscal year 2017 and a \$7 million more than the President's budget request. The

agreement also provides \$3 million, the same as fiscal year 2017 and \$3 million more than the President's budget request, for community-based coalition enhancement grants as authorized by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA). These enhancement grants will allow current and former DFC grantees to apply for supplemental funding of up to \$75,000 for up to 4 years to combat their community's prescription drug and/or methamphetamine epidemics in a comprehensive, community-wide method.

The Judiciary:

Our citizens rely on a federal court system that guarantees the rights of all Americans, ensures the right to a defense, and secures public safety. The agreement provides \$7.111 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of \$184 million more than fiscal year 2017 and \$117 million less than the President's budget request. Defender Services is funded at \$1.079 billion, \$34 million more than fiscal year 2017 and \$54 million less than the President's budget request. Funding for Fees of Jurors and Commissioners includes an increase for the daily rate paid to jurors for their jury duty service. Temporary Article III judgeships that were included in the fiscal year 2017 Senate FSGG bill that would otherwise lapse are extended for an additional year.

District of Columbia:

The bill provides \$721 million for over a dozen distinct accounts relating to the operations of the District of Columbia. The total level is \$35 million less than fiscal year 2017. Most of the decrease is attributable to a \$22 million decrease in funds for local costs of providing emergency planning. The fiscal year 2017 included \$22 million for security services in conjunction with the 2017 Presidential Inauguration. Most of the funds are designated for the operations of the local courts (\$265 million), public defender services (\$92 million), and pre-trial and post-conviction offender supervision services (\$244 million), accounts that are independent of the local government and entirely dependent on Federal funds for their operations.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC):

The bill provides \$249 million for the CFTC, \$1 million below fiscal year 2017. The bill does not include two House policy riders. The first would have permanently prevented use of funds to lower the current \$8 billion swaps de minimis threshold, and the second would have changed the requirements for inter-affiliate margins.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC):

The agreement provides \$126 million for the CPSC, the same as fiscal year 2017 and \$3 million more than the President's budget request. Within this amount, \$1.1 million is provided for pool safety grants.

Election Assistance Commission (EAC):

It is essential that we assist states in improving the security of their election systems prior to the 2018 elections. In the agreement \$380 million is provided for election technology grants to states for improvement and security of voting systems. The agreement provides \$10.1 million for the EAC, \$500,000 more than fiscal year 2017 and \$900,000 more than the President's budget request. With this funding, EAC will ensure that voting systems are tested to federal standards

as well as provide information to support the voting process, and effective and efficient election administration.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC):

From communicating during emergencies to promoting economic growth, promoting and maintaining a robust communications network is critical to our daily lives. The agreement includes \$322 million, equal to the President’s request and \$35 million less than fiscal year 2017. The agreement also includes \$600 million to address the shortfall in funding for broadcasters that are relocating because of the Incentive Auction, ensuring that no station will be forced off the air.

General Services Administration (GSA):

For the Federal Buildings Fund, the agreement provides an aggregate limitation of \$9.074 billion, an increase of \$229 million more than fiscal year 2017 and \$877 million less than the President’s budget request. This includes \$4692 million for construction of federal buildings and courthouses – for land ports-of-entry in New York and California as well as for courthouses in Pennsylvania, Alabama, and Florida. The agreement does not rescind \$200 million in funding for the FBI headquarters consolidation. The agreement provides \$666 million for repair of federal buildings.

Office of Personnel Management (OPM):

The agreement provides a total of \$291 million for OPM (including the Inspector General), an increase of \$2 million more than fiscal year 2017 and the same as the President’s budget request. Of that amount, \$261 million is provided for OPM and \$30 million is provided for the OPM Inspector General. Funding in the amount of \$21 million is provided for OPM’s cybersecurity needs.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC):

The agreement provides \$1.897 for the SEC, an increase of \$291 million over the fiscal year 2017. Funds appropriated for the SEC are fully offset with transaction fee receipts. Within the total, \$244 million is provided for the relocation of the SEC headquarters. A Senate provision blocking funds for changing SEC protocols for providing paper copies of reports to investors was dropped.

Small Business Administration (SBA):

America’s 30 million small businesses are essential to our nation’s economic growth and prosperity. Over the last two decades, small and new businesses created two out of every three net new jobs in the U.S., and today over half of all working Americans own or work for a small business. To ensure that small businesses have access to financial resources and critical technical assistance, the agreement includes \$701 million for the SBA. The bill provides \$247 million for entrepreneurial development grants, \$2 million more than fiscal year 2017 enacted and \$55 million more than the president’s request. It also provides \$130 million for Small Business Development Centers, \$18 million for Women’s Business Centers, and \$11.5 million for the SCORE program. These programs offer personal training, assistance, and mentorship to small business owners and entrepreneurs. SBA’s business loan program will have new authority to guarantee \$29 billion in 7(a) loans, which expand access to capital for small business owners.

SBA will continue to provide critical assistance to business owners, homeowners, and nonprofits that are rebuilding local communities in the wake of devastating natural disasters.

Riders

The agreement does not include any new harmful provisions including:

- House provision that would have allowed churches to engage in political activity without jeopardizing their tax-free status, known as the Johnson Amendment.
- House provision that would have prevented Treasury from voting against international development projects that build new coal-fired power plants.
- Harmful provisions in the House bill that would jeopardize national security goals by restricting transactions with Cuba and blocking transactions with Iran that are now legal under the new agreement.
- A House provision that would have blocked the District of Columbia from using funds to implement its local reproductive health non-discrimination law.
- A House provision that would have repealed the District of Columbia Local Budget Autonomy Act.
- A House provision that would have repealed the District of Columbia Death with Dignity Act.
- A House provision that would have expanded the existing ban on funds for abortion under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, except for life of the mother or pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, to also include a ban on abortion under multi-state health plan coverage under the Affordable Care Act.
- House provisions that would have undermined financial regulators including the Federal Reserve, Federal Deposit Insurance Company, Office of the Comptroller of Currency, and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau by changing their funding source to discretionary appropriations.
- A House provision prohibiting the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) from finalizing any rule on table saws.

Meeting The Goals Of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement

- Helps create jobs, support small businesses, and develop communities by providing an increase of \$5 million for Small Business Development Centers and \$1.5 million for mentorship programs such as SCORE, authorizing \$29 billion in lending through the SBA's 7a loan program, and supporting the microloan technical assistance program with \$31 million. The agreement also includes a \$2 million increase for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.
- Provides \$380 million in election technology grants to states for improvement and security of voting systems.
- Invests in infrastructure and creates jobs by investing in the construction and repair of federal buildings.

Improvements Over The House Bill

- Provides \$380 million for grants to states for improvement and security of voting systems.

- Provides more funding for anti-drug efforts, including opioids.
- Provides requested funding for our nation's courts for effective administration of justice.
- Provides \$600 million for the FCC to reimburse broadcasters for costs incurred as a result of the FCC's Incentive Auction.
- Protects consumers through increased funding for agencies such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Provides more of the funds requested for construction and repair of federal buildings.
- Provides \$16 million more for SBA entrepreneurial development grants.

OMNIBUS SUMMARY
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Washington, D.C. – The fiscal year 2018 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill provides a discretionary total of \$55.252 billion, of which \$7.366 billion is provided for Disaster Relief (as defined by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act) and \$163 million is provided for Coast Guard Overseas Contingency Operation funds. After excluding these two amounts, the net discretionary appropriation for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is \$47.723 billion, \$5.315 billion more than fiscal year 2017 and \$2.527 billion more than the House level.

The bill provides a smarter approach to border security as compared to the President’s request through the use of proven technologies, additional air and marine assets, the hiring of additional Customs Officers at ports of entry, and physical barriers where appropriate. Instead of the President’s original \$1.6 billion request for 74 miles of wall, which was later increased to \$18 billion for the entire southern border, the bill funds \$641 million for 33 miles of new fencing, \$251 million for 14 miles of secondary fencing, and \$445 million for replacement of existing pedestrian fencing. The bill also includes statutory language requiring DHS to use proven fence designs that currently exist on the border, prohibits funds to build in the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, and requires reports on eminent domain, environmental impacts, and alternative technologies.

For immigration enforcement, the bill provides no funding to increase the number of deportation officers and requires Immigration and Customs Enforcement to reduce the current number of detention beds and end fiscal year 2018 at the same detention bed level assumed in fiscal year 2017.

The bill funds a new initiative for states and counties seeking assistance to secure election infrastructure through the deployment of mitigation measures, system penetration testing, and vulnerability assessments. Providing new resources to help secure our elections ahead of the 2018 midterms was one of the goals of the bipartisan budget agreement reached in February.

Also in line with the bipartisan budget agreement, the bill provides \$284 million for port and drug inspection technologies, including \$71 million detect and interdict opioids such as fentanyl.

For Science and Technology, the bill provides 34 percent more than the President’s request, restoring over 30 projects that support frontline operations and improve the safety of our citizens. The bill restores funding for three national laboratories that focus on bio hazards, chemical threats, and detecting radiological materials. These laboratories, including over 250 jobs, were proposed for elimination by the Administration.

The bill includes 59 percent more funding than the President’s request and 11 percent more than fiscal year 2017 for FEMA federal assistance grants and training, including significant increases

for pre-disaster mitigation, flood mapping, and Operation Stonegarden. Grant funds for non-profit organizations are also increased, including an expansion to at-risk organizations in non-urban areas not previously eligible to participate.

The bill rejects the Administration's proposal to eliminate critical transportation security funding. The Law Enforcement Reimbursement program, Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR) teams, and staffing at airport exit lanes are sustained at fiscal year 2017 enacted levels. In addition, the bill provides additional funding for leap ahead detection technology at airport checkpoints and reimbursement of airports that funded their own in-line baggage screening systems after 9/11.

The bill provides the largest appropriation to date for Coast Guard shipbuilding, including funds for the first Offshore Patrol Cutter, the 10th and 11th National Security Cutters, and six Fast Response Cutters.

Key Points & Highlights

Border Security. The bill provides \$14.018 billion for Customs and Border Protection, \$1.831 billion more than fiscal year 2017, supporting the women and men who patrol and protect our nation's border and facilitate legitimate trade and travel. The bill includes funds to support the hiring of 328 new CBP officers for deployment to our air and land ports of entry. While none of the requested funds to hire 500 new Border Patrol agents are approved, \$20 million is provided to recruit and retain existing agents, especially in remote locations. A greater emphasis has also been placed on reliable and proven border solutions and critical investments in technologies and assets, including:

- \$224.6 million for opioid and non-intrusive inspection equipment at our ports.
- \$74 million for ongoing replacement of light enforcement helicopters.
- \$77.5 million for 3 additional multi-role enforcement aircraft to continue addressing aviation needs.
- \$87.1 million for remote video surveillance systems.
- \$8 million for mobile surveillance capability.
- \$35 million for unmanned aerial system (UAS) upgrades and small UAS.
- \$80.3 million for replacement vehicles.
- \$42 million to continue to address the cross-border tunnel threat.

Immigration Enforcement. The bill provides \$7.076 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, \$641 million more than fiscal year 2017. Funds in the bill ensure compliance with U.S. immigration laws while streamlining and facilitating the legal immigration process. It continues to strongly support investigations into stopping human trafficking and smuggling, as well as efforts to prevent child sex tourism through funding of International Megan's Law. The bill funds the alternatives to detention program at \$187 million. The bill funds an average daily population of 40,520 adult and family detention beds, setting a glide path to 39,324 by the end of the fiscal year. The bill funds 65 new Homeland Security Investigations agents and 60 mission support staff as opposed to 1,606 positions made up of deportation officers and other immigration enforcement personnel. ICE is directed, to the greatest extent possible, to avoid

enforcement actions near sensitive locations such as churches and schools; provide more reliable cost estimates for detention beds; improve the contracting process for detention space; and increase oversight of adult and family detention facilities. Language is included requiring ICE, to make public its detention facility inspection reports, detention standards, and adherence to the highest levels of appropriate care and treatment of detainees. ICE is also required to regularly update detainee location information in its ICE Online Detainee Locator system. Further, ICE is to adhere to guidance regarding reporting of family separation incidents; verifying the location, status, and disposition of separated family members; and complying with its Parental Interests Directive.

Transportation Security Administration. The bill provides \$7.395 billion in total discretionary spending, \$79.2 million more than fiscal year 2017. The total is partially offset by \$2.470 billion in air passenger security fees for a net discretionary total of \$4.925 billion. Funds support the screening of over 2 million daily passengers at over 450 airports nationwide. The bill fully restores \$45 million for the Law Enforcement Reimbursement program, which was proposed for elimination in the President's request and the House bill; restores \$77 million to continue staffing airport exit lanes, rejecting the Administration's proposal to shift the burden to airports; provides \$58 million for 31 TSA VIPR teams, restoring \$43 million and 23 teams proposed for elimination by the President's request and House bill; provides \$76 million to accelerate the procurement of computed tomography (CT) scanners for use at passenger checkpoints; and funds \$50 million to begin reimbursing airports for in-line baggage screening systems built after 9/11.

Coast Guard Recapitalization. The bill provides \$2.695 billion, \$1.325 billion, or 64 percent, more than fiscal year 2017 for vessels, aircraft, and shore infrastructure, including: \$500 million to begin construction of the first Offshore Patrol Cutter; \$1.175 billion for construction of the 10th and 11th National Security Cutters; \$340 million for six Fast Response Cutters, two of which will begin replacement of the 110-foot Island Class Cutters supporting U.S. Central Command in Southwest Asia; \$95 million for a new, fully missionized C-130J aircraft, \$70 million for C-27J conversions, and \$135 million for shore facility projects.

United States Secret Service. The bill provides \$2.007 billion. The bill includes \$18.8 million for the Secret Service's unique computer forensics and cybercrimes training, as well as a total of \$8.366 million for grants and other support for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Also included is \$2 million for additional hiring, \$5 million for retention efforts, and \$9.9 million for overtime worked without pay by Secret Service personnel in 2017. The total includes \$12.15 million more than the President's request for new armored vehicles and \$14 million for cost increases associated with construction of a taller and stronger fence around the White House.

Cybersecurity. The bill provides a total of \$1.090 billion to protect networks from espionage, data theft, and cyber attacks. This investment will help guard against the over 77,000 cyber incidents experienced by federal agencies last year, which was a 10 percent increase compared to the previous year, and the more than 40,000 incidents, and almost 2,000 confirmed breaches, in the private sector. The total provides \$290 million for readiness and response activities related to potential attacks on critical infrastructure and government systems, including \$14.1 million for

cybersecurity education to train future cyber personnel and \$26 million for election security. Election security funds will be used to identify vulnerabilities in elections systems, test resiliency, and mitigate threats only if requested by state, local, tribal, or territorial governments. The bill includes \$795 million for intrusion detection, diagnostics, and mitigation related to civilian federal networks. Finally, \$4.7 million is for research and development related to proactive cyber protection such as predicting evolving threats.

FEMA Federal Assistance. The bill includes \$3.019 billion for grants to state, local, tribal, and territorial entities as follows:

- \$1.337 billion for state and local grants and preparedness training. These funds provide the training and readiness needed for a coordinated response to terrorism for the nation's over 2 million first responders and 6,000 emergency managers. Of the total, \$60 million is for the security of non-profit organizations.
- \$700 million for Firefighter Assistance Grants to ensure fire departments are staffed and firefighters are equipped to handle not only day-to-day tasks safely, but also to address emerging threats.
- \$350 million in Emergency Management Performance Grants to support communities' local capacity to manage a disaster, reducing the need to deploy federal resources.
- \$262.5 million to address the nation's backlog in flood map production and quality.
- \$249 million in Predisaster Mitigation Grants to reduce the impacts of disasters before they strike.
- \$120 million in emergency food and shelter grants for assistance to those with urgent needs.

Disaster Relief. The bill provides \$7.901 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund, \$7.366 billion of which is provided pursuant to the Budget Control Act disaster relief cap adjustment. This level will support the estimated costs associated with an average disaster year as well as the costs of recovery from previous major disasters, including the overwhelming wildfires and hurricanes of 2017.

Science and Technology. The bill returns DHS R&D funding to pre-sequester levels by providing a total of \$841 million for the Science and Technology Directorate, \$59 million more than fiscal year 2017, \$214 million more than the President's request, and \$126 million more than the House bill. Funds will enable DHS to restore over 30 projects that would have been eliminated under the President's budget, including work in critical areas such as explosives detection, cargo screening, bio-forensics, cybersecurity, and active shooter exercises. Within this total is \$40.5 million for the Centers of Excellence program, which supports 10 competitively-awarded centers led by major universities. The bill fully funds three laboratory facilities proposed for closure by the President-- the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center; Chemical Security Analysis Center; and National Urban Security Technology Laboratory. Finally, the bill includes \$6 million in R&D related to opioids and fentanyl detection.

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. The bill provides \$132.5 million in discretionary funds to maintain and improve the employment eligibility verification system

known as E-Verify. It also authorizes the use of \$10 million in fees for immigrant integration grants.

No New Harmful Policy Riders. The bill eliminates the following problematic riders from the House bill:

- Three House provisions restricting the ability of an ICE detainee from obtaining an abortion under certain conditions.
- A provision relating to the prohibition of imports from Cuba.

Oversight and Accountability. The bill includes several measures to hold the Department accountable.

- Prohibits DHS from reorganizing without an authorization from Congress.
- Requires an annual report detailing travel costs of Secret Service protectees, including those of the President's adult children.
- Requires a report on visa overstay data.
- Requires unannounced inspections of immigration detention facilities by the Inspector General.
- Requires a monthly budget and staffing report for all DHS programs, projects, and activities.
- Requires a multi-year investment plan for CBP non-intrusive inspection equipment.
- Requires a multi-year technology investment plan for TSA screening systems.
- Requires a multi-year capital investment plan for Coast Guard assets.
- Requires a manpower requirements analysis from the Coast Guard.
- Continues to cap the amount an appropriation can be increased through transfer at 10 percent.
- Requires the Department to assess how to better perform the homeland security mission in rural areas and consider establishing a rural advocate position.
- Requires the Department to provide regular updates on how the results of federally funded research is made more accessible to the public.

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INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES FISCAL YEAR 2018 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Bill Summary

The fiscal year 2018 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill provides \$35.252 billion in discretionary funding. That amount is \$2.972 billion above the fiscal year 2017 discretionary funding level and \$8.053 billion more than the President's request. Wildland fire suppression needs are fully funded within the Subcommittee's discretionary funding level rather than addressed through emergency appropriations as in the fiscal year 2017 enacted bill.

The bill makes major infrastructure improvements for national parks, refuges, forests and other public lands; provides significant funding increases to upgrade aging clean and drinking water systems and create jobs in communities nationwide; makes significant investments to build and improve tribal health care, education and public safety and justice facilities and fund key operating programs to fulfill our trust responsibility for American Indians and Alaska Natives; and makes critical infrastructure investments at our nation's premier cultural institutions. The bill rejects proposed funding cuts to vital land management and environmental programs proposed by the Trump Administration in its budget request—in particular protecting the Environmental Protection Agency's environmental and public health programs by preserving funding at the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The bill increases funding for conservation grants and Federal land acquisition projects funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and fully funds critical payments to counties through the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program.

Bipartisan Budget Deal

The bipartisan budget deal supported critical investments in programs and projects that the House-passed bill was not able to accommodate. While the House bill fell \$500 million short of the Forest Service's total forecasted need for fire suppression, the bill provides the full forecasted need of \$2.069 billion. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is provided \$425 million in the bill, far surpassing the House-passed level of \$262 million, which would have cut LWCF by a third compared to fiscal year 2017. The bill improves upon House-passed funding for programs supporting Indian country by providing an additional \$585 million for health care, health facilities, school maintenance and construction, law enforcement, and natural resources construction projects such as irrigation and dam safety needs. Finally, the budget deal enabled the bill to make infrastructure investments over and above the House-funded levels, including an additional \$690 million for EPA's water infrastructure programs and other increases for deferred maintenance and construction within federal land management agencies, tribal programs, and cultural institutions.

The bill invests in the priority areas emphasized under the bipartisan budget deal. For science and research, the bill protects full funding for the Environmental Protection Agency to support critical environmental and human health research related to the air we breathe, the water we drink, our waste streams, and the chemicals we are exposed to every day. The bill supports health care in Indian country by providing \$5.538 billion for the Indian Health Service. Rural America is also prioritized with \$8.754 billion provided to support education, public safety,

health care, and other critical services in Indian country, as well as additional set asides for rural water systems. Finally, funding in the bill prioritizes infrastructure and job creation by providing an additional \$1.8 billion compared to fiscal year 2017 to support drinking water and clean water infrastructure as well as deferred maintenance and construction within federal land management agencies, tribal programs, and cultural institutions.

Key Points & Highlights

- **Protecting Investments for the Environmental Protection Agency.** The bill protects key investments in environmental programs and grants within the EPA budget that were targeted for crippling budget cuts by the Trump Administration as well as the House and Senate Republican proposals. Total funding continues at the fiscal year 2017 enacted level of \$8.058 billion, with \$703 million more for water infrastructure and \$63 million more for Superfund cleanups provided in addition to the base funding level. This funding level protects all EPA staff, including all scientists, experts and support personnel, and rejects requested funding for large-scale, agency-wide buyouts. The bill protects the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), the critical EPA program relied on worldwide for assessments of toxic chemicals, by maintaining funding at the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and ensuring that the program continues to operate within EPA's research office. Finally, the bill provides full funding for all of EPA's state and regional grants with targeted increases for programs such as diesel emissions reduction grants, rejecting deep cuts proposed by the President that would have devastated state environmental efforts.
- **Infrastructure.** The bill provides a total of \$2.97 billion for EPA's water infrastructure programs. Funding includes \$2.857 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water revolving funds, which are provided directly to the states for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. This is an increase of \$600 million above fiscal year 2017 enacted and will help supply Americans with clean drinking water and replace aging sewer systems. The bill supports an estimated \$6 billion in new lending under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program (WIFIA) and provides sufficient administrative funding to ensure that loans can be processed without delay. The WIFIA program will utilize \$55 million in appropriations to finance more than 100 times that amount to accelerate investments in water projects with national and regional significance. Finally, the bill begins funding for new water programs authorized in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WINN) Act to support testing for lead contamination schools and child care centers (\$20 million), lead reduction projects in rural areas (\$20 million), and water projects in communities working to improve compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (\$10 million).

The bill includes \$915 million in additional increases above fiscal year 2017 enacted for infrastructure investments within the deferred maintenance and construction accounts for land management agencies, tribal programs, and cultural institutions funded in the bill.

- **An End to Fire Borrowing.** The agreement includes a legislative change that will ensure a reliable stream of funding for fighting catastrophic wildfires. The 10 year deal

includes a new funding mechanism, which will adjust funding caps to accommodate firefighting needs and end the need for regular borrowing from non-fire activities within the Forest Service and the Interior Department.

Access to this cap adjustment will vastly improve the ability of the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service to protect communities, lives, and property, as well as preform critical forest management, restoration, and other activities to improve the condition of the nation's public lands. This change provides the Administration with the opportunity to propose budgets in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021 that returns these agencies' focus on their core missions of managing lands for the benefit of all Americans and the communities that depend on healthy and resilient public lands. A dedicated source of funding for fire suppression requirements will allow the agencies to fund forest health and restoration projects that will help prevent catastrophic fire over the long-term and get ahead of the conditions that create them, rather than spending those dollars responding to fire emergencies year after year.

Also in this agreement, we provide a total of \$1.946 billion for fire suppression, \$500 million above the ten-year average and the President's Budget. If this amount is not sufficient due to a high-cost fire season, Congress will need to pass an emergency supplemental to augment these funds, as we did in Fiscal Year 2017. For fiscal year 2019, the Appropriations Committees will determine the appropriate level of suppression to include based on the ten-year average and fire forecasts, with the expectation that any additional funding will also be provided on an emergency basis, as has been standard practice, before the cap adjustment comes into effect in FY 2020.

- **National Park Service.** The bill provides \$3.202 billion for the National Park Service, an increase of \$270 million above fiscal year 2017. The bill includes critical investments to address the Service's estimated \$11.3 billion backlog in deferred maintenance at parks nationwide, including \$359.7 million for national park construction needs, an increase of \$150 million above fiscal year 2017. The bill includes \$2.48 billion for operations of national parks, an increase of \$52.9 million above fiscal year 2017. Within that amount, \$30 million in new funding is provided for critical repairs and maintenance needs. The bill rejects the President's request to reduce funding for national parks and partnership programs across the country. A total of \$23 million is provided for the Centennial Challenge program to match non-Federal investments and fund infrastructure and visitor services needs at parks around the nation.
- **Indian Health Service.** A total of \$5.54 billion is provided to fulfill the nation's trust responsibility to provide health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives through the Indian Health Service, which is an increase of \$497.9 million above fiscal year 2017. Within that amount, the bill includes \$3.95 billion for Indian Health Services programs, an increase of Funding of \$258 million, or 7 percent, more than fiscal year 2017. The bill makes major investments to improve health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives, including providing \$98 million in new funds to cover current services needs for tribal health programs; \$72 million in new funds for the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund, which will improve funding parity and health care quality; \$65 million in new

funds to fully fund the costs of staffing new tribal health facilities; and a total of \$58 million for investments at facilities that face accreditation emergencies to ensure continued operations and improve patient safety and health care quality. This amount is an increase of \$29 million above fiscal year 2017. The bill makes major increases to improve the quality of health care facilities across the country by increasing funding for Indian Health Facilities by 59 percent above fiscal year 2017, for a total of \$868 million. These include \$243.5 million for health care facilities construction, an increase of \$125.5 million above fiscal year 2017; \$167.5 million for health care facilities maintenance, an increase of \$91.8 million above fiscal year 2017; and \$192 million for sanitation facilities construction, an increase of \$90.3 million above fiscal year 2017. Contract support costs are fully funded by an indefinite appropriation estimated at \$718 million.

- **Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education.** The bill includes \$3.064 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education, an increase of \$203.9 million above fiscal year 2017. Operations of Indian Programs as funded at \$2.41 billion, which is an increase of \$70.4 million above fiscal year 2017. That amount includes a five percent increase for tribal law enforcement programs, including \$7.5 million to address the nation's opioids crisis, as well as \$4.4 million in new funds to implement tribal tourism and economic development opportunities authorized by the 2016 NATIVE Act. The bill includes significant increases to the Bureau of Indian Affairs tribal construction programs to make significant infrastructure investments in Indian Country. The bill provides \$238.3 million for education construction maintenance programs, including a total of \$105 million for school replacement construction funding, which more than doubles the program compared to its fiscal year 2017 level. The bill provides \$35.3 million for public safety and justice construction programs, including \$18 million to construct new facilities; and provides \$67.2 million for natural resources construction projects, including irrigation and dam safety needs. Indian Land and Water Claims Settlements are funded at \$55.5 million, an increase of \$10 million above fiscal year 2017. Contract support costs are fully funded with an indefinite appropriation estimated at \$242 million.
- **Fish and Wildlife Service.** The bill provides \$1.595 billion for the Fish and Wildlife Service, \$75 million more than fiscal year 2017 and \$292 million more than the President's request. This includes a significant investment of \$50 million to be used on deferred maintenance at national fish hatcheries and on national wildlife refuges. The National Wildlife Refuge System is provided with a \$2.8 million increase above fiscal year 2017. Science programs receive an increase of \$282,000, rejecting the President's budget request to zero out funding completely. Wildlife trafficking enforcement programs are increased by \$2 million more than fiscal year 2017 to combat trafficking in protected animals as well as illegal logging and violations of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act. State and Tribal Wildlife Grants are increased to \$63.5 million, \$1 million more than fiscal year 2017.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).** The bill provides a total of \$425 million for land acquisition, conservation easements, and state assistance grants, which is \$25 million more than fiscal year 2017 and well above the \$64 million level proposed in

the President's request. LWCF is critical for improving recreational access to our federal lands, protecting iconic landscapes, delivering grants to states and local governments to create and protect urban parks and open spaces, and providing farmers and ranchers with easements to allow them to continue to steward their private lands in the face of development pressures.

- **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).** The bill fully funds payments to counties through the PILT program. Payments are estimated at a total of \$530 million, which is \$65 million more than fiscal year 2017.
- **Historic Preservation.** Within the budget for the National Park Service, a total of \$96.9 million is provided for the Historic Preservation Fund, including \$48.9 million for state historic preservation grants, \$13.5 million for civil rights grants, and \$13 million for Save America's Treasures preservation grant program.
- **National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities.** The bill increases funding for the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities, which provide grants to cultural institutions in every state, to a total of \$152.8 million each, which is \$3 million more than fiscal year 2017. The President's request proposed terminating the endowments.
- **Smithsonian Institution.** The bill provides a total of \$1.043 billion for the Smithsonian Institution, which is \$180 million above fiscal year 2017. Included in that amount is a total of \$198 million to fund a critical, multi-year renovation of the National Air and Space Museum.
- **Other Cultural and Arts Programs.** The National Gallery of Art receives \$165.9 million, an increase of \$10.4 million above last year's level. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is funded at \$40.5 million, which is \$4.1 million more than fiscal year 2017. The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is provided \$12 million, an increase of \$1.5 million above fiscal year 2017.

Poison Pill Riders Eliminated

Between the House and Senate bills, there were more than 35 riders seeking to degrade bedrock environmental and conservation laws, such as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act. Through hard-fought negotiations on this bill, Democrats were able to successfully block anti-environmental riders, including the following provisions:

- Language providing a free pass to rescind and replace federal protections for streams and wetlands. The rider would have blocked any new rule to define Waters of the United States from being challenged on its merits and exempted EPA from longstanding procedural requirements, including public participation and public notice.
- Language blocking EPA efforts to strengthen public health protections against ground-level ozone pollution. Reducing ozone is critical because it is a proven hazard to the

environment and to human health, particularly for sensitive populations such as children and the elderly.

- Provision overriding the Endangered Species Act by substituting politics for science, including a rider that would legislatively de-list gray wolves in Wyoming and the Great Lakes region, a rider that would de-list all gray wolves across the United States, and a rider that would block the Fish & Wildlife Service from conducting any activities related to determining if the lesser prairie chicken may be a threatened species.
- Language directing immediate construction of a controversial flood control project, despite the George W. Bush Administration's rejection of the project based on findings that it would significantly degrade municipal water supplies, fisheries, productive bottomland hardwood forests, and wildlife and habitat on tens of thousands of acres of public and private lands. The language would also block any legal challenges and waive all other administrative requirements, such as compliance with the Endangered Species Act.
- Provision eliminating court-ordered requirements that federal land managers consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service when a new species is listed as endangered or threatened, when critical habitat for a listed species is designated, or when new information on a species becomes available. This would have resulted in logging, mining, and oil and gas development to go forward on federal lands without up-to-date science and species status, further imperiling threatened or endangered species.
- Major new authorizations to modify environmental requirements for forestry projects, set aside logging restrictions on old-growth trees in the Tongass National Forest, and provide a blanket exemption for Alaska and the Roadless Rule, which prohibits commercial logging and road construction in certain areas, overriding various court decisions.
- Language allowing operators of concentrated animal feeding operations to improperly dispose of animal waste, which can contaminate drinking water sources for local communities and lead to birth defects, infant death, diabetes and cancer.
- Language eliminating public reporting requirements for hazardous emissions from animal waste at farms when those emissions exceed certain thresholds. These are more than just bad smells – high concentrations of emissions from animal waste can lead to respiratory ailments and even death. The bill instead includes language ensuring that public reporting will be required under the Emergency Community Planning and Right-to-Know Act.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Bill Summary

The Legislative Branch Appropriations bill provides \$4.7 billion to conduct oversight, accountability and transparency of federal spending and programs; improve copyright protections; and support the security, safety, and daily operations of the United States Congress and the Library of Congress. Total funding is \$260 million more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$159.8 million more than fiscal year 2018 Senate Committee mark.

Key Points & Highlights

Public Access to CRS Reports

By making Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports available online, the bill provides the public fair and equal access to analysis and research products that are available to Members of Congress and their staff. These taxpayer-funded CRS reports will soon be available to citizens, schools, and libraries across the country, improving transparency and promoting better understanding of complex issues. The bill fully protects confidential inquiries from Members of Congress and their staff, and CRS's core mission will continue to be to support Congress. The bill also provides \$119.3 million for CRS operations, \$11.3 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level, to restore CRS's capacity to provide timely service to Congress and modernize its research tools following nearly six years of flat funding.

Security

The Capitol Police provide security and law enforcement for the Capitol complex and dignitary protection for Congressional leadership, ensuring the safety of staff and visitors as well as the unobstructed continuity of the legislative process. The bill provides \$426.5 million, \$33.2 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level, to ensure that Capitol Police are equipped with the necessary tools and resources, including training and equipment, to carry out their mission. Increased funding will allow the Capitol Police to deploy approximately 120 more officers in accordance with the budget request. Additional funding is provided in the bill to address concerns related to security for Members of Congress following the shooting earlier this year in Alexandria, Va. This funding will support enhanced threat analysis and intelligence capabilities as well as additional law enforcement equipment.

Oversight and Accountability

GAO is an independent, non-partisan "watchdog" that audits and investigates federal programs and federal spending. The bill provides \$578.9 million, \$34.4 million more than fiscal year 2017, for GAO to hire 100 additional staff. This builds on a multi-year effort to restore GAO staffing, which was cut by more than 10 percent over fiscal years 2012 and 2013. Funding in the bill will bring staffing to just 3 percent below the fiscal year 2011 level. Finally, the bill provides funding to improve the technology GAO experts use to conduct audits and investigations.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library and our nation's oldest cultural institution,

with 838 miles of shelving and 12,000 items added daily as our store of knowledge continues to grow. The bill provides \$471 million, \$20 million more than fiscal year 2017, to maintain current staffing and services while continuing a comprehensive modernization on the Library's information technology. Within these funds, the bill provides \$10 million for the Library to embark on a new public-private partnership to enhance the visitor's experience at the Library. The initiative will bring more of the Library's collections out from the vaults and into exhibition spaces for public display, enable better public access to the Reading Room, and enhance basic services to better accommodate visitors.

Copyright Protections & Modernization

For the Copyright Office, the bill provides \$72 million, an increase of \$3.2 million over fiscal year 2017. This amount is equal to the full budget request, including for modernization activities such as the development of a next generation registration system. Funding provided also accommodates additional staffing "in high demand" areas such as registration processing, Copyright law, and the public information office.

Safety & Historic Preservation

The AOC is responsible for the maintenance, operation and preservation of 16.5 million square feet of buildings and more than 450 acres of land throughout the Capitol complex and its annexes. The bill provides \$712.1 million, \$94.2 million more than fiscal year 2017, for the Capitol Building, Senate facilities, House facilities, campus-wide security infrastructure, Capitol Visitors Center, grounds maintenance, all Library of Congress facilities, and for heating, cooling and power for the entire campus. In addition to supporting the daily operations and maintenance, the bill funds major projects that address fire and safety needs and also ensures proper preservation and longevity of historic buildings. This funding will help alleviate part of the \$1 billion in deferred maintenance identified by the agency.

Budget Deal Supports Oversight, Transparency, Safety, and Security

The budget deal enabled tangible relief to Legislative Branch agencies and offices by accommodating key investments to boost oversight, security, research, transparency, and safety. The bill provides significant relief for GAO by continuing to restore prior year staffing cuts – a big improvement compared to the House Committee mark, which would have reduced GAO staffing levels, and the Senate mark, which would have maintained current staffing levels. The Capitol Police are provided an additional \$4 million above both the House and Senate marks to accommodate evolving needs related to enhanced security following the June 2017 shooting involving several Members of Congress. CRS will be able to boost its research capacity via staffing and research tools. Under the House and Senate marks, CRS would have been forced to defer staffing needs to make required IT upgrades. These new resources are more important than ever as CRS's reports will now be available to the public. The budget deal has also made possible critical infrastructure repairs on the Capitol campus, including repair of cracked and missing stone on the Capitol Building, long-overdue upgrades to campus-wide heating, cooling, and power, as well as a new storage facility for the Library of Congress's growing collections. Finally, the budget deal has enabled Congress to capitalize on these day-to-day investments by starting a new public-private partnership to better share and showcase the Library's many treasures.

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DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES FISCAL YEAR 2018 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Bill Summary

The fiscal year 2018 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill provides \$177.100 billion in base discretionary budget authority, and \$16.075 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The bill includes \$1.896 billion in cap adjustment funding, \$64 million less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, to prevent waste, fraud, abuse and improper payments in the Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security programs. In addition, the bill reflects a reduction in its mandatory spending offsets allocation of -\$1.453 billion, resulting in an overall net increase in resources of \$14.622 billion, or +8.6 percent compared to fiscal year 2017.

The Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill prioritizes significant increases in five key priorities that were highlighted in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement: addressing the opioid addiction crisis, making college more affordable, increasing access to high quality child care, strengthening medical research, and improving the effectiveness of the Social Security Administration. An additional priority reflected in the conference agreement is increased investment in P-12 education to put students on the path of academic and ultimately career success.

The bill provides funding for a broad range of programs that spur economic growth and provide a safety net for those who fall through the cracks. It provides support for high-quality early learning opportunities for our youngest children; preventive services and care that help individuals live healthy lives; job training that helps the unemployed return to work; local school districts; and the enforcement of employee rights in the workplace. It also supports the administrative expenses for the Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and unemployment insurance programs that provide basic retirement security, support for individuals with debilitating disabilities, access to healthcare and temporary financial assistance to unemployed workers.

By comparison, the House proposal released last July would have cut funding for programs in the bill by \$7.363 billion, resulting in steep reductions to job training, public and women's health programs, and funding for substance abuse prevention and the mental health block grant. The bipartisan budget agreement makes it possible not only to preserve these important investments, but to accelerate research spending on finding cures for diseases like Alzheimer's disease and to help address the scourge of opioid addiction affecting so many communities. It increases funding for mental health services, including in schools, and for work-study programs that help families cover the cost of college.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:

- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Grants to States.** The bill includes \$2.8 billion for the WIOA formula grants, an increase of \$80 million over fiscal year 2017, to expand support for our national workforce system and help approximately

20 million people each year look for work, train for in-demand careers, and connect with local employers ready to hire. The bill rejects the Administration's proposal to cut these grants by over \$1 billion, or 40 percent.

- **Apprenticeship Grants.** The bill includes \$145 million for registered apprenticeship grants, an increase of \$50 million over fiscal year 2017, to expand support for the apprenticeship program that the Committees on Appropriations created in fiscal year 2016. The bill directs DOL to report to the Committees by September 2018 regarding exactly how it plans to make use of funds made available.
- **Veterans Employment and Training Services.** The bill includes \$295 million for veterans training programs, an increase of \$16 million over fiscal year 2017, to provide veterans the supportive services they need to re-enter the labor force, including job training and placement, career counseling, resume preparation and other supportive services.
- **Job Corps.** The bill includes \$1.72 billion for Job Corps, \$15 million more than fiscal year 2017, to expand support for the nation's largest and most comprehensive residential education and job training program for at-risk youth, ages 16 through 24.
- **Wage and Hour Division (WHD).** The bill maintains funding of \$227.5 million for the Wage and Hour division. Wage and Hour enforces important federal labor laws, including those covering the minimum wage and overtime for 135 million workers nationwide. A focus is ensuring a fair day's pay for a fair day's work by investigating employer violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act and collecting back pay owed to workers. Last year, WHD recovered more than \$270 million for more than 240,000 workers.
- **Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB).** The bill provides \$86 million, the same amount as in fiscal year 2017, for ILAB to ensure that our trading partners around the world are respecting workers' rights. Continued funding will enable ILAB to monitor and enforce labor provisions in the nation's trade agreements, and support additional grant assistance to address labor law enforcement under trade agreements and combat exploitative child labor.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS):

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH).** The bill provides \$37.1 billion for NIH, including \$496 million from the 21st Century Cures Act, representing an increase of \$3 billion above fiscal year 2017. The increase includes \$500 million for targeted research on opioid addiction within the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and encourages NIDA to commit additional funding to this effort from within its large base budget. It provides an additional \$60 million for the new Precision Medicine Initiative million-person cohort program, as well as an additional \$414 million for Alzheimer's disease research, or \$1.8

billion in all. It includes increases of \$140 million for the BRAIN Initiative, \$40 million to expedite work on a universal flu vaccine, and \$50 million for research to combat antimicrobial resistance. Every NIH Institute and Center receives increased funding to support investments that advance science and speed the development of new therapies, diagnostics and preventive measures, improving the health of all Americans.

- **The Affordable Care Act (ACA).** The bill does not include new language restricting HHS' authority to administer or enforce the ACA. The bill provides the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with funding and program authorities that are consistent with those in fiscal year 2014, thereby protecting its ability to administer Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA.
- **Title X Family Planning & Teen Pregnancy Prevention:** The bill preserves full funding for two key women's health programs. It provides \$286.5 million for the Title X program and \$108 million for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, both level with fiscal year 2017. The House bill proposed to eliminate both programs, and it included a poison pill rider to prohibit Planned Parenthood from receiving any federal funding, which is not included in the bill.
- **Community Health Centers (CHCs).** The program total for CHCs for fiscal year 2018 is \$5.43 billion, an increase of \$335 million, to expand funding for the largest safety net systems of primary and preventive care in the country. This includes an increase of \$135 million in discretionary funding and the \$200 million in mandatory funding from the program's reauthorization included in the recent budget deal. The bill directs HRSA to spend no less than \$200 million to expand services related to the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders and to expand mental health services.

Healthcare Workforce and the Opioid Epidemic: As part of the targeted funding to address the opioid epidemic, the bill includes \$280 million for healthcare workforce programs that will expand and improve access to quality substance use disorder and mental health treatment services nationwide. The bill includes \$105 million for the National Health Service Corps and it expands loan repayment eligibility requirements to include substance use disorder counselors, which will support recruitment and retention of health professionals needed in underserved areas. The bill also includes \$75 million for the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program, an increase of \$25 million, and \$10 million for a new program to expand access to behavioral health services in pediatric primary care settings.

- **Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME).** The bill includes \$315 million for CHGME, \$15 million more than fiscal year 2017. This funding supports freestanding children's hospitals' training of resident physicians, research capabilities, and care for vulnerable and underserved children.
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):** The bill provides CDC with a program level of \$8.3 billion, which is \$1.046 billion more than in fiscal year 2017 and

an increase of 14 percent. Of the additional funding provided, \$350 million is to expand the agency's opioid abuse prevention and surveillance activities, including enhancement of State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs. The bill provides increases for a wide-range of core public health activities that have experienced flat or declining funding in recent years. Most notably, the bill boosts funding for chronic disease prevention (an increase of \$47 million), as well as CDC's work addressing emerging infectious diseases (an increase of \$26 million). The bill includes \$480 million to replace the agency's aging high-level containment lab in Atlanta.

- **Emergency Preparedness:** The bill provides an additional \$516 million to programs that protect Americans from bioterrorism and public health threats. This includes \$710 million for Project BioShield (\$200 million more than fiscal year 2017) and \$610 million for the Strategic National Stockpile (\$35 million more than fiscal year 2017). The bill also provides an additional \$50 million to CDC to continue and sustain its Global Health Security strategy, which keeps Americans safe at home by preventing the spread of infectious diseases abroad.
- **Violence Prevention.** The bill provides \$140 million, which is \$32.5 million more than fiscal year 2017, for address the root causes of violence in our society. The bill provides \$23.2 million, an increase of \$7.5 million, to expand the National Violent Death Reporting System to all States and the District of Columbia. This expansion will allow researchers, practitioners and policymakers to get a more complete understanding of violent deaths in the United States. The bill also provides an increase of \$25 million to SAMHSA for Project Aware, Mental Health First Aid, and Healthy Transitions. These programs increase awareness of mental health issues, provide training to educators and others about detecting and responding to mental health issues, and connects those with mental health issues to appropriate services.
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).** The bill provides \$5.16 billion for SAMHSA, \$1.4 billion more than fiscal year 2017. It includes \$1 billion for a new State Opioid Response Grant program, which will include a \$50 million set-aside for tribes. It also includes \$723 million for the Mental Health Block Grant, which is \$160 million more than in fiscal year 2017, as well as \$100 million for new grants to communities and community organizations who meet criteria for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers. The bill provides an additional \$132 million to targeted programs throughout SAMHSA addressing mental health and opioid use disorders.
- **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG).** As a result of the commitment secured in the bipartisan budget agreement, the bill provides \$5.226 billion for CCDBG. That is \$2.37 billion more than fiscal year 2017, an 83 percent increase, and the largest single-year increase in the program's history. It will allow states to stay on track with implementing the health, safety and quality standards in the 2014 CCDBG reauthorization. The funding will increase access to affordable, high-quality child care to more low-income, working families.

- **Head Start.** The bill provides \$9.863 billion for Head Start, \$610 million more than fiscal year 2017. The funding will provide a full cost-of-living adjustment, which includes workforce investments, to existing grantees. It provides \$260 million in competitive grants for programs to increase their hours, making a down payment towards the requirement that all centers offer full-day, full-year services by 2021. In addition to supporting working families, research shows that extended duration of high-quality early learning services improves child learning and developmental outcomes. Finally, the bill will provide an additional \$115 million for Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships grants, of which \$15 million is a cost-of-living adjustment, to expand infant-toddler access to services.
- **Preschool Development Grants (PDG).** The bill provides \$250 million for Preschool Development Grants, which were proposed for elimination in the President's budget. This will be the first round of grants under the new PDG program, as authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act, and will build on the success of the legacy program. The grants will improve coordination, quality and access in early childhood education.
- **Child Welfare and the Opioid Crisis.** As part of the targeted funding to fight against the opioid epidemic, the bill provides an additional \$100 million to programs at HHS' Administration for Children and Families. The bill provides \$85 million for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grants, which is \$60 million more than fiscal year 2017. The incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome has increased as the opioid crisis has worsened, and additional CAPTA funding will allow states to improve implementation of infant plans of safe care and better respond to the needs of substance-affected infants and their families. The bill provides \$20 million for kinship navigator programs, which connect grandparents and other relatives to available services, and \$20 million to expand the Regional Partnerships Grant program, which funds community collaborations among substance abuse treatment providers, courts, and child welfare agencies.
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).** The bill provides \$3.64 billion for LIHEAP, which is \$250 million more than fiscal year 2017 and the highest funding level for the block grant since fiscal year 2011. The President's budget proposed to eliminate LIHEAP, and the program would have maintained level funding under the House and Senate bills. LIHEAP provides critical heating and cooling assistance to over 6 million households, many of which are homes to the elderly, disabled, or young children.
- **Office of Refugee Resettlement.** The bill provides \$320 million for the Transitional and Medical Services program, which will allow HHS to continue the current policy of providing eight months of cash and medical assistance at the projected number of eligible arrivals, and to sustain the matching grant program. The bill consolidates the Refugee Social Services, Targeted Assistance and Refugee Health Promotion programs, and rejects proposals to cut those services in both the President's budget and the House bill.

The bill provides an increase of \$5 million to the Victims of Trafficking program, which provides a variety of services to victims of commercial sex and forced labor trafficking. The bill also provides \$1.3 billion for the Unaccompanied Children program, which provides temporary care and services for children apprehended by the Department of Homeland Security until they can be placed with a sponsor to await resolution of their immigration status.

- **Domestic Violence Programs.** The bill provides \$160 million, \$9 million more than fiscal year 2017, for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, which provides emergency shelter and related assistance for victims of domestic violence and their children. This level includes a \$5 million, or 30 percent, increase to the existing tribal set-aside. The bill provides \$9 million for the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which is \$1 million more than fiscal year 2017.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

- **Supporting Elementary and Secondary Education.** The bill supports the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the bipartisan reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It includes:
 - \$15.8 billion, \$300 million more than fiscal year 2017, for Title I grants to local educational agencies (LEAs). The Title I program assists half of the nation's schools in their efforts to raise student achievement for 25 million students. These programs provide extra academic support to help students, particularly those in high-poverty schools, meet college and career-ready state academic standards, including through preschool programs for eligible children.
 - \$1.4 billion, an increase of \$86 million more than fiscal year 2017, for all currently funded programs of Impact Aid, which provides assistance to more than 1,000 school districts for lost revenue or increased costs resulting from federal activities, such as a military presence.
 - \$1.1 billion, an increase of \$700 million more than fiscal year 2017, for the Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant program. This program provides flexible resources that states, LEAs, and schools can decide how to best use, consistent with the authorization for the program, to improve student outcomes.
 - \$12.3 billion, an increase of \$275 million more than fiscal year 2017, for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B formula grants. These grants provide resources to states and school districts designed to help meet the excess costs of providing special education and related services to more than 6 million children with disabilities.

- **College affordability.** The bill increases the Pell Grant maximum award by \$175, to \$6,095, for roughly 8 million students from low and middle income families. These funds help make college more affordable. Additionally, it invests in college affordability by increasing campus-based student aid programs by \$247 million, or 14 percent, for more than 1.5 million college students receiving such funds.
- **Career and Technical Education.** The bill provides \$1.2 billion for Career and Technical Education, including an increase of \$75 million, or 7 percent, for state grants for this purpose. Career and technical education programs provide students with the skills and credentials they need for 21st century careers.
- **Adult Education.** The bill also invests in our adult learners by providing \$617 million, an increase of \$35 million or 6 percent, for Adult Education state grants. These funds help English language learners and play an important role in the workforce development system.
- **Education for Homeless Children and Youths.** Support for homeless students under the McKinney-Vento Act receives \$85 million, \$8 million more than fiscal year 2017. These funds support grants for services to homeless children and youth, helping them enroll and succeed in school. The homeless student population is an estimated 1.3 million children.
- **Office for Civil Rights (OCR).** The bill provides \$117 million, an increase of \$7 million more than fiscal year 2017, for the Department of Education's OCR, which plays an important role in combatting sexual violence and ensuring students have access to education in safe environments free from sex-based discrimination.
- **Children of Fallen Heroes Scholarships.** The bill includes a provision that increases the amount of Pell Grant money available to students who are the children of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS workers, and fire police. A child of a fallen first responder who qualifies for Pell Grant aid will now be eligible for the maximum Pell Grant award authorized by law.

RELATED AGENCIES:

- **National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).** The bill maintains the fiscal year 2017 funding level of \$274 million for the NLRB, rejecting the cuts proposed in both the President's budget and the House bill. The NLRB is charged with protecting employee and employer rights by enforcing the National Labor Relations Act. The bill is free of language that might restrict or interfere with the Board's activities.
- **Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).** The bill provides \$445 million, the same as fiscal year 2017, to support a healthy and vibrant network of public media stations across the country. The federal appropriation supports more than 1,400 locally owned and operated public television and radio stations that serve almost 99 percent of the

American population living in rural and urban communities across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. In addition, the bill provides \$20 million to maintain federal support for the costs associated with replacing CPB's interconnection system and other system wide infrastructure and services.

- **Social Security Administration (SSA).** In alignment with the commitment in the bipartisan budget agreement, the bill increases SSA's base administrative budget by \$480 million and provides a total of \$12.9 billion for the agency. SSA affects the lives of over 50 million Americans currently receiving retirement and survivor benefits, as well as the millions applying for and receiving disability benefits. The bill increases funding for general operations and includes designated funding for SSA's IT modernization initiative and to address the disability adjudication backlog, which is approximately 600 days on average. The bill also provides targeted funding to activities that will increase the integrity of SSA's programs, including preventing and detecting fraud and conducting reviews of continued eligibility for benefits.
- **Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).** The bill includes \$1.064 billion for CNCS, an increase of \$34 million over fiscal year 2017, to expand investments that help thousands of nonprofits, schools, faith-based groups, and local governments meet pressing local needs through service and social innovation. The bill rejects the Administration's proposal to eliminate the agency. This funding will expand support for more than 345,000 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members serving in 50,000 locations, providing direct services and mobilizing millions of additional volunteers to solve problems, expand opportunity, and strengthen communities.
- **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).** The bill provides \$240 million, an increase of \$9 million above fiscal year 2017. The IMLS was targeted for closure by the Administration in its fiscal year 2018 budget request. IMLS is the primary source of federal support for our nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. IMLS provides grants to every state and territory in the country.

RIDERS:

The bill drops more than a dozen poison pill riders included in the House Committee mark that would have set back efforts to protect consumers and workers' collective bargaining rights, including provisions aimed at:

- **The Affordable Care Act (ACA).** The bill does not include language restricting HHS' authority to administer or enforce the ACA. The bill provides the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with funding and program authorities that are consistent with those it has had since fiscal year 2014. CMS is charged with administering Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA.
- **Conflict of Interest Standards.** The bill does not include language that was in the House bill to block the Employee Benefit Security Administration's final rule on

eliminating potential conflicts of interest that could reduce the retirement savings of participants investing in 401(k)s and IRAs. Conflicted investment advice costs investors in IRAs and 401(k)s approximately \$17 billion per year.

- **Higher Education Institutions at Failed Accreditor.** The bill does not include section 313 of the Senate bill that would have doubled to 3 years (from current law's 18 months) the period during which an institution of higher education could remain unaccredited but still eligible to receive federal taxpayer resources through federal student assistance programs.
- **Representation-Case Procedures.** The bill does not include a House bill provision that would prevent the NLRB from implementing its final rule to streamline elections and reduce the unnecessary litigation that too often delays votes on union representation.
- **NLRB and Tribal Sovereignty.** The agreement drops a House provision that would prohibit the NLRB from asserting jurisdiction over tribal enterprises to ensure hundreds of thousands of workers, including many at Indian casinos, have adequate labor law protections. While tribal sovereignty covers inherently governmental functions, workers in "commercial enterprises" operated by tribes and other employers should have the protection of federal laws like the NLRA.
- **Joint Employer Standard.** The bill eliminates language included in the House bill that prohibited the NLRB from implementing a revised standard of what constitutes a joint employer. The NLRB's revised standard, which was affirmed in the Board's *Browning v. Ferris* decision, takes into account whether an employer exercises control over the wages, hours and working conditions of its employees indirectly through an intermediary. With millions of workers employed in alternative working arrangements, such as temporary staffing firms and contractors, the revised standard will ensure that more workers can negotiate with the entity that actually controls the terms and conditions of their jobs.
- **Women's Healthcare.** In addition to protecting Title X funding, the bill does not include the House Conscience Protection Act provision, which would expand the entities that can deny a woman's access to reproductive health care and abortion services, refuse to follow medical standards of care, and file lawsuits before they experience any actual harm and before administrative remedies are sought or exhausted.

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Bill Summary

The agreement includes \$92.7 billion in total discretionary budget authority for Military Construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Related Agencies, which is \$9.95 billion more than fiscal year 17 enacted. This includes \$10.091 billion in defense funding (\$2.4 billion more than fiscal year 2017), \$81.9 billion in non-defense funding (\$7.3 billion more than fiscal year 2017), and \$750 million for Overseas Contingency Operations (\$330 million more than fiscal year 2017).

For defense spending, the agreement includes \$10.091 billion for military construction, family housing, and related activities at installations in the United States and around the world. This is \$2.37 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level; \$309 million more than the budget request; and \$555 million more than the Senate reported bill. This funding directly supports mission readiness, alliance commitments, and quality of life for service members and their families. Projects funded in the bill include operational, training, maintenance, and support infrastructure, barracks and family housing, schools, and medical facilities. In addition to base funding for military construction, the bill also provides \$750 million to support Overseas Contingency Operations.

For non-defense, the bill provides \$81.5 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to support veterans' services and medical care. This is \$7.1 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level; \$2.7 billion more than the budget request; and \$3.1 billion more than the Senate reported bill. This agreement places veterans and their needs at the top of the priority list by providing additional funding for VA medical services, maintenance and construction backlogs, and acquisition of the new electronic health record. For mandatory programs, including disability compensation and education benefits, the bill includes \$103.9 billion in mandatory funding.

In addition to the funding provided to the VA, the bill also includes \$425 million for the Related Agencies that provide services to our nation's veterans and their families. These include Arlington National Cemetery, the Armed Forces Retirement Home, the American Battle Monuments Commission, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The funding levels contained in the bill support:

- An additional \$54.1 million for environmental remediation in the BRAC account;
- \$25 million more than requested for the DoD's Energy Resilience and Conservation Program planning and construction.
- \$2 billion over base funding for VA maintenance projects and construction of extended care facilities.
- \$782 million for VA to acquire a new electronic healthcare record (fiscal year 18 funding only).
- \$167 million for Arlington National Cemetery to expedite construction of the Southern Expansion project.

Bipartisan Budget Deal

The levels contained in the bill reflect critical additional investments which would not have been possible without passage of the bipartisan budget agreement. Without the additional non-defense funding, the bill would not have contained significant increases to correct safety deficiencies and begin addressing the maintenance and construction backlogs at hospitals and clinics across the country. The additional funds also allowed Congress to provide funding to begin the first phase of the VA's new electronic health record acquisition as opposed to the Administration's misguided plan of funding it at the expense of veterans' medical care.

Key Points & Highlights

Twenty first Century medicine requires modern facilities in order to improve healthcare outcomes. Sixty percent of VA's buildings are 50 years or older, with the Department's own Strategic Capital Investment Planning process showing a need of almost \$60 billion over 10 years to modernize infrastructure and close gaps in care. In addition, the VA's facilities condition assessment shows more than \$14 billion in code deficiencies (those rated Ds or Fs) and backlogged maintenance across the country. To continue to ignore required maintenance and allow conditions to worsen will eventually impact veterans' ability to receive timely access to healthcare. To begin to address this looming crisis, the budget agreement included \$2 billion in fiscal year 2018 for VA to address the maintenance and construction backlogs. The bill makes good on that promise by providing an additional and separate \$2 billion appropriation on top of base funding provided in the bill for these purposes. This includes:

- An additional \$1 billion for non-recurring maintenance (NRM) at existing hospitals and clinics to address maintenance and sustainment projects outlined in the VA's facility condition assessment reports. This funding, on top of the \$1.8 billion the Department estimates spending out of the Medical Facilities account, will almost triple the amount that the VA normally spends on NRM in a given year and will go a long way in beginning to address the over \$12 billion in code violations and deficiencies throughout the country.
- An additional \$425 million for minor construction projects. The additional funding coupled with the \$343 million provided within the Minor Construction account will bring minor construction spending to almost \$1 billion in fiscal year 2018. This funding will be used to help the VA fund construction projects that either correct deficiencies at existing hospitals or have been awaiting funding on the VA's Strategic Capital Investment Planning list.
- An additional \$575 million for grants for construction of State extended care facilities. The VA's priority 1 grant list (those construction and renovation projects in which the State has the matching 35 percent) totaled almost \$640 million in fiscal year 2017, yet the program only received a \$90 million appropriation. It is estimated that the fiscal year 2018 Priority 1 list will be over \$700 million. As Vietnam-era veterans age, the need for major investment in long-term care will continue to grow and the VA's reliance on its State partners through the State Veterans Homes will only increase. This additional

funding, coupled with the \$110 million in base funding will help the VA clear out the backlog of needed construction and renovation at State Veteran long-term care homes.

In order to provide greater transparency and oversight the bill also requires the Department to submit a spend plan for this additional funding.

The agreement also includes significant funding for both Opioid Treatment and Prevention as well as Mental Health Programs. Specifically, the agreement includes:

- \$434.6 million for opioid treatment, prevention, safety initiatives and justice programs. In addition to this funding, the bill also includes \$270 million for the Office of Rural Health's Rural Health Initiatives, which funds several pilot projects aimed at treating and preventing opioid abuse, including projects focused on alternatives to opioid-centered pain management in rural, highly rural, and remote areas
- \$8.39 billion for mental health care, including \$186 million for suicide prevention
- \$10 million more than requested for the veterans' crisis line bringing the total to \$99 million to continue to train and expand personnel to help assist veterans in a mental health crisis
- An additional \$15 million more than requested to support and expand readjustment counseling at Vet Centers across the country. The additional funds brings the total for Vet Centers to \$258.5 million in fiscal year 2018
- \$40 million for the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (\$22 million more than requested)
- \$340 million for Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (\$20 million more than requested) – This program supports veterans, many with combat and other mental health issues, that are on the verge of homelessness
- \$10 million for expansion of programs under the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act

For more than a decade, the VA has struggled to modernize its existing electronic health record (EHR) and create a seamless record with the Department of Defense. In June of 2017, VA Secretary Shulkin announced the intention to acquire the same EHR currently being procured by the Department of Defense. The 10 year estimate for new EHR modernization is \$10 billion for the acquisition and \$6 billion for network and hardware infrastructure upgrades. The Administration's plan was to finance the fiscal year 2018 costs by transferring \$782 million from VA's medical care accounts, rather than request additional funding. The bill takes a more responsible approach by providing \$782 million without needlessly placing veterans' access to healthcare in jeopardy. This amount includes both the fiscal year 18 contract costs, and the funding needed to begin the infrastructure upgrades at VA hospitals. As this is one of the largest acquisitions in the history of the VA, the bill also includes a requirement for the Department to

provide quarterly briefing to the Committee to ensure both schedule and cost estimates are maintained.

Other Highlights

Military Construction

Active component military construction: \$7.8 billion to fund Army, Navy and Marine Corps, Air Force, and Defense-wide military construction projects worldwide. The bill is \$558 million less than the budget request and \$1.8 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

Guard and Reserve component military construction: \$645 million for readiness and reserve centers, training facilities, related military construction and quality of life improvements. This is \$70 million more than the request and \$28 million less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

Unfunded military construction requirements: \$585 million for the top military construction priorities for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, and Air Force, to include \$225.6 million for Army and Air Force Reserve and National Guard projects, as requested in the fiscal year 2018 unfunded priorities lists submitted by the services.

Family Housing: \$1.41 billion for family housing construction, operations, and maintenance. This bill is \$2 million more than the budget request and \$133 million more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

DOD Medical Facilities: \$708 million for medical facilities that provide quality and accessible health care to service members and their families.

Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA): \$249 million for Department of Defense elementary, middle, and high schools. These schools provide high quality education opportunities to children of service members stationed overseas or at installations without reasonable access to educational facilities.

Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP): \$175 million, to include \$10 million for planning and design, which is \$25 million more than the budget request. ERCIP funds infrastructure projects that improve energy resilience, save energy, and reduce reliance on inefficient and nonrenewable energy sources. While the projects vary in scope, they allow DoD to invest in renewable resources such as wind and solar energy and fund improvements to energy conservation in facilities. The additional funding will allow the Department to increase the number of projects funded, each of which provide a return on investment – net savings – within ten years.

NATO Security Investment Program (NSIP): \$178 million, which is \$24 million more than the budget request and equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. NSIP allows us to fund our alliance commitments and ensure NATO – through U.S. and member state contributions – is able to meet long-term defense infrastructure investment requirements.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC): \$310 million for the Department of Defense Base Closure Fund, \$54 million more than the budget request and \$70 million more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. These funds support DoD environmental restoration efforts at closed installations.

Defense Access Road (DAR) Program: \$20 million was included for the DAR Program, which funds DoD cost-sharing for public highway improvements to offset or mitigate the community impact of a defense activity, such as an access gate relocation or installation mission change.

VA

Claims and Appeals: The bill includes \$66 million more than requested for the Veterans Benefits Administration to continue to hire additional appellate, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, and disability claims processors to continue to work down backlogs and expedite the benefits process. Additionally, \$5.5 million more than the request is provided for the Board of Veterans Appeals to continue to streamline the disability appeals process and begin hiring additional staff to lower the backlog of appeals before the Board.

Medical Care & Research: \$70.3 billion for VA medical care and medical research. This is \$5.1 billion more than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. This amount includes:

- \$8.8 billion for long-term care services, including \$6.1 billion for institutional care and \$2.75 billion for non-institutional care, to ensure our aging veterans have access to both home-based and institutional services.
- \$839.8 million for the VA Caregivers Program, \$235 million above the revised fiscal year 2018 estimate. This critical program supports loved ones who take care of veterans seriously injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001.
- \$1.75 billion for veteran homelessness programs, including \$340 million (\$20 million above the request) for the Supportive Services for Low Income Veterans Program; \$543 million for the HUD/VASH program that assists veterans and their families find permanent housing; and \$257 million for the Grant and Per Diem program.
- \$1.349 billion (\$5 million above the request) for VA telehealth services, to expedite telehealth capacity to hospitals and clinics across the country. VA has aggressively expanded its services through telehealth to veterans who reside in rural and remote areas. The additional funding will allow VA to continue to expand telehealth services to more locations as well as implement home-based programs which will allow veterans access to VA healthcare services from their homes.
- \$270 million for the Rural Health Initiative to expand VA projects aimed at closing gaps in access in rural, highly rural and remote areas.
- \$99 million for The Veterans Crisis line to continue to train and expand personnel to help assist veterans in a mental health crisis.

- \$258.5 million for Vet Centers readjustment counseling.
- \$512 million for gender specific healthcare (\$20 million above the request). This brings the total estimate for healthcare for female veterans to \$5.58 billion.
- \$5.5 billion to treat Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans.
- \$722.3 million for medical research (\$82.3 million above the request).

Construction: The bill fully funds both the major construction account (\$512.4 million) and the minor account (\$342.6 million). These funds brings in-house construction and maintenance spending to \$4.1 billion for fiscal year 2018. This includes the estimated \$1.8 billion in base funding for non-recurring maintenance, and \$1.425 billion to address maintenance backlogs and deficiencies at hospitals and clinics across the country. These funds will also expedite needed minor construction projects, which have languished on the inadequately funded Strategic Capital Investment Planning list.

State Veterans Homes: The agreement also funds the Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities at \$110 million, \$20 million more than the request and fiscal year 2017 enacted. This funding coupled with the additional \$575 million in funding provided as part of the \$2 billion appropriation for infrastructure improvements, will help the VA fund the backlog of grant applications for renovation, construction and maintenance at State Veteran Homes, ensuring that veterans receive long-term care in facilities that are modern and safe.

Agreement vs. House Passed Bill

The funding levels in the bill allow for expanded investment into VA infrastructure and healthcare information technology systems modernization. Additionally, the increased funding level allowed the bill to restore almost \$400 million in medical care rescissions taken in the House bill. Had these cuts been allowed to remain, the VA could have been forced to choose between purchasing needed medical equipment or scaling back non-medical programs, such as those aimed at getting homeless veterans off the street and into stable housing. Moreover, the bill restores almost \$102 million in major construction cut by the House bill. This funding will allow VA to expand cemetery services at National Cemeteries which are soon to be at capacity.

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SUMMARY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS
FISCAL YEAR 2018 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The fiscal year 2018 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs bill provides \$54.02 billion in discretionary budget authority to project U.S. leadership and protect a wide array of U.S. security, humanitarian, and economic interests around the world. Of this amount, \$12.02 billion is for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for operations and programs in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and other countries in conflict, as well as countries in political transition (including in Europe and Eurasia, the Middle East, and Africa) and to respond to humanitarian crises (e.g. Syria, South Sudan, Yemen).

The bill is \$947 million above the fiscal year 2017 level excluding funds provided in the fiscal year 2017 Counter-ISIL supplemental appropriations bill (the SAAA).

The bill reflects a bipartisan recognition that diplomacy and development are indispensable components of U.S. foreign policy and necessary to effectively project U.S. leadership, promote U.S. ideals, and safeguard U.S. national interests. It represents an implicit rejection of the White House plan to drastically reduce personnel and programs at the State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development.

Bipartisan Budget Deal

While the bill eliminates or reduces funding for several important programs opposed by Republican leadership, such as for global climate change programs, it is a significant improvement over what would have been possible under the sequester.

As a result of the budget deal that lifted the sequester caps, the bill sustains funding provided in fiscal year 2017 for most State Department and foreign assistance programs, and includes additional investments compared to the fiscal year 2017 Omnibus in areas important to U.S. national interests, including:

- \$150 million increase for the Countering Russian Influence Fund to bolster our allies in Europe and Eurasia in the face of Russian pressure and influence campaigns.
- \$300 million increase for refugee assistance amid an ongoing displacement crisis that is the largest since World War II.
- \$474 million increase for disaster assistance, including to respond to the ongoing threat of famine in multiple countries in Africa and in Yemen.
- \$331 million increase for the Relief and Recovery Fund for assistance in areas liberated or at risk from, or under the control of, violent extremist organizations in the Middle East and Africa, including for stabilization assistance for vulnerable ethnic and religious minority communities affected by conflict.

The bill also provides funding necessary to ensure the State Department and USAID can be sufficiently staffed to manage these programs effectively.

Reforms and Reducing Government Waste

The agreement continues support for the implementation of conditions and reforms included in prior years. It also includes new reforms to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of U.S. foreign assistance, and requirements to reduce waste and corruption and improve oversight, including:

- Continues a requirement of public posting of certain reports to increase transparency.
- Continues a provision requiring improvements to State Department financial management systems to improve tracking of U.S. foreign assistance, and provides additional money to modernize the State Department's antiquated information technology systems.
- Funding above the fiscal year 2017 levels for the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Inspectors General (IG), and directs implementation of certain IG and Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations.
- Continues limitations on the use of funds for conferences.
- Continues conditions on U.S. funding for certain international organizations based on transparency and effective whistleblower policies, and expands the conditions to require a determination by the Secretary of State regarding each organization's efforts to effectively implement policies limiting first class and business travel.
- Requires a report on implementation of cost-matching with non-U.S. Government funds for certain programs.
- Requires U.S. executive directors of the international financial institutions to require progress by borrowing countries against fraud and corruption, and a provision requiring the identification of networks of corruption involving senior officials in countries that receive funds provided by the Act.
- Modifies and strengthens an existing provision prohibiting the taxation of U.S. foreign assistance.
- Includes funding for, and renames, the USAID "Local Works" program which provides small grants to small organizations that have not traditionally received USAID funding.
- Continues a provision to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian aid through the collection of feedback data from beneficiaries.
- Continues provisions designed to improve the quality, transparency, and oversight of lending by the World Bank and other international financial institutions.
- Includes provisions that ensure congressional oversight of decisions to reorganize, reduce, or terminate offices within foreign assistance agencies or overseas missions.

- Continues a provision requiring notification when U.S. assistance is diverted or destroyed.

Strengthening Congressional Oversight

The bill contains many of the same conditions on assistance for countries, contributions to international organizations, and other operations and programs as the fiscal year 2017 enacted bill. However, the bill includes expanded requirements for agencies (especially State) seeking to reduce the size of, consolidate, eliminate, or expand bureaus and offices, and with respect to funding for certain positions (e.g. Special Coordinators) for which there is broad bipartisan support in Congress, to ensure meaningful congressional oversight of such reforms and funding. The bill also includes new provisions requiring State and USAID to submit detailed information regarding personnel requirements necessary to implement their Joint Strategic Plan and to support the National Security Strategy.

Strengthening Embassy Security

The safety of our diplomats, consular officers, and aid workers is paramount. This bill provides a total of \$6.1 billion for embassy security, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level.

Bolstering Global Health

HIV/AIDS, Ebola, Zika, tuberculosis, malaria, and other infectious diseases are a constant reminder of the threats to the millions of Americans who travel, live, study, and serve overseas, as well as here at home. Hundreds of millions of people in the poorest countries, especially children, die or suffer from debilitating diseases that can be easily prevented or treated. The bill maintains or increases funding for these life-saving global health programs.

- HIV/AIDS. A total of \$6 billion to combat HIV/AIDS, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level, including \$4.32 billion for Department of State programs in support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); \$1.35 billion for a U.S. contribution to the Global Fund; and \$330 million for USAID's HIV/AIDS programs.
- Polio. \$59 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level, for polio prevention programs to build local capacity to identify and monitor outbreaks and plan for and implement immunization programs.
- Family Planning/Reproductive Health. \$575 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level, for bilateral family planning assistance that improves and expands access to high-quality voluntary family planning services and other related health care. (See "Key Deficiencies" below for information on UNFPA and the Mexico City Policy).
- Maternal and Child Health. \$829.5 million, which is \$15 million above the fiscal year 2017 level, including \$290 million for the GAVI Alliance. These funds save thousands of lives in countries where easily preventable diseases, like measles, continue to claim the lives of hundreds of thousands of children each year.

- Nutrition. \$125 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level. Malnutrition contributes to almost half of all the deaths of children under 5 by undermining their health and development.
- Malaria. \$755 million to combat malaria, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level.
- Tuberculosis. \$261 million to combat tuberculosis, which is \$20 million above the fiscal year 2017 level. Multi-drug resistance presents increasing threats in countries where TB is prevalent.
- Global Health Security. \$172.6 million, which is \$100 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level (using repurposed Ebola funds), to accelerate capabilities of target countries to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious diseases.
- Emergency Reserve Fund. \$35 million (using repurposed Ebola funds) for the contingency reserve fund used to respond rapidly to infectious disease outbreaks.
- Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). \$100 million for NTDs, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level. More than one billion people worldwide suffer from one or more tropical diseases, which disproportionately afflict poor and rural populations.
- Haiti Cholera. \$10 million to support a multi-partner trust fund or other multilateral efforts to assist Haitian communities affected by cholera caused by UN peacekeepers.

Combating Poverty and Promoting Democracy

The bill provides a total of \$8 billion for social and economic development programs, including for agriculture and food security, basic and higher education, democracy and governance, biodiversity protection, water and sanitation, microenterprise, and women's leadership programs.

- Education Programs. \$800 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level, for basic education programs to improve the quality of and access to equitable education; \$235 million, also equal to the fiscal year 2017 level, for higher education programs including \$15 million for new partnerships between U.S. and foreign institutions.
- Water and Sanitation Programs. \$400 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level, to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation, improve water resource management, and mitigate conflicts that arise from water scarcity.
- Microenterprise Programs. \$265 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level, to combat poverty by helping microenterprises (including smallholder farmers) access market opportunities and increase incomes.

- Democracy Programs. \$2.3 billion to support good governance; freedom of expression, association, assembly, and religion; human rights; media; and the rule of law. These programs help strengthen governance by enabling greater citizen access to information and political participation, and provide alternatives to radicalization.
- Biodiversity Programs. \$269 million, which is \$4 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level, for USAID biodiversity conservation programs that protect forests, marine ecosystems, and wildlife, and to help reduce pollution and other negative economic and environmental impacts, and increase clean energy access and efficiency.
- Global Women's Issues. \$215 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level, to continue programs to support women and girls, including \$50 million to increase leadership opportunities for women and girls, \$150 million to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, \$15 million for programs to assist women and girls who are victims of extremism, and \$15 million for programs to increase the participation of Afghan women in law enforcement and the judiciary, and to combat violence against Afghan women and girls.

Supporting Key Allies

The bill provides substantial funding for key allies, including:

- Israel. \$3.1 billion for military aid, which is equal to the Memorandum Of Understanding.
- Jordan. Not less than \$1.525 billion in economic and military aid, in addition to humanitarian aid for Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Jordan, which is \$245 million more than the current Memorandum Of Understanding and the fiscal year 2017 level.
- Tunisia. \$165.4 million, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level, to expand economic growth, strengthen security services, support civil society, and strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law.
- Countering Russian Influence Fund. \$250 million, which is \$150 million above the fiscal year 2017 level, in addition to bilateral assistance, to counter Russian influence and aggression by promoting good governance, energy independence, and economic stability in countries under pressure from Russia, and ensuring our allies can protect their territorial integrity.
- Central America. Up to \$615 million to continue support for the U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America, focused on addressing the causes of migration of undocumented Central Americans to the U.S. Like fiscal year 2017, 75 percent of the funds made available for the central governments in the Northern Triangle are subject to conditions related to migration, human rights, and corruption.
- Colombia. \$391 million to support ongoing programs and implementation of the peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC, which is equal to the fiscal

year 2017 level. Portions of the funds are subject to conditions related to the Colombian counternarcotics strategy and human rights.

- Global Engagement Center. Up to \$20 million to support the ongoing expansion of the Global Engagement Center to counter foreign State propaganda and disinformation campaigns, including by promoting independent media and the free flow of information.

Combating Crime and Corruption

The bill provides \$67 million more than the fiscal year 2017 level for International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement, including to sustain efforts to combat human trafficking; counter wildlife trafficking and poaching which threatens endangered species and are a source of funding for criminal organizations; professionalize police; and strengthen independent judiciaries.

- Programs to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Modern Slavery. \$104 million to work with nongovernmental organizations, partner governments and others to prevent human trafficking including \$25 million to combat modern slavery, prosecute traffickers and provide necessary services for victims, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level.
- Counter Wildlife Trafficking. \$94 million to combat wildlife trafficking and poaching, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level.

Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremist Organizations

The bill makes funds available to support the strategy developed by the Trump Administration pursuant to the fiscal year 2017 bill to stem the flow of foreign fighters seeking to join extremist groups in places like Syria, as well as combat violent extremist organizations by addressing the underlying causes of radicalization, which includes countering extremist propaganda, strengthening the capacity of foreign governments to address the grievances of citizens, holding individuals who have committed terrorist acts accountable, and assisting women and girls who have been victims of extremism.

The bill does not specify amounts for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq, which must be notified to Congress, but includes conditions on assistance for Afghanistan related to progress on democracy and human rights, anti-corruption, women's rights, and the sustainability and transparency of aid programs; and for Pakistan related to counterterrorism cooperation.

The bill maintains human rights conditions on a portion of aid for the security forces of several countries, including the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Mexico, to help build professional security forces that respect the rights of civilians, and requires the Secretary of State to submit certain reports on actions by such forces to help improve congressional oversight.

Finally, the bill includes \$500 million, which is \$331 million above the fiscal year 2017 level excluding the SAAA, for assistance for areas liberated or at risk from, or under the control of, violent extremist organizations in the Middle East and Africa, including for stabilization assistance for vulnerable ethnic and religious minority communities affected by conflict.

Responding to Humanitarian Crises

The bill provides funding above the fiscal year 2017 level to respond to humanitarian crises in Syria, Iraq, central Africa, South Sudan and elsewhere.

- **Refugees.** \$3.36 billion for Migration and Refugee Assistance, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level including funds provided in the SAAA. The bill also directs that the funds shall be administered by the Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration, which is consistent with the management of funds in prior years.
- **International Disaster Assistance.** \$4.29 billion for International Disaster Assistance, primarily to assist persons internally displaced due to conflict and natural disasters, which is \$142 million below the fiscal year 2017 level including funds provided in the SAAA (but \$474 million above the level provided in fiscal year 2017).

Promoting U.S. Exports

In response to increasing economic competition from China and other countries as well as expanding U.S. trade with developing countries, the bill provides funding equal to or more than the fiscal year 2017 levels to promote exports of U.S. goods and services for the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Trade and Development Agency. However, see “**Key Deficiencies**” below.

Other Key Programs

The bill provides:

- **Educational and Cultural Exchanges.** \$646 million for Educational and Cultural Exchanges, which is \$12 million above the fiscal year 2017 level, including \$240 million for the Fulbright Program, to build understanding and promote American values, including by providing grants administered by American organizations that bring international students to the U.S.
- **International Fisheries Commissions.** \$46 million for the International Fisheries Commissions to directly benefit the livelihoods of Americans through the management of commercial and recreational fisheries that generate billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs.
- **Peace Corps.** \$410 million for the Peace Corps, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level.
- **Millennium Challenge Corporation.** \$905 million for the MCC, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level. The MCC supports economic growth programs that create jobs in countries that meet key anti-corruption and poverty reduction criteria.

- Global Internet Freedom. The bill provides not less than \$55.5 million for programs to promote Internet freedom in countries whose governments restrict freedom of expression. Efforts include countering repressive Internet-related laws and regulations and enhancing digital security for activists.
- International Organizations and Programs. \$339 million for voluntary contributions to UN agencies, including UNICEF and the UN Development Program, which fund development and security programs consistent with U.S. foreign policy goals. This amount is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level, but it will be reduced by \$32.5 million due to the President’s determination regarding UNFPA (see below under “Key Deficiencies”).
- Contributions to International Organizations. \$1.47 billion to pay U.S. assessed contributions to UN organizations.
- Inter-America Foundation and U.S. African Development Foundation. \$22.5 million for the IAF, and authority to transfer up to \$10 million from Development Assistance to the IAF for technical assistance in support of the U.S. Strategy for Central America; and \$30 million for the USADF. Both are equal to the fiscal year 2017 level.

Key Deficiencies

While the bill includes funding for many programs with strong bipartisan support, funding for several key programs was prohibited, significantly reduced, or not included in the bill, primarily due to opposition from the House Republican leadership, including:

- Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities. As in fiscal year 2017, the bill caps funding for U.S. peacekeeping assessments at 25 percent, failing to ensure the necessary resources are available for the U.S. to meet its assessed obligation of 28.4 percent for UN peacekeeping.
- Export Import Bank. The bill does not include a provision that was in the Senate bill and is supported by a majority of members of the House that authorizes the Board of Directors of the ExIm Bank to approve applications for U.S. exports exceeding \$10 million without a quorum of three directors. Thus, a backlog of roughly 40 transactions, which could support 240,000 jobs and is valued at \$40 billion, will not be acted on until Congress confirms additional Board members.
- Green Climate Fund. No funding is provided for a U.S. contribution to the Green Climate Fund.
- Family Planning. The bill does not include the Mexico City policy as proposed by the House, but does nothing to counter President Trump’s executive order that reimposed and expanded the policy. Funding for USAID family planning programs is continued at the fiscal year 2017 level of \$575 million. In addition, \$32.5 million is included for UNFPA (the fiscal year 2017 level), but because of President Trump’s determination that prohibits U.S. support for UNFPA, those funds will be transferred to USAID, bringing USAID’s total funding for family planning/reproductive health to \$607.5 million.

Agreement Compared to House Bill

The bill is a significant improvement compared to the version that was passed by the House of Representatives. Most importantly, the House eliminated U.S. voluntary contributions to most international organizations and slashed U.S. assessed contributions for UN peacekeeping and other international organizations and financial institutions. The House cut the Millennium Challenge Corporation by \$105 million, cut funding for international family planning by \$147 million, and significantly reduced just about every other non-security account. The House cuts would have required USAID to drastically scale back personnel and programs around the world, and would have significantly hindered the State Department's diplomatic engagement on a wide range of issues important to the U.S. national interest.

FISCAL YEAR 2018 TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Bill Summary

The fiscal year 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations bill provides a total of \$70.3 billion in net discretionary budget authority, \$12.65 billion more than in fiscal year 2017 and \$13.79 billion more than in the fiscal year 2018 House bill.

As a result of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2018, the bill restores funding for critical transportation and housing programs that were significantly reduced or eliminated in the fiscal year 2018 House bill. Without this increased investment, key transportation programs would have resulted in a loss of \$1.64 billion from fiscal year 2017, impacting over 21,000 jobs. Programs, such as TIGER and Capital Investment Grants, that allow for states and local governments to address aging infrastructure, improve mobility, and reduce congestion would have been eliminated or significantly cut. Further, the fiscal year 2018 House bill would have resulted in a cut of \$1.6 billion to our nation's affordable housing and homeless assistance programs, which provides a safety net for nearly 5 million low- to extremely-low-income youth, veterans, and families. It is estimated that the funding levels contained in the fiscal year 2018 House bill would have resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of rental subsidies for current HUD-assisted households.

For the Department of Transportation (DOT), the bill provides significant investments to support the construction and maintenance of our federal highway, transit, aviation, and rail systems, which improve mobility opportunities, allowing for commuters get to work safely, businesses to get their products to market on time, and families to connect across the country. This additional funding will allow for investments in transformative projects throughout the country across all modes of transportation, as well as make significant strides to address deferred maintenance backlogs.

For the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the bill preserves rental housing assistance programs for nearly 5 million low-income individuals and families, over half of which are elderly or disabled. The bill also makes new investments to expand affordable housing opportunities through the HOME program, as well as provides housing and supportive service options for victims of domestic or dating violence, veterans, families, and youth experiencing homelessness. Further, the bill increases investments for lead-based paint hazard remediation in order to protect our nation's young children and to improve the physical condition of our Federally-assisted and private housing stock.

The bill includes a total of \$9.7 billion in new infrastructure spending, of which \$7.8 billion is for transportation-related activities and \$1.9 billion is for housing and community development activities. The most notable infrastructure investments include: \$1.5 billion for TIGER, \$2.5 billion for Federal Highways to improve roads and bridges, \$1.9 billion for Amtrak, \$888 million for rail infrastructure and safety grants, \$2.6 billion for transit construction grants, \$1.36 billion

for HOME, \$3.3 billion for CDBG, \$150 million for Choice Neighborhoods, \$187.6 million for the construction of units for the elderly and persons with disabilities, and \$230 million for lead-based paint hazard remediation.

Key Points & Highlights

As a result of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2018, funding for key transportation programs was increased by \$9.9 billion from fiscal year 2017. The bill provides for the construction and maintenance of our federal highway, transit, aviation, and rail systems, addresses one-time major investments to close out federal infrastructure projects, and reduces out-year federal liabilities.

- **TIGER**: The bill provides \$1.5 billion for the TIGER grant program, \$1 billion more than in fiscal year 2017 and \$1.5 billion more than the fiscal year 2018 House bill. TIGER grants allow for communities to make transformative investments in their surface transportation infrastructure, which address congestion, improve safety, create jobs, and expand economic opportunities nationwide. This increased investment will help 75 more communities make the necessary transportation investments to remain competitive in the global economy while also creating 19,500 new jobs.
- **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**: The FAA will receive \$18 billion in total budgetary resources, \$1.6 billion more than in fiscal year 2017. The bills provides full funding for all air traffic control personnel, including controllers, engineers, maintenance technicians, safety inspectors, and operational support personnel.
 - The bill also provides an additional \$1 billion for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants, bringing the total funding for this program to \$4.35 billion. These grants provide funding for projects, which assist with airport safety, construction, and noise mitigation, and a preference is given to small and rural airports in the award of these grants.
- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**: FHWA will receive \$47.498 billion, an increase of \$3.49 billion from fiscal year 2017. This funding will help states to repair and replace crumbling roads and bridges and provides real investments exceeding the authorized levels of funding. The bill will include almost \$3 billion in additional FHWA formula funding, which is \$2.5 billion more than the increases included in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015.
- **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**: The FTA will receive \$13.48 billion, an increase of \$1.066 billion from fiscal year 2017.
 - The bill includes \$9.73 billion for Transit formula grants, as authorized by the FAST Act, as well as additional amounts above the FAST Act levels for certain programs:
 - \$400 million for State-of-Good-Repair formula grants;
 - \$400 million for Bus and Bus Facilities grants; and
 - \$30 million for High Density State Apportionments.

- For the past twenty years, transit ridership has grown twice as quickly as our population. This bill will help to meet this increasing transit ridership demand by providing \$2.645 billion for Capital Investment Grants, \$232 million more than in fiscal year 2017. Capital Investment Grants provide new and improved services on subway, light rail, and bus rapid transit systems through a rigorous discretionary review process. The bill rejects the Administration's proposal to terminate this program and compels DOT to assist project sponsors as they proceed from project development to construction.
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA): The bill provides \$3.09 billion for the FRA, fully funding safety inspectors and programs, including the Automatic Track Inspection Program, while also making important investments in Positive Train Control (PTC) implementation and capital improvements on America's railroads.
 - The bill rejects the Administration's proposal to eliminate long-distance routes and funds Amtrak at \$1.942 billion, \$447 million more than in fiscal year 2017. This includes \$650 million for the Northeast Corridor and \$1.292 billion for the National Network, which will help to sustain a rail system that serves over 31 million passengers in over 500 communities throughout 46 states. This significant funding increase for Amtrak will help to address the substantial state of good repair backlog on the Northeast Corridor, replace aging rolling stock, improve safety by installing PTC and other safety technology, and bring stations across the country into ADA compliance so that all passengers can ride easily and safely.

The bill also provides \$888 million in funding for rail safety and state of good repair across the country. Specifically –

- \$592.5 million is provided for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) grants, a \$524.5 million increase from fiscal year 2017. \$250 million of this funding is designated for PTC implementation, a critical safety technology. CRISI grants include a minimum 25 percent rural set-aside, meaning at least \$148 million will go to projects in rural areas. This funding will also support capital projects and highway-rail grade crossing improvements;
- \$250 million is included for Federal State Partnership for State of Good Repair grants, a \$225 million increase from fiscal year 2017. These grants will support capital investment and maintenance projects on Amtrak routes in order to bring those aging assets up to modern safety and reliability standards;
- \$20 million is provided for Rail Restoration and Enhancement grants in order to connect more communities to improved service on the national rail network, a \$15 million increase from fiscal year 2017; and
- \$25 million in new resources is provided to make obtaining Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) more affordable for small

borrowers. This will enable borrowers to improve safety and service on short-line railroads.

- Maritime Administration (MARAD): MARAD will receive \$979 million, \$457 million more than in fiscal year 2017. The bill provides an additional \$45 million to accelerate capital improvements at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, \$300 million to fully fund the replacement of one of the six state maritime academy training school ships, and \$107 million to fully fund the final decommissioning of the N/S Savannah. The Small Shipyard grant program is also funded at \$20 million, \$10 million more than in fiscal year 2017. Every dollar we invest in improving the capacity and competitiveness of our nation's shipyards yields six times that in direct and indirect economic activity.
- Saint Lawrence Seaway Dev. Corp. (SLSDC): The bill provides \$40 million for SLSDC, \$3.97 million more than in fiscal year 2017. This funding includes at least \$19.5 million for SLSDC's Asset Renewal Program, which will help to replace obsolete tugboats operating on the Seaway well beyond their useful life, as well as to perform other needed capital maintenance projects.

The bill also meets the renewal needs for HUD's rental assistance programs and provides new housing vouchers for non-elderly disabled individuals, veterans, and youth exiting foster care, for a combined investment of more than \$42 billion. Furthermore, the bill provides nearly \$2 billion in additional resources to protect critical infrastructure and spur new affordable housing production.

- Public Housing: The bill provides \$7.3 billion to support the operation and capital management of the nation's 1.1 million public housing units, \$959 million more than in fiscal year 2017. For operations, including rent and utility payments, leasing, and service coordination, the bill provides \$4.55 billion, an increase of \$150 million from fiscal year 2017. An additional \$2.75 billion is provided for the maintenance and capital repair of public housing developments, including activities that improve the safety and security of residents, an increase of \$808.5 million from fiscal year 2017.

For public housing units with significant unmet capital need, which require substantial investment and long-term preservation, the bill extends the authority for the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) and increases the number of public housing units eligible for RAD conversion. These combined investments will help to preserve the nation's public housing stock and ensure that low-income public housing residents have a decent, safe, and sanitary place to live.

- Choice Neighborhoods: The bill rejects the President's proposal to eliminate this important affordable housing redevelopment program and instead provides \$150 million to support more than 30 neighborhood revitalization grants. These additional resources will allow for communities to take on transformation initiatives, which will redevelop severely distressed public or HUD-assisted housing and leverage private investment. This level of funding is \$12.5 million more than fiscal year 2017. Choice Neighborhoods builds upon the successes

of HOPE VI, which facilitates partnerships among local agencies, organizations, and businesses in order to address local issues that span housing, including crime, access to jobs, and good schools.

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): The bill rejects the President’s proposal to eliminate CDBG, a critical federal resource for helping communities to develop projects that meet unique infrastructure, housing, and economic development needs and to support job creation. The bill provides \$3.3 billion for CDBG, a \$300 million increase from fiscal year 2017. CDBG provides grants to states and local governments to support housing and economic development projects in urban and rural communities across the country. This funding will help mayors and governors to address a variety of needs, including revitalizing distressed areas, supporting small businesses, removing blight, and assisting seniors with home repairs.
- Housing for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities: The bill provides \$678 million for the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program, an increase of \$175.6 million from fiscal year 2017, and \$229.6 million for the Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities program, an increase of \$83.4 million from fiscal year 2017. This funding will meet the renewal needs of both programs, as well as provide a total of \$187.6 million in additional funding for the construction of new units—\$105 million to produce over 760 new units of housing for the elderly, and \$82.6 million to produce up to 1,840 new units of housing for persons with disabilities. Additionally, the bill provides \$505 million for the Section 811 Mainstream Voucher program, an increase of \$385 million from fiscal year 2017, to renew existing housing assistance for persons with disabilities, as well as create more than 40,000 new vouchers.
- HOME: The bill rejects the President’s proposal to eliminate the HOME program, the only federal program dedicated solely to the construction of affordable housing, and instead provides \$1.362 billion, a \$412 million increase from fiscal year 2017. This level of funding will help States and local governments to leverage an additional \$5.9 billion in public and private investment in order to produce and preserve approximately 35,000 affordable housing units, as well as provide rental assistance to an additional 10,500 low-income households in fiscal year 2018. Additionally, this investment will result in the creation and preservation of nearly 24,000 jobs. This critical housing infrastructure program will help States and local governments to increase housing affordability through the building, buying, or rehabilitating of affordable housing that is then made available for rent or homeownership.
- Homeless Assistance: The bill includes \$2.513 billion for homeless assistance and emergency solutions grants, which will improve the conditions of vulnerable individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness. This level of funding is \$130 million more than in fiscal year 2017. The bill also funds critical initiatives to address homelessness among youth, victims of domestic violence, and veterans, as follows:
 - Youth: The bill includes \$80 million in new resources to target assistance to youth experiencing homelessness in up to 25 communities. This funding builds upon the

- more than \$80 million in targeted investments, which were provided since fiscal year 2016, to address the unique needs of homeless youth. These resources will allow for Continuum of Care grantees to continue to develop and evaluate new housing and supportive services interventions. The agreement also provides an additional \$20 million in new resources for the Family Unification Program, which will provide vouchers for approximately 2,500 youth aging out of foster care.
- Victims of Domestic Violence: The bill includes \$50 million in new targeted assistance to rapidly house and assist victims of domestic violence. This level of funding will make grants available to nonprofits and local governments for rapid re-housing projects, supportive service projects, and coordinated entry activities through HUD's Continuum of Care program and will assist more than 7,500 survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in fiscal year 2018.
 - Veterans: The bill includes an additional \$40 million, which will provide more than 5,100 new HUD-VASH vouchers for homeless veterans. This investment, combined with the nearly \$600 million provided for HUD-VASH vouchers since fiscal year 2008, will result in more than 93,000 vouchers for homeless veterans. An additional \$5 million is provided to renew HUD-VASH vouchers for veterans living in or near Indian country. The bill also includes \$4 million in new investments for grants to rehabilitate and modify the homes of veterans who are low-income or disabled. This funding will repair or modify the homes of more than 260 low-income or disabled veterans.
 - U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH): The bill provides \$3.6 million in salaries and expenses for USICH, which leads the strategic Federal response to preventing and ending homelessness, and extends the operational authority of USICH to October 1, 2020. This level of funding is estimated to catalyze more than \$5 billion in combined Federal resources that aim to address homelessness. This authority will ensure that USICH continues to develop national strategies, which will inform the work and improve the cost-effectiveness of programs administered by 19 federal agencies. These efforts will seek to prevent and end homelessness among children and youth, victims of domestic and dating violence, veterans, and individuals struggling with mental health issues and opioid addiction.
 - NeighborWorks: The bill provides \$140 million for NeighborWorks America, the same level of funding provided in fiscal year 2017. The bill rejects the President's proposal to eliminate NeighborWorks. This funding will support NeighborWork's network of nearly 250 local and regional community development organizations, which provides housing and counseling services to over 450,000 families and individuals and creates or maintains 43,600 jobs each year.

Bipartisan Budget Agreement

The Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2018 provided significant funding increases for the programs administered by DOT and HUD. These agencies manage many of the programs that build and maintain our nation's transportation network, support affordable housing opportunities,

and generate economic development and access for our communities. Without this budget agreement, investments in surface transportation systems would have been cut by over \$1.64 billion as compared to fiscal year 2017, exacerbating the D+-rated conditions of our roads, bridges, rail, and transit systems. Housing assistance would also have been eliminated for hundreds of thousands of HUD-assisted households, over half of which are elderly or disabled.

- *Infrastructure.* The bill includes a total of \$9.7 billion in new infrastructure spending for fiscal year 2018, of which \$7.8 billion is for transportation-related activities and \$1.9 billion is for housing and community development activities. These additional investments will allow for the development of transformative surface transportation projects throughout the country across all modes of transportation, as well as make significant strides to address the deferred maintenance backlog in our airport, highway, rail, and transit systems. Further, additional investments in housing will support the repair and restoration of physically-distressed homes and neighborhoods, spur affordable housing construction, and improve the health and safety of our nation's housing stock. These combined housing investments will leverage more than \$17.2 billion in public and private funding.
- *Opioids and Mental Health.* The bill includes \$2.6 billion for HUD's homeless assistance and special purpose voucher programs, which will provide housing and supportive services to persons experiencing homelessness, including victims of domestic violence and the chronically homeless. The bill also includes \$3.6 million for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to coordinate the efforts of 19 federal agencies in addressing the causes of homelessness, including mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse.
- *Veterans.* The bill includes \$40 million to provide 5,100 new incremental rental vouchers for veterans experiencing homelessness. This funding, combined with the nearly \$600 million in investments made since fiscal year 2008, will result in more than 90,000 vouchers available nationally to assist veterans experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the bill includes \$4 million for the Home Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program for Disabled or Low-Income Veterans. This funding will repair or modify the homes of more than 260 low-income or disabled veterans.
- *Rural Communities.*
 - TIGER: This program includes a 30 percent set-aside for rural projects, up from 20 percent in fiscal year 2017. This will result in \$450 million in new surface transportation projects for rural communities, an increase of \$340 million above fiscal year 2017.
 - Highways and Bridges: \$225 million is provided for a new rural bridge program, and \$300 million is provided for the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects program, which will predominantly be directed to federal lands in rural areas and tribal transportation.

- Rail Investments: There is a statutory 25 percent rural set-aside in the CRISI program, resulting in at least \$148 million for rail infrastructure and PTC projects in rural areas, as compared to \$17 million in fiscal year 2017.
- Bus Grants: The bill includes \$1.1 billion for Bus and Bus Facilities Grants, \$400 million more than the authorized level in the FAST Act. This program funds the repair and replacement of buses and bus infrastructure, which are vital to rural transit service. A 10 percent rural set-aside for the discretionary component of this program guarantees at least \$50 million for rural competitive grant awards.
- Youth Homeless Demonstration: As part of the increased investment in HUD's homeless assistance grants, the bill includes \$80 million in targeted resources for more than 25 communities to address youth homelessness, which will include 8 rural communities.
- Rural Capacity Building: The bill includes a minimum of \$10 million for the provision of technical assistance in order to improve the capacity of local organizations in rural areas that carry out community development and affordable housing activities.
- *Research.*
 - FAA Research Engineering and Development program: \$189 million is provided for the FAA's research programs, which will be used to test and evaluate technologies to improve airworthiness, structural safety, alternative fuels, information security, and wake turbulence. This amount is \$12.5 million more than fiscal year 2017.
 - FHWA, FMCSA, and FTA Research: The bill provides \$162 million for research-related activities, as authorized in the FAST Act.
 - Automated Vehicles (AVs): The bill includes \$117 million for research and grants related to the safe deployment of AVs, a \$111 million increase from fiscal year 2017.
 - The agreement includes language to ensure that research and grants will be conducted and awarded in both rural and urban areas for diversity in research and deployment.
 - Funding is also included to conduct a new joint study between DOT and DOL in order to analyze the impact on labor stemming from AV deployment.
 - Rail Research: \$40.6 million is included for rail safety and technology research, a \$500,000 increase from fiscal year 2017.
- *Health.*
 - Lead Hazard Control Grants: The bill includes \$230 million for the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, an \$85 million increase from fiscal year 2017. This includes up to \$185 million for lead hazard remediation activities and \$45 million to address other health hazards, including radon and mold, in low-income housing. This funding will support lead-based paint hazard reductions and address other health

hazards in up to 12,950 additional units, providing safer homes for nearly 45,950 low-income families and individuals, including over 11,960 children under the age of six.

- Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA): \$375 million is provided to fully fund rental assistance and supportive services to approximately 50,000 economically vulnerable households living with HIV/AIDS. HOPWA-funded housing is an essential platform to linking people living with HIV/AIDS to care, thereby improving health outcomes, reducing transmission, and driving down the soaring national HIV/AIDS costs to the health care system.

Harmful Riders Dropped During Conference:

- California High-Speed Rail: A rider in the fiscal year 2018 House bill would have prohibited the FRA from conducting oversight of the California High-Speed Rail project or from reimbursing California for incurred costs. This provision would have placed the federal government in violation of its grant agreement with the California Department of Transportation and effectively killed the project, which is already well under construction.
- FHWA Rescission and Woodall Amendment: A rescission of FHWA contract authority in the fiscal year 2018 House bill would have cut into highway maintenance and construction funding for states, while also allowing for states to gut important pedestrian and environmental protection programs to make up for that loss in funding. This provision would have been devastating for environmental protection programs, pedestrians, cyclists, and transportation planning.
- Elimination of Meal and Rest Break Rights for Truck Drivers: A policy rider in the fiscal year 2018 House bill would have overturned state laws protecting the rights of truck drivers to have meal and rest breaks, which were upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Maritime Penalty Wages: A rider in the fiscal year 2018 House bill would have severely limited the ability of seamen to recover damages after their employer refused or neglected to pay their wages without sufficient cause. This provision not only would have placed a cap on damages in individual lawsuits, but also undermined seamen's ability to bring class action suits.

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