



# COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

## VICE CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

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### SUMMARY LEGISLATIVE BRANCH FISCAL YEAR 2021 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

**Washington, D.C.** – The fiscal year 2021 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill provides \$5.3 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 \$261 million more than the fiscal year 2020 enacted level, and \$303 million less than the fiscal year 2021 budget request. The agreement includes an additional \$10 million in emergency funding for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct oversight of funding provided to federal departments and agencies for coronavirus response and recovery efforts.

The bill provides critical funding for the operations of the GAO, the United States Capitol Police (USCP), the Library of Congress (LOC), the Copyright Office, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), and the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 2021.

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

#### **Security**

The U.S. Capitol Police 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 agreement provides \$515.5 million for the USCP, which is \$51.2 million more than fiscal year 2020. This will cover the necessary increase in retirement benefits and to provide security and overtime costs for the 2021 Presidential Inauguration. The bill continues \$2 million to provide off-campus security for Members in response to increased threats. The agreement also includes commonsense reforms to make the Capitol Police more transparent and accountable and to improve police-community relations, training and workforce diversity.

#### **Campus Safety**

The agreement fully funds the infrastructure build-out and implementation of a new Joint Audible Warning System (JAWS) to replace the now-obsolete legacy annunciator system installed after the 9/11 and anthrax attacks. This is a joint project between the Senate and House Sergeants at Arms, the USCP, and the Architect of the Capitol, which will share the cost of building out this new secure emergency communications system. The agreement also supports the continued Capitol campus deployment of “Stop the Bleed” training, which provides Capitol

Police and congressional staff with basic skills and techniques to immediately control external bleeding until medical help arrives in order to improve survival rates of mass shootings and other life-threatening events.

### **Oversight and Accountability**

As Congress' independent and nonpartisan "watchdog," the GAO audits and evaluates federal agencies to improve government efficiency and effectiveness and root out waste, fraud and abuse. The agreement provides \$661 million for GAO, \$31 million more than fiscal year 2020 enacted. This will allow GAO to maintain current staff, and builds on a multi-year effort to restore GAO staffing to its optimal level.

### **Science and Technology**

The bill provides additional resources for both GAO and the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to hire additional staff for their specialized teams working to fill science and technology policy gaps in Congress. This is in response to increasing calls by Members of Congress and legislative staff to have timely, expert information in order to adequately address and legislate on current and emerging high-tech issues confronting them. CRS, which provides expert, non-partisan policy and legal analysis to Congress, will continue building its capacity to provide research on legislative issues related to science and technology to better meet the growing need of Congress for policy analysis of issues related to rapidly changing technologies. GAO will continue providing Congress with technology assessments, technical assistance, and reports in the areas of oversight of federal technology and science programs through the work of its Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics (STAA) team.

### **Library of Congress**

The Library of Congress (LOC) is an internationally renowned institution that preserves and shares priceless collections, including primary sources and historical and cultural records. The agreement provides \$523.6 million for the LOC, which is \$19.5 million more than the fiscal year 2020 enacted level. The agreement includes \$10 million to continue support for the Visitor Experience, a public-private partnership to bring 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 \$30 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 provides \$93.4 million, which is \$1.7 million more than in fiscal year 2020. This includes \$48.6 million in direct appropriations. Funding will allow the Copyright Office to continue year three 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 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 \$675 million, which is \$13 million less than the fiscal year 2020 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. The bill fully funds \$41.5 million requested for the construction of additional permanent storage space at the Library's Fort Meade campus to alleviate the shortage of collection capacity on Capitol Hill. The project will allow for the long-term preservation of collections by constructing a climate controlled, secure, non-leased storage facility. The agreement provides strong funding for the AOC operating budget, and funds the AOC's highest priority life-safety and critical infrastructure needs.

### **Budget Transparency**

The CBO provides Congress with objective, timely, and non-partisan analyses to inform budgetary and economic deliberations essential to the legislative process. The agreement includes \$57.3 million for CBO, \$2.3 million more than the fiscal year 2020 enacted level, to support CBO's current and planned efforts for improving and promoting transparency and responsiveness, and maintaining the agency's professional independence.

### **Senate Intern Pay**

The agreement provides a total of \$6 million for Senate intern pay, which is equal to the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and provides an average of \$60,000 to each Senator's office for the sole purpose of compensating interns. In its third year, this program will continue to ensure that internships in the Senate are accessible to the broadest pool of qualified, interested candidates, including those who cannot independently afford to work without pay. Financially compensated internships allow more students to explore careers in public service, while allowing them to gain professional experience and serve their country.

### **Coronavirus Response**

The agreement provides \$2 million for the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 2021 to ensure safe, healthy and inclusive Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies. This responds to unanticipated needs due to the COVID pandemic, which will result in an unprecedented Presidential Inauguration. Funding will cover the costs of testing for all attendees, guests and support staff in the Capitol for the ceremonies; personal protective equipment, such as masks and hand sanitizer; and social distancing furtherance. It also provides \$5 million for the Office of the Attending Physician for the response to COVID-19, including testing and vaccine handling, in the Capitol Complex. Finally, the agreement provides \$10 million in emergency funding for the GAO to conduct oversight of funding provided to federal departments and agencies for coronavirus response and recovery efforts.

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