



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

CHAIRMAN PATRICK LEAHY

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Contact:

Jay Tilton: (202) 224-2667

Reed Press Office (Chip Unruh): (202) 224-3326

SUMMARY

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

FISCAL YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Chairman's Mark: July 28, 2022

Washington, D.C. – The fiscal year 2023 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill provides \$4.778 billion in discretionary budget authority, excluding items pertaining solely to the House of Representatives, which total an additional \$2.012 billion. Total funding accommodated in the bill is \$6.790 billion, which is \$865 million more than the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, 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 associated legislative branch components.

The bill provides critical funding for the operations of the United States Senate, the United States Capitol Police, the Library of Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Copyright Office, the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), and the Office of the Attending Physician.

U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), Chair of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, said:

“This bill is essential to keeping our democracy and the legislative branch of government functioning, safe, and accessible to all Americans. At a time when the U.S. Capitol and the Capitol Police continue to operate amidst immense challenges, this bill makes key investments in both resources and staffing to protect the Capitol complex from known and unknown threats and keep all those who work and visit here safe. It also continues upgrades to Congress’ physical security and cyber defenses while strengthening the capacity of important legislative branch agencies, such as the non-partisan watchdog Government Accountability Office, which helps enhance transparency and accountability throughout the federal government and save American taxpayers money. Finally, the bill makes needed investments to modernize Library of Congress operations and technology and make its collection more accessible to the American people.”

U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said:

“This bill provides the necessary resources for Congress to do its work on behalf of the American people. Importantly, it makes needed investments to secure the Capitol, and support the Capitol Police in the wake of the January 6 insurrection. Finally, I am glad that this bill opens the door for dreamers to work in the halls of Congress. More than most, these young people understand the promise of what our country can be, and their insight and knowledge will be invaluable to our work.”

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

United States Senate: In order for the Senate to do its job serving the American people, the bill invests \$1.135 billion in Senate salaries and operations. While pay rates are the decision of individual Senators and the Committee on Rules, the bill provides sufficient funding for each Senate office to cover a minimum annual pay for fulltime staff at \$45,000, which is the livable wage for the District of Columbia. The bill also provides \$7 million for Senate intern pay, with an average of \$70,000 to each Senator’s office to compensate interns, which allows for the broadest pool of qualified, interested candidates, including those who cannot afford to work without pay. The bill also provides \$6.3 million to establish fellowship programs for veterans and Gold Star families. The bill provides funding for the Sergeant at Arms to continue its efforts to modernize and harden the Senate’s cyber defense, and includes the requested increase to support the physical security of Senators and staff. Report language establishes a Senate Diversity and Inclusion Working Group to identify, develop, and recommend options for improving the recruitment and retention of a diverse Senate workforce.

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 \$707.1 million for the Capitol Police, which is \$104.6 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. The bill also provides officers with overtime, retention, and recruitment benefits, such as tuition credits and wellness and trauma support. In response to the security recommendations of the Government Accountability Office, the Department’s Office of Inspector General, and congressional committees after the January 6th attack on the Capitol, the bill makes considerable investments in to support the Capitol Police and their mission. This includes investments in contracted security officers for mission requirements and First Responder Unit training, K-9 unit expansion, Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) facility costs and training, including leadership development, and upgrades to security, safety and communications equipment; intelligence and investigation analytics; upgraded Civil Disturbance Unit gear; and efficiencies on applicant testing and advertising for new recruits. The bill continues \$2 million in funding to provide off-campus security for Members in response to evolving and growing threats. Finally, the bill continues to make commonsense reforms to make the Department more transparent and accountable.

Library of Congress: The Library of Congress is an internationally renowned institution that preserves and shares priceless collections, including primary sources and historical and cultural records. The bill provides \$574 million, which is \$23 million more than fiscal year 2022, for Library operations. This includes \$1.1 million for hiring related to the new Visitor Engagement Program in anticipation of the Library’s Visitor Experience phased opening, starting with the Treasures Gallery in fall 2023. The bill also provides resources to modernize the handling of the Library’s collections, strengthening IT planning and project management, and to ensure the safety and security of the Library’s collections and workforce.

U.S. Copyright Office: The Copyright Office protects the ownership of creative content, supporting both small and large businesses in the arts, information, entertainment, and technology sectors. The bill provides \$101 million, an increase of \$2.6 million more than fiscal year 2022 for the copyright office. This includes \$53.7 million in direct appropriations. Funding will allow the Copyright Office to complete a five-year effort to launch an electronic system for copyright registration and recordation. This is a long-awaited customer service upgrade was called for by the creative community and will equip the Copyright Office to deal with the demands of the modern creative economy.

Congressional Research Service: CRS provides expert, non-partisan policy and legal analysis to Congress. The bill provides \$132.6 million, which is \$3.5 million more than fiscal year 2022, for continued modernization of CRS mission-specific information systems, and to further build its capacity to provide research on legislative issues related to science and technology to better meet the Congressional need for policy analysis of issues related to rapidly changing technologies.

Architect of the Capitol: The AOC maintains all of the buildings within the Capitol complex to ensure the safety of constituents, visitors, staff, and Members of Congress. The bill provides \$1.1 billion, which is \$529.5 million more than fiscal year 2022 enacted. This funding includes \$412 million, an increase of \$350 million, for the Capitol Police Buildings, Grounds, and Security to support significant enhancements to the physical security of the Capitol Complex as a result of the security recommendations made after the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol. The bill also includes \$51 million for the Library’s Module 7 storage project. Funding also provides for needed upgrades to project management systems, supports the day-to-day operations of each jurisdiction, and allows for the most critical capital improvements across the Capitol campus.

Government Accountability Office: As Congress’ independent and nonpartisan “watchdog,” the GAO audits and evaluates federal agencies to root out waste, fraud, and abuse while improving government efficiency and effectiveness. The bill provides \$786 million for GAO, an increase of \$66.6 million more than fiscal year 2021. This increase will allow GAO to maintain current staff, and builds on a multi-year effort to restore GAO its optimal level of 3,500 staff. The bill also includes additional resources for the Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics team, which continues to grow and adapt to calls from Members of Congress and congressional staff for technology assessments, technical assistance, and reports in the areas of oversight of federal technology and science programs.

Congressional Budget Office: CBO provides Congress with objective and non-partisan analyses to inform budgetary and economic deliberations essential to the legislative process. The bill provides \$64.6 million, which is \$3.7 million more than fiscal year 2022 enacted, to support CBO’s current and planned efforts for improving and promoting transparency, improving timely responsiveness to Congress, including making investments in IT and modeling and analytical capabilities, and maintaining the agency’s professional independence.

Member Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA): The bill includes a provision to prevent the automatic increase in the COLA for Members of Congress in fiscal year 2023.

Employment of DACA Recipients: The bill includes language permitting the Legislative Branch agencies it funds to employ “Dreamers” – residents of the United States brought to this country as children without proper immigration status – who hold employment authorization under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

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