



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill: Highlights

Prepared by the Office of Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.)

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) Monday released the \$1.7 trillion fiscal year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill. The omnibus includes \$772.5 billion for non-defense discretionary programs, including \$118.7 billion – a 22 percent increase – for VA medical care, and \$858 billion in defense funding. To combat the pain of inflation felt by American families across the country, the bill makes significant investments in our communities, funds critical programs supporting America’s middle class families, cares for our veterans, and invests in our national security.

The bill includes \$44.9 billion in emergency assistance to Ukraine and our NATO allies and \$40.6 billion to assist communities across the country recovering from drought, hurricanes, flooding, wildfire, natural disasters and other matters.

This level of funding advances important, bipartisan policy priorities and provides relief to American families from the rising costs of living as a result of inflation.

Priorities of Democrats Included in the Omnibus

Funding Bipartisan Priorities: The 117th Congress produced several landmark, bipartisan laws including the PACT Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act. Funding for these priorities in the omnibus include:

- \$58.765 billion dollars from the highway trust fund to meet the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act obligations for Federal-aid highway programs and \$3.418 billion from the general fund, which includes \$1.145 billion to reduce the backlog of structurally deficient bridges.
- \$1.8 billion in new funding to implement the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act of 2022. The CHIPS and Science Act sets out an ambitious goal of doubling funding for science and technology programs by 2027 to help drive U.S. economic competitiveness.
- \$5 billion for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund, which provides additional funding to implement the landmark PACT Act that expands eligibility for health care services and benefits to veterans with conditions related to toxic exposure during their service.

Support for Public Schools and College Access and Affordability: Democrats believe that investing in the education of our children is an investment in our future. Democrats were able to secure several increases for programs that are vital to the success of public schools and support access to higher education. This includes:

- Increasing the maximum Pell Grant award by \$500 to \$7,395 for the 2023-2024 school year. This is the largest increase in the maximum Pell Grant award since the 2009-2010

school year. Each year, Pell Grants help approximately 7 million students pursue a postsecondary education and further their careers.

- \$18.387 billion, a 5 percent increase, for the Title I-A grants to the local educational agencies program. Title I-A grants assist more than half of our Nation's public schools in their efforts to raise student achievement, particularly for students attending high-poverty schools to meet college and career-ready state academic standards, including through preschool programs for eligible children.
- \$15.154 billion, a 6 percent increase, for Special Education State Grant programs that support services to an estimated 9 million students and children with a disability.
- \$1.2 billion, an increase of 5 percent, for TRIO, which helps over 800,000 low-income, first generation students get into college and succeed.

Funding Child Care: The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated an existing crisis in child care access and affordability. Thousands of child care centers closed across the country, making it more difficult for parents to find quality, affordable child care and return to work. Democrats secured new resources to address this crisis, including:

- \$8 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, a 30 percent increase in funding for the program. The Child Care Development Block Grant provides financial assistance to low-income families to access child care.
- \$11.996 billion, an 8.6 percent increase, for Head Start. Head Start helps young children from low-income families prepare to succeed in school through programs that promote children's development through services that support early learning, health, and family well-being.

Health Care Funding, Access, and Research: The bill makes core investments in the health and well-being of the people of this country and abroad, from supporting ground breaking research to improving access and affordability. These investments include:

- \$47.5 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a 5.6 percent increase, to advance science and speed the development of new therapies, diagnostics and preventive measures.
- \$9.2 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an increase of \$760 million. More than half of the increase was provided for fundamental public health activities, spread across core programs like the Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity Program, the Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund, Global Public Health Protection, the Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics Center, Public Health Workforce, and Data Modernization.
- \$3.3 billion for the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), an increase of \$560 million. These investments will strengthen our nation's biosecurity by accelerating advanced research and development of medical countermeasures for pandemic threats, and fortifying our stockpiles and supply chains for drugs, masks, and other lifesaving medical supplies.
- \$1.5 billion for the second year of ARPA-H, the President's bold proposal to accelerate the pace of breakthroughs in medicine.

- \$900 million, an increase of \$200 million above fiscal year 2022, to support global health security programs to build the capacity of countries to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.
- \$613 million for the fourth year of the domestic HIV/AIDS elimination initiative, an increase of \$100 million.
- \$6.725 billion to combat HIV/AIDS abroad, an increase of \$445 million above fiscal year 2022.
- \$575 million, consistent with prior year levels, for bilateral family planning/reproductive health programs to support access to voluntary family planning services and other related health care. An additional \$32.5 million is provided for a U.S. contribution to UNFPA.
- \$324 million, a nearly 60 percent increase, in Health Resources and Services Administration, CDC, and NIH initiatives aimed at improving maternal health and reducing the nation's alarmingly high maternal mortality rate.

Supporting Mental Health: Mental health care is health care. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed a crisis of mental health in our country that is affecting people of all walks of life but especially children and people from marginalized communities. Democrats secured resources to help us confront the mental health crisis and provide people with the resources that they need. This includes:

- \$1.01 billion for the Mental Health Block Grant to provide mental health treatment services and support community mental health services.
- \$501.6 million, a nearly \$400 million increase, for the Suicide Prevention Lifeline to successfully transition to 988. The Lifeline and 988 is the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and is now active across the United States.
- \$385 million for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, a \$70 million increase.
- \$140 million, a \$20 million increase, for Project Aware, which will expand efforts to identify and help children and youth in need of mental health care.
- \$130 million for Children's Mental Health Services, a \$5 million increase.
- \$111 million for Department of Education programs designed to increase the availability of mental health services in schools, including by expanding training programs to prepare new school counselors, social workers and psychologists.

Opioids & Substance Misuse: Unfortunately, the United States has reached new records in the number of drug overdose fatalities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Democrats worked to secure new resources to continue the fight against the scourge of opioids in our communities and provide help to those struggling with substance misuse and addiction. These investments include:

- \$4.9 billion to address opioid misuse, an increase of over \$345 million over fiscal year 2022 levels. This funding includes:
 - Nearly \$1.6 billion to states to address the opioid epidemic through the State Opioid Response Grant.
 - A \$100 million increase for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant.
 - \$111 million for medication assisted treatment.

- \$505 million for opioid overdose surveillance and prevention at CDC.
- \$80 million to address the needs of children affected by the opioid crisis.
- \$145 million to help affected rural communities combat the opioid epidemic.
- \$608.5 million in dedicated grant program funding across the Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill to respond to substance use disorder, including opioids, and drug trafficking, an increase of \$36 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted funding level.
- \$471 million for the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). This includes \$302 million for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, and \$109 million for the Drug Free Communities program.

Addressing Food Insecurity: With the price of groceries up more than 10 percent, families across the country are struggling to make ends meet, and food banks are being squeezed as they try to provide for their communities. Democrats secured funding that will help families make ends meet at the grocery store and help ensure children have access to the nutritious food that they need. These investments include:

- \$154 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, an increase of \$13.4 billion.
- \$28.544 billion for Child Nutrition Programs, including \$40 million for the Summer Electronic Benefit program and \$30 million for school equipment grants. This funding will ensure schools can continue to serve healthy meals.
- \$6 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, which fully funds anticipated participation and ensures that over 4 million low-income women and children do not see their benefits reduced.
- Across the globe, more than 820 million people go to bed hungry every night and more than 49 million people in 49 countries are on the edge of famine. The United States is committed to combating hunger both domestically and abroad. This bill funds two programs that provide foreign food aid. These include the Food for Peace Program (PL 480), which is funded at \$1.8 billion, and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program, which is funded at \$248 million, for an increase of \$11 million over fiscal year 2022.

Protecting Our Environment: Democrats fought to preserve and enhance funding that protects the environment and supports clean air and clean water and mitigates the harmful effects of climate change. This funding includes:

- \$10.135 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an increase of \$576 million to the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. The funding invests in core environmental programs after years of flat funding, providing a \$72 million increase for EPA enforcement and compliance programs, a \$32 million increase for clean air programs, a \$33 million increase for water programs, and a \$20 million increase for toxic chemical programs.
- \$3.475 billion for the National Park Service, an increase of 6.4 percent, or \$210 million, to the fiscal year 2022 level. This funding restores 500 of the 3,000 staff position losses suffered over the past decade that have limited the ability of the Service to address challenges, especially substantial increases in visitation.

- \$4.395 billion is provided for Wildland Firefighting, of which \$1.395 billion is provided in base suppression operations; \$2.55 billion is provided in the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund; and \$450 million is provided in the disaster supplemental. This is \$550 million more or a 14 percent increase over fiscal year 2022.
- \$3.46 billion for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), a \$260 million increase over fiscal year 2022 levels and a historic level of funding. These increased funds will energize EERE's efforts, from vehicle technologies, to hydrogen research and development, marine, wind, and solar energy, and weatherization assistance programs, and renewable grid integration.
- The State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs bill includes \$385 million to support biodiversity conservation programs; \$260 million to support clean energy programs; \$270 million for adaptation programs; \$185 million for sustainable landscapes programs; and \$125 million for a U.S. contribution to the Clean Technology Fund, which aims to modernize the energy sector in developing countries. Authorization is also included for U.S. contributions to the Adaptation Fund and Least Developed Countries Fund.

Supporting Our Veterans and Investing in Our Troops: Democrats agree that inflation poses a threat to our national security and are committed to supporting the women and men in the armed services and their families and providing the necessary resources to support our veterans. Investments in the bill include:

- Fully funding the 4.6 percent pay raise for our troops.
- \$5 billion for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund, which provides additional funding to implement landmark PACT Act that expands eligibility for health care services and benefits to veterans with conditions related to toxic exposure during their service.
- \$118.7 billion for VA medical care in fiscal year 2023, a 22.4 percent increase over fiscal year 2022, to provide essential health services for more than 7.3 million veterans, including deferred care due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- \$52.8 billion to address higher inflation as well as an additional \$8 billion to address price escalation, including \$1.7 billion for basic allowance for subsistence, housing, and other expenses for military personnel; \$800 million for higher utility costs; and \$400 million for Defense Health Program pricing increases.
- \$2.7 billion, a 25 percent increase, to support critical services and housing assistance for veterans and their families experiencing housing insecurity.
- \$840.5 million for gender-specific healthcare services, as well as initiatives and improvements to health care facilities.

Investing In Affordable Housing And Preventing Homelessness For Vulnerable Households: Democrats included critical resources to expand opportunities for affordable housing and provide assistance to families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. These investments include:

- \$1.5 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, which will lead to the construction of nearly 10,000 new rental and homebuyer units and sustain the record level of investment from fiscal year 2022.

- \$6.39 billion for the Community Development Block Grant formula program and related local economic and community development projects that benefit low- and moderate-income areas and people, an increase of \$1.55 billion compared to fiscal year 2022.
- \$3.63 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants, a \$420 million or 13 percent increase from fiscal year 2022, which will serve over 1 million people experiencing homelessness each year through a wide variety of service and housing interventions.
- \$2 billion for the Rural Housing Service, an increase of \$183 million over fiscal year 2022. Within these increases is \$40 million for Rental Assistance.
- \$1.435 billion for the Housing for the Elderly and Housing for Persons with Disabilities programs, of which nearly \$258 million will support new awards of capital advance and rental assistance opportunities to serve an estimated 2,910 additional households.
- \$130 million for new incremental Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers to support over 11,700 additional low-income households, including families and individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and youth aging out of foster care.

Tribal Programs: Democrats secured an historic level of funding to support tribal programs across the Department of Interior, the Indian Health Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These investments include:

- \$10.882 billion for tribal programs across the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) for fiscal year 2023, an increase of 5.8 percent, or \$596 billion to the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. This includes \$6.928 billion for IHS, an increase of \$297 million to the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, to reduce wait times, build hospitals in areas that currently have insufficient access to healthcare, better equip health facilities with medical equipment such as mammography machines, and modernize health records.
- In an historic first, the bill provides an advance appropriation of \$5.129 billion for fiscal year 2024 to provide budget certainty for a healthcare system that provides health services to 2.5 million individuals across Indian Country.
- \$3.842 billion, an increase of \$297 million or 7 percent, for tribal programs provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). This funding makes investments toward supporting Tribal governments in a number of key areas such as public safety and justice, support police services, special initiatives to address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women cases, and Tribal courts. This bill also boosts the BIE by \$119 million, or 9 percent, over the fiscal year 2022 level to support a school system of 183 schools and 33 Tribal Colleges and Universities delivering educational services to nearly 57,000 students.

Investing In Science: The bill includes bold new investments in preserving America's competitive edge and advancing scientific discovery. These include:

- \$9.9 billion, a historic or 12 percent increase, for the National Science Foundation. This is largest dollar increase for NSF of all time and the largest percentage increase for the Foundation in more than two decades. NSF's funding level will support approximately

2,300 additional research and education grants and 35,000 more scientists, technicians, teachers, and students, compared to fiscal year 2022.

- \$761 million, a 17.5 percent increase, for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- \$1.627 billion, a 32 percent increase, for the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- \$25.4 billion for NASA.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): Including supplemental funding, the bill provides \$5 billion for LIHEAP. Energy prices have been climbing consistently this year and remain higher than overall inflation. Home heating oil costs have increased by 65 percent, electricity is up nearly 14 percent, and natural gas costs have increased by 15 percent over last year. This funding will help offset the costs of those increases to ensure low income families can heat and cool their homes this year.

Supporting Law Enforcement And Other Justice Programs: Democrats are committed to ensuring our communities are safe while restoring trust, promoting equal justice, and holding law enforcement accountable. The bill includes:

- \$770.8 million, an increase of \$96.3 million, for Byrne-Justice Assistance Grants (JAG).
- \$700 million, the highest funding level ever, for grants provided by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). This represents a 22 percent increase above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level for these lifesaving programs.
- \$324 million, an increase of 32 percent, for COPS Hiring. This funding will place over 1,800 more police officers on the streets of our communities.
- \$231 million, a 15 percent increase, for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance and Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office grant programs related to police-community relations. Dedicated funding of \$45 million is provided for the COPS Community Policing Development program. This includes funding for de-escalation, implicit bias, and duty to intervene training (\$16 million), crisis intervention teams in order to embed mental and behavioral health services with law enforcement (\$11 million), and accreditation of law enforcement agencies (\$9 million). The bill also provides \$10 million to train law enforcement for properly responding to situations when individuals are mentally ill or disabled and \$50 million for the Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative.

U.S. Capitol Police: The U.S. Capitol Police Department ensures the safety, protection and security of the Capitol complex and those who travel to and work within it, including staff, visitors, and Members of Congress. The bill provides:

- \$734.5 million for the Capitol Police, which is \$132 million more than fiscal year 2022. This covers the most current Department needs for salaries, including to hire up to 137 sworn officers and 123 support/civilian personnel, bringing the force to a projected level of 2,126 sworn officers and 567 civilians.
- \$2 million to provide off-campus security for Members in response to evolving and growing threats.