



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

Fiscal Year 2023 Chairman's Mark Appropriations Bill Highlights

Prepared by the office of Chairman Leahy

Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee released a nearly \$1.7 trillion fiscal year 2023 Appropriations package, which includes \$653 billion in non-defense discretionary spending, a 10.1 percent increase over fiscal year 2022, \$850 billion in defense discretionary spending, an 8.7 percent increase over fiscal year 2022, and \$118.7 billion for VA medical care, a 22 percent increase over fiscal year 2022.

The package makes significant investments in communities around the country, funds critical programs supporting America's middle class, protects our nation's veterans, and invests in our national security while making new investments in science and research, health care, climate change adaptation and mitigation, supporting mental health, and combatting the opioid epidemic among other priorities.

The package includes that advance important policy priorities and help American families with the rising costs of living as a result of inflation and them make ends meet. It helps families put food on the table, make rent and mortgage payments, and reduces the cost of childcare and higher education.

Highlights

Protecting Abortion Access and Reproductive Rights: The Supreme Court's Dobbs decision sent our society tumbling backward in time and stripped away a constitutional right that guaranteed women autonomy over their own bodies and health for nearly five decades. The package establishes the Reproductive Healthcare Access Fund and provides \$350 million to help women who live in states where abortion access is restricted cover the costs of travel, treatment, childcare, lodging and other expenses. The fund can also support efforts to expand access, infrastructure, and hiring in states where abortion access remains legal and protected. The package also eliminates the discriminatory Hyde and Weldon amendments, and it includes a provision that prohibits the Department of Justice from investigating or prosecuting any individual who crosses state lines to access abortion care or provides assistance to another person seeking abortion services.

The package invests in reproductive healthcare programs by providing \$512 million, an 80 percent increase, for Title X-Family Planning, \$130 million, an increase of nearly 30 percent, for Teen Pregnancy Prevention, and \$50 million in new funding to integrate contraceptive and quality improvement efforts at Community Health Centers.

Providing Emergency Funding To Address The Ongoing COVID Pandemic And Other Emerging Health Threats: The package includes \$22 billion in emergency supplemental funding to provide the necessary resources to prepare for the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and to address other emerging diseases that pose a significant threat to public health. This includes \$16 billion in emergency funding through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) to support research and development, manufacturing, production, purchase, and distribution of medical countermeasures against COVID-19 including vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and medical products and supplies. It also includes flexible funding to allow the Department of Health and Human Services to purchase and distribute vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics; clinical trials for vaccines focused on emerging coronavirus strains; and to support domestic manufacturing capacity.

The supplemental also provides \$5 billion in emergency funding to support the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and \$950 million in emergency funding for broader pandemic preparedness activities to support a new global health security financial intermediary fund, strengthen the global health workforce, and support global vaccine research and development.

Addressing Climate Change and Protecting the Environment: The climate crisis poses a potentially catastrophic threat to human health, the environment, and the economy. Recent studies have concluded that global temperatures may rise as much as 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit if urgent action is not taken. One-third of the U.S. GDP is affected by climate and weather, and last year 20 separate weather and climate disasters cost our country more than \$1 billion dollars each. The package includes significant new investments to confront this reality and protect our environment and ecosystems, including:

- \$10.6 billion (11.3 percent increase) for EPA;
- \$3.799 billion (nearly a 20 percent increase) for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE);
- \$2.865 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds;
- \$2.3 billion (14 percent increase) for Earth Science to address climate research priorities, including new observations of Earth and its systems;
- \$2 billion for FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities Program to incorporate climate adaptation into national preparedness and community grants and projects;
- \$1.8 billion for State Department and USAID climate adaptation, sustainable landscapes, clean energy, and biodiversity conservation programs;
- \$1.6 billion for the Green Climate Fund;
- \$1.29 billion for EPA's Superfund program;
- \$656 million (54 percent increase) for EPA's climate and clean air programs;
- \$550 million for the Clean Technology Fund;
- \$500 million in new directed funding for DOE to accelerate domestic manufacturing of five key clean energy technologies through the Defense;
- \$250 million for DOT's PROTECT grants to improve the resiliency of our transportation network;
- \$185 million for EPA grants to address non-point source pollution;
- \$186 million for Western drought programs;

- \$180 million (80 percent increase) for EPA environmental justice programs;
- \$150.2 million for a contribution to the Global Environment Facility;
- \$135 million (55 percent increase) for FTA Low or No Emission Vehicle Emission Program;
- \$100 million (900 percent increase) to expand CDC’s climate and health program;
- \$96 million for EPA brownfields grants;
- \$92 million for FAA’s research on sustainable aviation fuels and aviation efficiency;
- \$51 million to address combined sewer overflows;
- \$50 million to support research on the impact of changes in weather on human health;
- \$33 million (17 percent increase) for NOAA climate research;
- \$31.5 million to address lead in schools;
- \$20 million in new funding for critical climate modeling at NOAA; and
- \$19.5 million (56 percent increase) for DOT’s fuel economy program that set CAFE standards for automobiles and trucks.

Making Housing More Affordable and Safe: The package includes critical resources to expand opportunities for affordable housing and provide assistance to families struggling to avoid unsafe housing conditions or from falling into homelessness. In addition to providing the resources to preserve rental assistance to the more than 5 million HUD-assisted, low-income households amid significant rent increases, the bill includes:

- More than \$30 billion for Single Family Homeownership Loans to help more than 171,000 rural Americans purchase their own home;
- \$4 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program;
- \$3.225 billion for the Public Housing Fund to ensure the safe and sanitary conditions of public housing for 1.2 million households living in public housing units managed by 3300 PHAs nationwide;
- \$1.49 billion for Rural Housing Service Rental Assistance to ensure 245,000 low-income families are not rent burdened;
- \$1.725 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership Program – the highest funding level in over a decade – to support the construction of more than 11,400 new rental and homebuyer units;
- \$3.525 billion for the Community Development Block Grant formula program;
- \$390 million for HUD’s Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, to remediate lead-based paint from over 25,000 low-income households; and
- \$53 million in new funding to address PBRA properties that had contracts renewed through the Mark-to-Market program and are physically or operationally distressed.

Homelessness Prevention: High-cost rents, low vacancy rates, and stagnant wages have exacerbated homelessness across the country, resulting in disturbing increases to the rate of unsheltered homeless in certain areas. This package focuses efforts to reduce homelessness with the inclusion of \$3.55 billion for homeless assistance grants, \$332 million more than fiscal year 2022, including:

- \$2.99 billion for the renewal of 6,500 Continuum of Care (CoC) projects that serve over 750,000 people;

- \$290 million for the Emergency Solutions Grants program, which will support over 350,000 persons in emergency shelter each year;
- \$107 million for new targeted projects serving youth experiencing homelessness;
- \$100 million for new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing for over 4,000 individuals experiencing chronic and/or unsheltered homelessness;
- \$52 million for new CoC projects serving survivors fleeing domestic violence.

Addressing Substance Use and the Opioid Crisis: In 2021, the grim death toll of the drug overdose epidemic in our country reached an historic high of 108,000 lives lost, an estimated 80,000 of those involved opioids. The package provides resources to confront this crisis head on, including:

- \$2.4 billion (26 percent increase) for the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant;
- \$2.025 billion (33 percent increase) State Opioid Response (SOR) Grants;
- \$662.8 million for opioid prevention and treatment programs at VA;
- \$631 million (10 percent increase) in dedicated grant program funding in the CJS bill to respond to substance use disorder, including opioids, and drug trafficking;
- \$140 million for the Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative;
- \$40 million (14 percent increase) for the COPS anti-heroin task force;
- \$25 million for HUD’s Recovery Housing Program to provide stable, transitional housing for individuals in recovery from a substance-use disorder;
- \$15 million (50 percent increase) for the COPS anti-methamphetamine task force; and
- Eliminating the Needle Exchange Amendment, which prohibited federal funding from being used to support syringe service programs.

Investing in Science, Research, and Development: The package includes significant investments in science, research, and development to spur innovation and secure our country’s competitive advantage. These investments include:

- \$6.85 billion (a nearly 15 percent increase) for applied energy programs to support research, development, demonstration, and deployment of an extensive range of clean energy technologies;
- \$10.3 billion (17 percent increase) for the National Science Foundation to support approximately 3,500 additional research and education grants and 49,300 more scientists, technicians, teachers, and students;
- \$1.7 billion (38 percent increase) for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) including \$975 million (15 percent increase) for NIST measurement labs and research to spur research advances in cutting-edge fields;
- \$8 billion for NASA Science;
- \$48 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to advance science and speed the development of new therapies, diagnostics and preventive measures;
- \$1 billion for the recently created Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H); and

- \$570 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) to develop next-generation, innovative energy technologies.

Supporting Education, College Access and Affordability, Child Care, and Early Childhood Education:

The package supports our nation’s educators and schools by providing new and increased resources that invest in students and their future. Multiple studies have shown the large impact the pandemic has had on our children and youth including their mental health and learning. Learning for students in majority-Black schools was estimated last year to be five months behind where it would be in a typical year in both mathematics and reading. Estimates of the achievement gap between students in low-poverty and high-poverty elementary schools show an increase of 15 to 20 percent. The package also increases access to affordable higher education, which is a pillar to achieving the American dream and essential in today’s economy. Finally, it addresses the rising cost of child care by expanding access to early child education and providing the resources to train and hire more child care workers. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the fragility of our child care system. During the first year of the pandemic, approximately 16,000 child care providers permanently closed, and today the sector is still down 120,000 workers, exacerbating the shortage of child care nationwide and resulting in a child care burden that has fallen disproportionately on women, and particularly on women of color. These investments include:

- \$20.137 billion (15 percent increase) for Title I-A grants to school districts, which provide financial assistance to nearly 90 percent of school districts;
- \$12.036 billion (9 percent increase) for Head Start programs to provide high-quality early childhood education for children and families beginning before birth through age five;
- \$7.165 billion (16 percent increase) for Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which will allow the program to serve nearly two million children;
- \$1.275 billion for Federal TRIO programs; and
- \$500 increase to the maximum Pell grant, the largest in more than a decade, increasing the maximum Pell grant award to \$7,395 for the 2023-24 school year.

Supporting Public Health: The package builds on progress we have made to improve public health since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic by building capacity and capabilities at local and community health centers, addressing vaccine hesitancy and supporting immunization programs, and addressing the increasing rate of maternal mortality in our country, which disproportionately impacts women of color, among other priorities. These investments include:

- \$10.5 billion (a 23.5 percent increase) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC);
- \$860 million (a 32 percent increase) to enhance the Section 317 Immunization Program to increase routine vaccination rates, detect and respond to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, and address vaccine hesitancy;
- \$740 million to support state and local public health departments emergency preparedness;
- \$600 million, tripling funding for public health infrastructure and capacity;
- \$496 million (a nearly 160 percent increase) for the Maternal Mortality Initiative ;

- \$353 million (a nearly 40 percent increase) to enhance global public health protection; and
- \$50 million to support the newly established Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics.

Mental Health: Mental health care is health care, and the package includes significant new investments to improve mental health care access and the nation’s system of crisis care. These investments include:

- \$13.9 billion for mental health programs, including suicide prevention outreach and treatment programs for veterans;
- \$1.42 billion (a nearly 66 percent increase) for the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG); and
- \$824 million (a more than 300 percent increase) for suicide prevention programs, including:
 - \$697 million for 988 and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline;
 - \$385 million for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs); and
 - \$222 million for Project AWARE, which supports school-based mental health and trauma services to students.

Keeping Communities Safe, Supporting Law Enforcement, and Criminal and Civil Justice:

The packages provides new resources to keep our communities safe while restoring trust, promoting equal justice, holding law enforcement accountable, and supporting legal counsel. This includes:

- \$1.41 billion for Defender Services, which supports legal representation for the more than 90 percent of individuals charged with a federal crime who are unable to afford private defense counsel;
- \$732 million (a 27 percent increase), the highest funding level ever, for Violence Against Women Act programs;
- \$539 million (a 10 percent increase) for the Legal Services Corporation, which assists millions of low-income Americans with family law, domestic violence, housing, fraud, and other legal problems;
- \$307 million (a 25 percent increase) for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring to place more than 1,500 additional police officers on the streets of our communities;
- \$240.5 million (a 20 percent increase) for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance and Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office grant programs to support de-escalation, implicit bias, and duty to intervene training; crisis intervention teams to embed mental and behavioral health services with law enforcement; and training to properly respond to situations involving mentally ill or disabled people;
- \$100 million for a new evidence-based community violence intervention initiative at CDC;
- \$60 million, more than double fiscal year 2022 funding, for firearm injury and mortality prevention research at NIH and CDC;
- \$35 million for the purchase of body cameras;

- \$30 million for the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program;
- \$8 million for rural law enforcement needs; and
- \$8 million to support officer mental health and wellness.

Addressing Food Insecurity: More than 38 million people, including 12 million children, in the United States are food insecure. The package secures new resources to help American families put food on the table. The package includes:

- \$111.1 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which will fully fund anticipated participation of 43.5 million beneficiaries per month;
- \$6 billion for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, which will serve approximately 6 million low-income women, infants, and children and allows children to receive an extra \$24 per month and women to receive an extra \$45 to \$47 per month to purchase more fresh fruits and vegetables;
- \$15 billion for the School Lunch Program, which will provide 5.5 million lunches for students per day;
- \$6 billion for the School Breakfast Program, which will provide an increase of 153 million meals per day across the country;
- \$50 million for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program; and
- \$15 million for the Farm to School program.

Supporting the Women and Men in the Armed Services: The package provides the resources to modernize our armed services for the 21st Century, confront near-peer competition, address competition from China, mitigate the consequences of inflation on the armed services, and support our troops and their families. These investments include:

- A 4.6 percent pay raise for our troops
- \$3.2 billion for construction of troop and family housing;
- \$503 million for construction of medical facilities;
- \$225 million for new child development centers;
- \$373 million for military family support programs;
- \$151 million for schools; and
- Billions of dollars dedicated to mitigating the consequences of inflation on the armed services, including:
 - \$5 billion for fuel;
 - \$2.1 billion for utilities, supplies and provisions for deployed forces, and materials;
 - \$1.5 billion for acquisition programs;
 - \$921 million for Basic Allowance for Housing;
 - \$300 million for special and incentive pays; and
 - \$228 million for Basic Allowance for Subsistence.

Supporting Our Veterans: The package provides significant support to our veterans and their families by investing in their health and wellbeing. The funding included in the package, when combined with prior year appropriations and available unleased vouchers, has the potential to eliminate veteran homelessness. These investments include:

- \$118.7 billion for VA medical care (22 percent increase) to provide essential health services for 9.2 million veterans, including funds for rural health programs, veterans' homelessness prevention, and mental health;
- \$5.2 billion to support expanded telehealth services to veterans;
- \$3.9 billion for benefits administration, including efforts to reduce the disability claims backlog;
- \$3.2 billion for construction to strengthen the aging infrastructure serving veterans;
- \$1.4 billion to support expanded healthcare and benefit eligibility to veterans exposed to toxic substances during the course of their service, as provided in the Senate-passed Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act of 2022.
- \$2.7 billion (25 percent increase) for Veteran Homelessness Prevention to support critical services and housing assistance for veterans and their families;
- \$85 million for the HUD-VASH program to provide an estimated 7,460 new incremental rental vouchers for veterans experiencing homelessness; and
- \$20 million to support the transition of the Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE) from the VA to SBA in order to verify veteran eligibility of firms owned by veteran-owned small businesses and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

Responding To Humanitarian Crises And Bolstering Global Health And Food Security:

Climate change, rising food insecurity, and conflict around the globe, including Putin's unprovoked and violent attack on Ukraine, have exacerbated humanitarian crises around the globe. The bill responds to this by asserting American leadership and providing:

- \$10.5 billion (7 percent increase) for global health programs, including \$745 million for global health security focused on pandemic prevention, detection, and response, and \$6.4 billion for PEPFAR, including \$2 billion for a U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, an increase of \$440 million (28 percent);
- \$8.1 billion for humanitarian assistance to address the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons who have fled their homes as a result of natural and man-made disasters, including Russia's brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine;
- \$6.4 billion for PEPFAR, including \$2 billion for a U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, an increase of \$440 million (28 percent);
- \$1.8 billion, a record level of funding, for the Food for Peace program;
- \$1 billion for USAID's food security and agricultural development programs; and
- \$250 million for the McGovern-Dole program to respond to record, global hunger and rising hunger and food insecurity around the world.

Wildland Fire Prevention and Disaster Relief: Historic drought and wildfires have devastated the Western United States, major precipitation events of increasing intensity have wreaked havoc in the Eastern United States, and several tornadoes have torn through the middle of our country. Collectively these natural disasters have caused billions of dollars in damage. The package responds to this challenge by making the following investments:

- \$19.94 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF);

- \$4.4 billion (a 15 percent increase) for fire suppression, of which \$2.55 billion is provided to the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund and \$450 million is provided as an emergency supplemental;
- \$1.828 billion in emergency funding for disaster recovery needs for the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and
- \$1.447 billion for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) for hurricane recovery efforts.

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