



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

VICE CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

For Immediate Release:

December 16, 2019

Contact:

Jay Tilton :

(202) 224-2667

SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

FISCAL YEAR 2020 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Washington, D.C. – The fiscal year 2020 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill provides \$5.049 billion in discretionary budget authority 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 \$213 million more than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level, and \$239 million less than the fiscal year 2020 budget request.

The bill provides critical funding for the operations of the Government Accountability Office, the United States Capitol Police, the Library of Congress, the Copyright Office, the Congressional Budget Office, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 2021.

Key Points & Highlights – The bill makes the following key investments:

Senate Intern Pay

The agreement provides a total of \$6 million for Senate intern pay, an increase of \$1 million above fiscal year 2019 enacted. This allows for an average of \$60,000 to each Senator’s office to be used for the sole purpose of compensating interns. In its second year, this successful program will continue to expand internships in the Senate to the broadest possible pool of candidates who have the ability and interest to serve. Unfortunately, unpaid internships exclude students who cannot independently afford to work without pay, hindering future career opportunities and making it more difficult for Senators to attract and hire the most qualified interns, regardless of socioeconomic status. Providing financial compensation provides an avenue for more students to have the opportunity to serve their country and gain experience toward a career in public service.

Security

The United States Capitol Police provides security and law enforcement for the Capitol complex and protection for Members of Congress. The agreement provides \$464.3 million for the Capitol Police, \$8 million more than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. This funding will allow the Capitol Police to support 57 additional sworn officers and an additional civilian position in the Office of Inspector General. The bill doubles funding to \$2 million to continue enhancing

security for Members of Congress outside of the Capitol campus because, as the 2017 shooting in Alexandria, Va., highlighted, evolving threats include the physical targeting of Members of Congress. The bill also fully funds the budget request of \$7 million to cover the costs associated with the 2020 National Presidential Conventions and costs needed to prepare for the 2021 Presidential Inauguration.

Oversight and Accountability

As Congress's independent and nonpartisan "watchdog," the Government Accountability Office (GAO) audits and evaluates federal agencies to improve government efficiency and effectiveness and root out waste, fraud and abuse. The agreement provides \$630 million for GAO, \$40.25 million more than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. Funding will allow GAO to maintain current staff, and grow incrementally toward its optimal staffing level. It will also allow GAO's Science, Technical Assessment and Analytics Team (STAA) to continue working to fill science and technology gaps in Congress. The need for additional Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) accounts for the increase in congressional requests to assess technology and science, cybersecurity threats, investments in government agencies, and rising health care costs.

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, our nation's oldest cultural institution, and an unmatched source of information for Congress and the American people. The agreement provides \$504 million for the Library, which is \$30 million more than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level, to continue and expand necessary modernization and optimization efforts in Library operations. The agreement fully funds the Library's request of \$10 million to continue to support the planning and development of the Visitor Experience, a public-private partnership to enhance visitors' experiences at the Library of Congress by bringing more of the Library's collections and historic artifacts out from the vaults and into exhibition spaces for public display, enabling better public access to the Reading Room, and enhancing basic services to better accommodate visitors. This brings the total federal investment provided thus far for the project to \$20 million.

Copyright Protections & Modernization

The Copyright Office protects the ownership of creative content, supporting both small and large businesses in the arts, information, entertainment, and technology sectors. The agreement supports \$92 million for the Copyright Office, which is \$1.5 million less than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level and \$1.1 million less than the budget request. This amount includes \$42.1 million in direct appropriations. This funding will allow the Copyright Office to continue year two of a five-year, long-awaited effort to create electronic systems for copyright registration and recordation, and also supports digitization of historic copyright records dating to 1870.

Safety and Historic Preservation

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) maintains all of the buildings within the Capitol complex to ensure the safety of constituents, visitors, staff, and Members of Congress. The agreement provides \$696 million, which is \$27.8 million less than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. This funding will help alleviate part of the deferred maintenance backlog identified by the AOC on both the Capitol campus and at the Library of Congress, including security infrastructure; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrades; improvements to building egress; and stone

and metal preservation of the Capitol Building. The agreement fully funds the AOC operating budget, and funds the AOC's highest priority life-safety and critical infrastructure needs. It also provides for the assembly of the 2021 Presidential Inaugural stands.

Budget Transparency

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) provides objective, timely and non-partisan analyses to inform Congress's economic and budgetary deliberations. The agreement provides \$54.9 million for CBO, \$4.2 million more than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level, to continue providing high-quality analyses that are greatly valued by Congress and the public. The increase will allow CBO to hire additional staff to support the agency's plans to provide additional transparency of its modeling and cost estimate processes and responsiveness efforts.

World-Class Research

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) provides expert, non-partisan policy and legal analysis to Congress. The bill provides \$120.5 million for CRS, which is \$5.2 million less than the fiscal year 2019 enacted level but equal to the budget request. This funding continues investments in modernizing CRS's research platform, including for large datasets, and also continues efforts to restore staffing losses totaling more than 10 percent. Funding included also ensures that the agency will have sufficient resources to continue making all non-confidential CRS reports available online, as required by law.

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 2021

The agreement fully funds the budget request of \$1.5 million for the Joint Committee. This appropriation is provided every four years to provide for the expenses associated with the planning of the Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies. The recommendation is \$250,000 above the fiscal year 2016 appropriation.

###