



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

March 4, 2011

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

Summary of Year-Long CR Provisions

FY 2011 Request: \$5.131 billion
H.R. 1: \$4.462 billion
Senate Proposal: \$4.500 billion

The Senate proposal for the FY 2011 Legislative Branch appropriations is \$4.5 billion. This level of funding is a reduction of \$631.4 million, or 12.3 percent, below the FY 2011 request level. The funding level for the Senate proposal is \$38 million, or .9 percent, above the level included in H.R. 1. The level of cuts provided in the Senate proposal would allow the agencies of the legislative branch to continue to operate at the most basic function without significant disruptions.

U.S. Senate – The Senate proposal recommends \$915.9 million for the offices and operations of the U.S. Senate. This includes funding for leadership offices, committees, and personal offices as well as the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms, and the Office of the Chaplain among others. The funding level provided for the Senate is \$126 million, or 12 percent, below the FY 2011 request level of \$1 billion.

Specifically, the overall funding provided for the Members' personal office account is \$410 million, which is \$48.6 million, or 10.6 percent, below the FY 2011 request level. In addition, the allocation cap under which each individual office is allowed to operate is reduced by 5 percent from the FY 10 enacted level. Further, \$33.5 million in unobligated funds from FY 2009, funding that was not spent by Senate offices during FY 2009, are rescinded. The 5 percent reduction to the personal office allocation cap will likely result in furloughs for some Senate offices.

Joint Items – The Senate proposal provides \$20.9 million for Joint activities which is \$431,000, or 2 percent, below the request level of \$21.356 million. The level proposed in H.R. 1 reduces the level of funding for the joint Economic Committee, the Joint Committee on Taxation, and the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services below the FY 2010 enacted level and funds the Office of the Attending Physician at the FY 2010 level. The Senate proposal funds all activities under Joint Items, except the Office of the Attending Physician, at the FY 2010 enacted levels. The Office of the Attending Physician is reduced by \$398,000, or 10 percent, based on the reduced request level for FY 2011.

Capitol Police – The Senate proposal provides \$334.2 million for the U.S. Capitol Police, which is \$51.2 million below the FY 2011 request level, but is \$6 million above the FY 2010 enacted level. H.R. 1 proposes an additional \$6 million above the Senate proposed level.

Congressional Budget Office – The Senate proposal provides \$46.9 million in funding for the Congressional Budget Office, a decrease of \$384,000, below the FY 2011 request level, but \$4.1 million, or 9.7 percent, above the level included in H.R.1.

By contrast, H.R. 1 cuts CBO by \$4.5 million, or 9.6 percent, below the FY 2011 request level, which would require CBO to reduce personnel which would delay analyses of large-scale budget proposals, limit the types and complexity of analyses the agency could undertake, reduce the number and scope of alternative legislative provisions the agency could examine, and slow the production of cost estimates and mandate statements for pending legislation.

Architect of the Capitol – The Senate proposal provides \$579.7 million in funding for the Architect of the Capitol, a decrease of \$175 million, or 23%, from the FY 2011 request level, but \$6.7 million, or 1.2 percent, above the level in H.R.1. The reduced level of funding will impact specifically the planned repair work on the Capitol Dome, as well as AOC plans for the Capitol grounds, and the Library Buildings and Grounds account.

Library of Congress – The Senate proposal provides \$632.4 million in funding for the Library of Congress, a decrease of \$42.4 million, or 6.3 percent, below the FY 2011 request level, but \$29.8 million, or 5 percent, above the level provided in H.R.1. The level of funding provided in the Senate proposal would require a hiring freeze with no new hires, and core services and products would be delayed as staff levels are reduced.

By contrast, H.R. 1 would cut funding to the LOC by \$72.2 million, or 10.7 percent, below the request, which would require the LOC to furlough all Library staff for approximately eight weeks, including a complete closure of Library facilities and services during that period. In other words, for two months of the remaining six months, the Library would be closed.

Government Printing Office – The Senate proposal provides \$138.3 million for the Government Printing Office, a decrease of \$28.2 million, or 16.9 percent, below the FY 2011 request level, but \$3.0 million, or 2.2 percent, above the level provided in H.R.1. The level of funding provided in the Senate proposal would allow the GPO to operate at the current level with no disruption of services.

Government Accountability Office – The Senate proposal provides \$547.8 million in funding for the Government Accountability Office, a decrease of \$53.3 million, or 8.9 percent, below the FY 2011 request level, but \$25 million, or 4.8 percent, above the level provided in H.R.1. This level of funding will allow the GAO to continue operating at a reduced level on behalf of Congress with no disruption of services.

By contrast, H.R. 1 would cut funding to the GAO by \$78.3 million, or 13 percent, below the request, which would require the GAO to either implement a reduction-in-force (RIF) which

could impact over 33 percent of GAO's staff, or an across-the-board furlough of up to 8 days which would impact the entire staff.

Such a reduction would have a significant impact on GAO's ability to provide timely responses to the range of Congressional requests and mandates (In FY 2010, mandated GAO studies by Congress increased by 35 percent). Specifically, in the short term, a reduced staff capacity would require GAO to renegotiate timeframes for responding to congressional requests with all standing committees of the Congress, and in the longer term, Congress would need to consider changes to GAO's statutory authority for responding to congressional mandates.

Office of Compliance – The Senate proposal provides \$4.1 million in funding for the Office of Compliance, a decrease of \$292,000, or 13 percent, below the FY 2011 request level. H.R. 1 provides the same level of funding.

Open World Leadership Center Trust Fund – The Senate proposal provides \$12 million in funding for the Open World Leadership Center Trust Fund, a decrease of \$2 million, or 14.3 percent, below the FY 2011 request level. H.R. 1 would cut this program by 63.6 percent below the FY 2011 request. The mission of the Center, created by Congress in 2000 as a legislative branch entity, is to enable emerging political leaders from Russia and the Newly Independent States at all levels of government to gain firsthand exposure to the American free market economic system and the democratic political system through visits to comparable governments and communities.

John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development The Senate proposal provides \$430,000 to continue the Stennis Center for Public Service. H.R. 1 proposes to eliminate the program.