

NEWS

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

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Rogers: Omnibus Package Responsibly Funds the Federal Government, Avoids a Shutdown, Makes Good-Government Policy Changes

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The House Appropriations Committee today unveiled the fiscal year 2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill, the legislation that will provide discretionary funding for the vast majority of the federal government for the current fiscal year.

The bill includes full Appropriations legislation and funding for 11 of the 12 annual Appropriations bills through the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2015. The 12th bill, which funds the Department of Homeland Security, is also included in the legislation, but is funded under a temporary “Continuing Resolution” mechanism that expires on February 27, 2015.

The package also contains emergency Overseas Contingency Operations funding to combat the emerging real-world threat brought by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and a total of \$5.4 billion in emergency funding to address the domestic and international Ebola crisis.

“This bill will allow us to fulfill our Constitutional duty to responsibly fund the federal government and avoid a shutdown. The 11 Appropriations bills in this package reflect specific, thoughtful, line-by-line decisions to target funds to critical programs, make reductions to lower-priority areas, and wisely invest the taxpayers’ hard-earned money. And by continuing current funding levels for the Department of Homeland Security, we allow the agency to maintain essential security functions for the next few months,” House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers said.

Funding for programs within the 11 regular Appropriations bills were weighed individually and prioritized, with dollars targeted to the most important and effective programs, while lower-priority programs were cut. Also included in these 11 bills are important policy provisions to improve accountability and transparency, to ensure good government, and to put the brakes on harmful overregulation by federal agencies.

“This package makes the most of each and every dollar, roots out waste and abuse, reins in bureaucratic overreach, and provides stable funding for important national programs – including

our national defense – for the remainder of the fiscal year. It reflects conservative priorities, yet it is also a compromise bill that can and should have wide bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. This is exactly the kind of legislation and bipartisan cooperation that the American people called for in the voting booths last month. Passage of this bill will show our people that we can and will govern responsibly,” Rogers continued.

Bill Highlights –

- **Funding Level** – The bill abides by all the terms set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (the “Ryan-Murray Agreement”), providing a total of \$1.013 trillion for the operation of the federal government, and meeting the \$521 billion defense and \$492 billion non-defense budget caps.

The legislation contains full funding for fiscal year 2015 for 11 of the 12 regular annual Appropriations bills, with the exception of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Homeland Security portion is funded under a temporary Continuing Resolution (CR). This CR maintains DHS funding at the current fiscal year 2014 level, and expires on February 27, 2015.

- **National Security** – The Omnibus contains the fiscal year 2015 Defense Appropriations bill, providing funding for our nation’s security, military readiness, and resources for our troops at home and abroad. The bill will fund important Department of Defense programs and projects, a pay raise for our troops, and the advancement of our military operations to protect the nation from current and future threats.

The bill also includes \$64 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding to provide needed resources and training for our troops in the field, to combat the threat presented by ISIL, to train and equip our Iraqi allies, and to reinforce European countries facing Russian aggression.

- **Bolstering Job Creation and Reining in Bureaucratic Overreach** – The legislation prioritizes funding for important programs that strengthen U.S. innovation and competitiveness, and that help our businesses thrive, such as small business loans, science research funding, resources to expedite domestic energy development, and critical infrastructure investments.

The bill also includes many provisions to rein in regulatory overreach that causes job loss and harm to our economy. Some of these provisions include:

- A provision to prohibit the Export-Import Bank and OPIC from blocking coal and other power-generation projects – helping to increase exports of U.S. goods and services;
- A provision prohibiting funds for the Army Corps of Engineers to change the definition of “fill material,” which could have harmful effects on many U.S. industries;

- A restriction on the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) from implementing regulations harmful to the livestock and poultry industry;
 - Language amending Dodd-Frank swaps pushout requirements to protect farmers and other commodity producers from having to put down excessive collateral to get a loan, expand their businesses, and hedge their production;
 - Provisions restricting the application of the Clean Water Act in certain agricultural areas, including farm ponds and irrigation ditches; and
 - A provision prohibiting funding for the Fish and Wildlife Service to issue further rules to place sage-grouse on the Endangered Species List – an action that could have severe economic consequences in Western states.
- **ObamaCare** – The bill provides no new funding for ObamaCare, and holds the line on funding for the IRS and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – the primary agencies responsible for the implementation of ObamaCare.
 - **Life** – The Omnibus maintains all existing pro-life policy and funding provisions that have been carried in Appropriations legislation in previous years, including the Hyde Amendment, a ban on public funding for abortions in the District of Columbia, and a ban on abortion funding for federal prisoners.

The bill also includes new language allowing states increased access to abstinence education funding, new language directing the HHS Secretary to increase the transparency of abortion coverage within federal exchange health care plans, and new language directing HHS to quickly respond to claims filed by health care providers on conscience clause violations.

- **Other Policy Provisions** – Many other important policy provisions are included in the Omnibus, such as:
 - A ban on the Administration’s onerous “light bulb” standard;
 - Provisions to protect Second Amendment rights, including a prohibition on funding for the EPA to regulate lead content in ammunition or fishing tackle;
 - Bans and limitations on federal agency conferences and awards;
 - Provisions to stop the transfer or release of Guantanamo detainees into the U.S.; and
 - A prohibition on funding for the IRS to target organizations for regulatory scrutiny based on their ideological beliefs or for exercising their First Amendment rights.
- **Savings and Oversight of Tax Dollars** – The bill includes program cuts and oversight provisions to ensure the responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Some of these items include:
 - No funding for high-speed rail;
 - A \$345.6 million cut and extensive oversight requirements for the Internal Revenue Service;

- A \$60 million cut and extensive oversight requirements for the Environmental Protection Agency;
- Oversight and monitoring requirements to weed out waste and abuse in nutrition programs;
- No funding for contributions to the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
- A pay freeze for the Vice President and senior political appointees;
- No funding for the Administration’s “Race to the Top” program; and
- No funding for the International Monetary Fund.

Omnibus Summaries – For summaries of the 11 Appropriations bills within the Omnibus, please visit the following:

Agriculture:

Commerce/Justice/Science:

Defense:

Energy and Water:

Financial Services:

Interior and Environment:

Labor/Health and Human Services/Education:

Legislative Branch:

Military Construction/Veterans Affairs:

State/Foreign Operations:

Transportation/Housing and Urban Development:

For the full text of the bill and accompanying report, please visit: www.rules.house.gov.

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FY 2015 Omnibus Summary – Agriculture Appropriations

Targets funding for programs that support American farmers and ranchers, sustains food and drug safety efforts

The Agriculture Appropriations bill included in the Omnibus prioritizes funding to support American farmers and ranchers – including agriculture production, promotion, research, and marketing programs. The investments will help build upon the record level of U.S. agricultural exports last year which support more than one million American jobs, and which are essential to the nation’s continued economic growth. The bill also funds important programs such as rural development, food and drug safety, and nutrition.

In total, the bill provides \$20.6 billion in discretionary funding – \$305 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level – while cutting back lower-priority programs and rescinding unused funds.

Agricultural Research – The bill provides \$2.7 billion for agriculture research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Funding is targeted to help stop and mitigate devastating crop diseases, improve food safety and water quality, and help address issues related to drought, invasive species, and herbicide resistance.

Within this amount, the bill includes \$325 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative for competitive agricultural research grants, \$45 million to begin to rehabilitate the high-priority ARS facilities, and funding to maintain important investments in the nation’s land-grant colleges and universities

Animal and Plant Health – The legislation includes \$871.3 million – a \$49.5 million increase above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level – for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). This funding will support programs to control or eradicate plant and animal pests and diseases that can cripple U.S. producers and entire agricultural industries. This also includes increases to fight citrus greening and an epidemic porcine virus.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) – The legislation provides \$1.5 billion for FSA, which is \$22 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$66 million above the President’s request. This funding will support more than \$6 billion in loan authorizations for farm, conservation, and emergency loan programs for American farmers and ranchers.

Rural Development – The bill provides a total of \$2.4 billion for rural development programs, which is \$173 million above the President’s request. These development programs help create an environment for economic growth by investing in basic infrastructure, providing loans for rural businesses and industries, and helping to balance the playing field for buyers in rural housing markets.

Food Safety and Inspection – The legislation includes more than \$1 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, \$5.8 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. These mandatory inspection activities help ensure the safety and productivity of the country’s \$186 billion meat and poultry industry, and keep safe food on American tables. The funding provided will maintain more than 7,800 frontline inspection personnel for meat, poultry, and egg products at more than 6,400 facilities across the country.

The legislation also restricts the **Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA)** from implementing certain regulations that would allow harmful government interference in the private market for the livestock and poultry industry.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – The FDA receives a total of almost \$2.6 billion in discretionary funding in the bill, an increase of \$37 million over the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. Total funding for the FDA, including revenue from user fees, is \$4.5 billion. Within this total, food safety activities are increased by \$27.5 million, and various drug safety activities – including additional funds for foreign drug inspections, pharmacy compounding, and counterfeit drugs – are increased by over \$20 million.

Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) – CFTC is funded at \$250 million, which is \$30 million below the President’s budget request. The legislation also promotes transparency, with a directive requiring a vote by the full Commission – instead of just staff – on financial regulations that greatly increase regulatory burdens for ranchers, farmers, and job creators.

Conservation Programs – The bill provides \$859 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners conserve and protect their land. This includes \$12 million for dam rehabilitation to help rural communities ensure their small watershed projects meet current safety standards.

Food and Nutrition Programs – The legislation contains discretionary funding, as well as mandatory funding required by law, for food and nutrition programs within the Department of Agriculture. This includes the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Child Nutrition programs.

- **WIC** – This program provides supplemental nutritional foods needed by pregnant and nursing mothers, babies and young children. The bill provides full funding for WIC at \$6.6 billion – \$93 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level – which will ensure all eligible participants will be served. The bill also includes \$25 million for states to transfer from paper vouchers to a more efficient electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system that will help identify waste and abuse within the program.

In addition, a provision is included to ensure that all varieties of fresh vegetables, including **white potatoes**, are eligible for purchase through the WIC program. The provision also ensures that science-based requirements are used to determine which vegetables will be allowed for purchase in the WIC program.

- **Child nutrition programs** – The bill allows \$21.3 billion in required mandatory funding – which is outside the discretionary funding jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee – for child nutrition programs. Of this amount, \$25 million is directed to help schools purchase needed equipment to operate the program. This funding will provide for an estimated 7.7 billion school breakfasts, lunches and snacks for 31 million children who qualify for the program.

The bill also includes a provision that provides flexibility to local schools to implement whole grain nutrition standards if the school can demonstrate a hardship when procuring whole grain products, and that ensures further reductions in new sodium standards will not take effect until supported by additional scientific studies.

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** – The bill allows \$81.8 billion in required mandatory spending – which is outside the discretionary funding jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee – for SNAP. This is \$332 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$2.4 billion below the President’s request. This program provides food assistance to a monthly average of more than 46 million Americans.

International Food Programs – The legislation contains \$1.5 billion for the Food for Peace program, which provides emergency food aid to those in need, and bolsters U.S security interests abroad – including in Iraq and Ebola-affected West-Africa. This is \$66 million above the President’s request. In addition, the bill provides \$192 million, \$7 million above the President’s request, for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program to support food security overseas.

Ebola Emergency Preparedness and Response – The bill provides \$25 million in emergency funding to the Food and Drug Administration for activities related to the ongoing response to the Ebola epidemic, including potential expedited approval of human drugs and vaccines.

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FY 2015 Omnibus – Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations

Legislation targets funding to law enforcement programs, boosts economic competitiveness, scales back lower-priority programs

The Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations portion of the Omnibus prioritizes funding for law enforcement efforts to help keep America and its citizens safe, and to bring those who break our laws to justice. The bill also funds programs that will help boost our economy, promote U.S. innovation, and provide critical weather information, while making reductions in lower-priority areas. In total, this legislation includes \$50.1 billion, a reduction of \$1.5 billion below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

In addition, the legislation includes several important policy items, such as provisions to ensure the sanctity of life, to protect Second Amendment rights, and to prevent terrorists currently detained at Guantanamo Bay from being transferred to or housed within the United States.

Department of Justice (DOJ) – The bill funds DOJ at \$26.7 billion to support critical investigation, law enforcement, and prosecution activities at DOJ to protect the safety and well-being of communities across the country. This funding will help stop crime in its tracks, bring law-breakers to justice, and ensure the safety and security of our correctional institutions.

- **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** – The bill includes \$8.4 billion for the FBI – \$93 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. Within this funding, priority is placed on counter-terrorism activities, programs that combat the growing threat of cyber-intrusions, and investigating human trafficking.
- **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)** – DEA is funded at \$2.4 billion in the bill, an increase of \$21 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This includes \$367 million, offset by fee collections, for regulatory and enforcement efforts to combat prescription drug abuse. In addition, DEA will receive a \$7 million transfer from the COPS program to assist states and communities with methamphetamine lab cleanups.
- **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)** – The legislation contains \$1.2 billion for ATF, \$22 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.
- **Federal Prison System** – The Bureau of Prisons is funded at \$6.9 billion, an increase of \$62 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This funding will maintain staffing

levels to ensure safe and secure facilities to house the nation's federal prisoner population, and will support construction and activation of new prisons.

- **Grant Programs** – The bill includes a total of \$2.3 billion for various state and local grant programs, which is \$65 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This includes: \$430 million for Violence Against Women programs; \$376 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants; \$185 million for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program; \$68 million for missing and exploited children programs; and \$41 million for a new program to address the sexual assault kit backlog at law enforcement agencies.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – NASA is funded at \$18 billion in the bill, an increase of \$364 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. Within this total, \$4.4 billion is provided for Exploration, including funding to keep the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle and Space Launch System on schedule.

Department of Commerce – The bill includes \$8.5 billion for the Commerce Department – an increase of \$286 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This includes:

- **Patent and Trademark Office (PTO)** – The bill provides \$3.5 billion for the PTO, which is the estimated amount of fees to be collected by the PTO during fiscal year 2015 – an increase of \$434 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. The bill also maintains a provision that allows the Office to use any excess collected fees, subject to congressional approval.
- **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)** – NIST is funded at \$864 million, which is \$14 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. Within this total, funding for important core research activities is prioritized to help advance U.S. competitiveness, innovation, and economic growth.
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** – The legislation contains \$5.4 billion for NOAA, which is \$126 million above the base fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This includes funding for the National Weather Service to provide critical weather information to the public, and for various weather satellites essential to maintaining and improving weather forecasts and warnings.

National Science Foundation (NSF) – The legislation funds NSF at \$7.3 billion, an increase of \$172 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This funding is targeted to programs that help strengthen U.S. innovation and economic competitiveness, including funding for advanced manufacturing science, and for research in cybersecurity and cyber-infrastructure.

Policy Provisions – The bill continues several important policy items, such as:

- A prohibition on the transfer or release of Guantanamo detainees into the U.S.;
- A prohibition on the construction or acquisition of facilities in the U.S. for the detention or imprisonment of Guantanamo detainees;
- Provisions to protect Second Amendment rights, including prohibitions on various import or export criteria related to firearms, and a new prohibition on implementing the Arms Trade Treaty; and

- Provisions to protect life, such as language regarding abortion and federal prisoners, and restrictions on using funds by Legal Services Corporation grantees to participate in abortion-related litigation.

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FY 2015 Omnibus – Department of Defense Appropriations

Bill will strengthen national security and military readiness, provide troops with the resources they need, care for military families

The Omnibus legislation contains the fiscal year 2015 Defense Appropriations bill, which provides funding for our nation's security, military readiness, support for our troops at home and abroad, and care for military families. It also includes emergency funds to combat the emerging real-world threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). In total, the Defense portion of the Omnibus contains \$490.2 billion in base discretionary funding, \$3.3 billion above the fiscal year 2014 level. This bill also includes \$64 billion in emergency war Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding.

Ongoing Military Operations – The bill contains \$64 billion in OCO funding for ongoing military operations abroad. This is a reduction of \$21.2 billion compared to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level – largely reflecting the drawdown of military personnel and operations in Afghanistan. This funding level will provide needed resources and training for our troops in the field. This also includes funds to combat the threat presented by ISIL – including \$3.4 billion to continue the air campaign and replenish weapons and \$1.6 billion to train and equip our Iraqi allies – and additional resources to help reinforce European countries facing Russian aggression.

Military Personnel and Pay – The legislation includes \$128 billion to provide pay for 1,310,680 active-duty troops and 820,800 reserves. This funding level is \$800 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level, which reflects the reduction in U.S. military force. The bill fully funds the one percent pay raise for the military and provides \$215 million above the request to fully fund the cost-of-living allowance for military retirees.

Defense Health and Military Family Programs – The bill contains \$32.1 billion for the Defense Health Program to provide care for our troops, military families, and retirees. This is \$600 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level, due to increased efficiency of care within Military Treatment Facilities. Several important health programs receive increases above the President's request, including increases of \$281 million for cancer research, \$125 million for traumatic brain injury and psychological health research, and \$39 million for suicide prevention outreach programs.

Operation and Maintenance – The legislation includes \$161.7 billion for operation and maintenance – \$1.8 billion above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. Within this amount, priority is placed on key areas such as essential readiness programs to prepare our troops for combat and peacetime missions, flight time and battle training, equipment and facility maintenance, and base

operations. An additional \$900 million above the request for Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization is included, as well as \$1.2 billion to address shortfalls in military readiness, depot maintenance, and base operating support.

The bill also includes \$257 million for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs, and an additional \$25 million to continue the expansion of the Sexual Assault Victims' Counsel program to all the military services.

Research and Development – The bill contains \$63.7 billion for research, development, testing, and evaluation of new defense technologies. These efforts will help to advance the safety and success of current and future military operations and prepare our nation to meet a broad range of potential security threats.

Equipment Procurement – The legislation provides a total of \$94 billion for new equipment and upgrades. This funding is necessary to ensure our nation's military readiness, and will provide the platforms, weapons, and other equipment our forces need to train, maintain our force, and to conduct successful operations.

Guantanamo Bay – The legislation prohibits funding for transfers of Guantanamo detainees to the U.S. or its territories, prohibits funding to modify any facility in the U.S. to house detainees, and places conditions on the release of detainees to other countries. These provisions are similar to language contained in the fiscal year 2014 Defense Appropriations legislation.

Savings and Reductions to President's Request – The bill reflects common-sense decisions to save taxpayer dollars where possible in areas that will not affect the safety or success of our troops and missions. Some of these reductions include: \$660 million in excess civilian personnel costs; \$386 million for revised economic assumptions; \$270 million for overestimation of information technology costs; and \$2.5 billion in savings from rescissions of unused, prior-year funding.

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FY 2015 Omnibus – Energy and Water Appropriations

Bill targets funding toward critical national security activities and infrastructure investments to support economic growth

The Energy and Water Subcommittee portion of the Omnibus targets funding to nuclear weapons activities that are critical to national security, and makes much needed investments in important infrastructure programs. The legislation totals \$34.2 billion – an increase of \$142 million above the enacted 2014 level.

National Security – The bill provides a total of \$11.4 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration, which maintains the safety, security, and readiness of the nation’s nuclear weapons stockpile. This is \$200 million above the fiscal year 2014 level.

Within this funding, \$8.2 billion is targeted to Weapons Activities, an increase of \$387 million (4.9%) above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This critical national defense funding will uphold the nation’s nuclear deterrence posture, and modernize aging weapons systems and infrastructure. This funding includes \$643 million to extend the life of the B61 nuclear bomb, and \$9.4 million to begin work to extend the life span of the cruise missile warhead.

Also within this funding is \$1.2 billion for Naval Reactors – an increase of \$144 million (13%) above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level – to support the Ohio-replacement ballistic missile submarine and to address aging nuclear infrastructure. The bill also continues funding for important activities to secure nuclear materials around the world, but does not include any funding for new projects in Russia.

Army Corps of Engineers – The Army Corps of Engineers is funded at \$5.5 billion, an increase of \$15 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

The bill prioritizes funding for navigation and flood control to advance public safety, boost U.S. export ability, create jobs, and help ensure our waterways stay open for business. Within the total, the bill provides:

- \$2.3 billion for navigation projects and studies;
- \$1.1 billion from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, for harbor maintenance, construction, and operations activities;
- \$281 million – including the full amount of anticipated revenues into the Inland Waterways Trust Fund – for construction and rehabilitation of the nation’s inland waterways infrastructure; and

- \$1.6 billion for public health and flood and storm damage reduction activities.

Energy Programs – The bill provides \$10.2 billion for energy programs within the Department of Energy (DOE) – a \$22 million increase above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level – to support programs that encourage U.S. economic competitiveness and help advance the nation’s goal of an “all-of-the-above” solution to energy independence. This includes:

- \$571 million for research and development to advance coal, natural gas, oil, and other fossil energy technologies – an increase of \$8.9 million (1.5%) above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$95.5 million (20%) above the President’s request – to help the country make better use of our domestic resources and reduce energy costs;
- \$914 million for nuclear energy research and development, an increase of \$24 million (2.7%) above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$50 million (5.8%) above the President’s request, to further the next generation of nuclear power while ensuring the safety and longevity of our current plants;
- \$1.9 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs – placing priority on advanced manufacturing and weatherization assistance. This funding is targeted to effective and proven programs, while holding the line on spending in other areas. This total is \$380 million – or 16% – below the President’s request.

Science Research – The bill includes \$5.1 billion for science research, the same as the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This funding will help strengthen innovation and future American competitiveness by supporting basic energy research, development of high-performance computing systems, and research into the next generation of clean energy sources.

The bill also rejects cuts proposed by the President to the domestic fusion energy program – funding the program at \$318 million. This will help lay the groundwork for more efficient and practical domestic energy solutions, help reduce the nation’s dependence on foreign oil, and promote future growth of American businesses and industries.

Department of the Interior – The legislation contains \$1.1 billion – \$27 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level – for the Department of the Interior, including the Bureau of Reclamation. This funding will help manage, develop, and protect the water resources of Western states.

Policy Items – The legislation includes several significant policy provisions to support economic growth and to rein in Administration overreach. These include:

- Provisions restricting the application of the Clean Water Act in certain agricultural areas, including farm ponds and irrigation ditches;
- A provision prohibiting funding for the Army Corps to change the definition of “fill material,” which could have harmful effects on many U.S. industries;
- A provision prohibiting funding for the Administration’s onerous “light bulb” standard, which prevents incandescent bulbs from being manufactured or sold, despite a continued public desire for these products; and

- A continuation of prior-year funding for Yucca Mountain to maintain its viability for future use and to finish its third safety evaluation report.

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FY 2015 Omnibus – Financial Services Appropriations

Bill cuts funding and increases oversight of the IRS, invests in programs to help small businesses and law enforcement

The Financial Services portion of the Omnibus funds the Treasury Department, the Federal Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and various independent agencies. In total, the bill includes \$21.8 billion – \$246 million below fiscal year 2014. The bill provides increases to high-priority programs such as law enforcement, drug abuse prevention, assistance to small businesses, and combating terrorist financing, while freezing or reducing funds for low-priority or ineffective programs, such as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) – The bill provides \$10.9 billion for the IRS – a reduction of \$345.6 million below fiscal year 2014 and \$1.5 billion below the President’s request. This level will bring the IRS below its fiscal year 2008 total. The bill also does not provide any additional funds for the IRS to implement Obamacare.

In addition to reducing agency funding, the bill contains several important oversight and policy provisions related to the IRS, to combat waste and increase accountability following several instances of impropriety and abuse at the agency. Some of these provisions include:

- A prohibition on funding for inappropriate videos and conferences;
- A prohibition on funding to target organizations for regulatory scrutiny based on their ideological beliefs or for exercising their First Amendment rights;
- A prohibition on funding for improperly disclosing confidential taxpayer information;
- A prohibition on funding for the White House to order the IRS to determine the tax-exempt status of an organization; and
- A requirement that the agency report on spending and activities, official time and document retention.

Judiciary – The legislation provides \$6.7 billion for the Federal Courts, which is \$182 million above fiscal year 2014. This will provide funding for all federal court activities, the supervision of offenders and defendants living in our communities, the maintenance of court security, and the timely processing of federal cases.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – The bill freezes funding for the FCC at \$340 million, the same as the fiscal year 2014 level. This is the fourth consecutive year that funding for the FCC has been frozen.

Small Business Administration (SBA) – The bill includes \$195 million – full funding – for small business loans that support \$18.75 billion in 7(a) lending to help small businesses start up, grow, and thrive. The bill also fully funds the small business disaster relief program at \$187 million, and increases funding for entrepreneurial programs by \$24 million above fiscal year 2014.

Federal Buildings Fund (FBF) – Included in the legislation is \$9.2 billion for the General Services Administration’s FBF, which is \$132 million below fiscal year 2014 and \$679 million below the request. The bill also requires extensive reporting on GSA’s facilities inventory, spending, and facilities exchanges.

District of Columbia – The bill contains a \$680 million federal payment to the District of Columbia – \$6.4 million above fiscal year 2014. Within this amount, the bill targets resources on public safety and security costs – including \$245 million for DC Courts and \$234 million for supervision of offenders and defendants.

The legislation also includes \$45 million for school improvement. This includes \$15 million, which is \$12 million above the request and the Senate level, for scholarships to low-income students in DC to attend private schools.

In addition, the legislation maintains a longstanding provision prohibiting federal and local funds from being used for abortion in the District of Columbia, and prohibits both federal and local funds from being used to implement a referendum legalizing recreational marijuana use in the District.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) – The bill includes \$1.5 billion for the SEC, which is \$150 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$200 million below the budget request. \$57 million of the total is designated for the Division of Economic and Risk Analysis to improve the use of economic analysis in the Commission’s rule-making process. The legislation also rescinds \$25 million from the SEC “reserve fund” – a slush fund for SEC programs that have no congressional oversight.

The bill also includes language amending Dodd-Frank swaps pushout requirements to protect farmers and other commodity producers from having to put down excessive collateral to get a loan, expand their businesses, and hedge production.

Treasury Terrorism and Financial Intelligence – The bill provides \$112.5 million for terrorism and financial intelligence activities, including sanctions enforcement. This is \$10.5 million above the fiscal year 2014.

Drug Control Programs – Included in the legislation is \$245 million, an increase of \$6.5 million over the fiscal year 2014 level – for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program. The bill also contains \$93.5 million for the Drug Free Communities program, an increase of \$1.5 million.

Other Legislative Provisions – The legislation contains several policy provisions, including:

- A prohibition on the use of funds for abortion under the federal employees health benefits program;
- A pay freeze for the Vice President and senior political appointees;
- A prohibition on funding to require that entities bidding for federal contracts disclose campaign contributions;
- A prohibition on the use of funds for painting portraits;
- A prohibition on funding for all agencies in the bill, including the IRS, to be used for activities in contravention of the Federal Records Act, such as inappropriately destroying documents;
- Requires Executive Orders issued during fiscal year 2015 to include a budgetary impact statement;
- Additional reporting requirements to increase transparency of the activities of agencies whose funding jurisdiction fall outside annual congressional review, including the Office of Financial Stability and the Office of Financial Research; and
- A requirement that the Office of Management and Budget report on the costs to the government of Dodd-Frank.

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FY 2015 Omnibus – Interior & Environment Appropriations

Legislation will provide funds to fight wildfires, promote domestic energy production, and for national parks, while blocking regulatory overreach

The Interior and Environment portion of the Omnibus prioritizes funding to address the nation's most important public lands issues, including fighting and preventing wildfires, maintaining our vast natural resources, and expanding domestic energy production. Overall, the legislation provides \$30.4 billion for Interior and Environment programs.

The bill also includes several policy provisions to help rein in harmful regulatory overreach by the Administration that ties businesses and industries in unnecessary, harmful, bureaucratic red tape and hinders economic growth.

Wildfire Fighting and Prevention – In total, the bill provides \$3.5 billion for wildfire fighting and prevention programs within the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service. This will address wildland fire suppression operations for the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service at the full 10-year average level. In addition, the bill provides \$526 million for hazardous fuels reduction activities, which is \$21 million above the President's budget request.

The bill also provides a total of \$65 million to acquire aircraft to enhance firefighting capacity, effectiveness, efficiency, and safety. This funding is essential to support the phase out of numerous antiquated aircraft.

Domestic Energy Production – The bill helps encourage domestic energy production to further the nation's goal of energy independence and to reduce energy costs for consumers. For example, the legislation:

- Does not include Administration and Senate proposals to impose new fees on onshore oil and gas producers;
- Provides a \$13 million increase for the Bureau of Land Management to improve onshore energy and minerals development; and
- Provides \$150 million for the Office of Surface Mining, including \$69 million in state grants to allow states to implement programs without increasing fees on the mining industry.

National Park Service (NPS) – The bill provides \$2.6 billion for the National Park Service, the same as the President's request. This includes \$2.3 billion for the Operation of the National Park System (ONPS), \$63.1 million for National Recreation and Preservation, \$56.4 million for Historic Preservation grants, and \$138.4 million for construction of facilities.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – The bill cuts the EPA by \$60 million below the fiscal year 2014 level, providing a total of \$8.1 billion for the agency. Overall, EPA funding has been reduced by

\$2.2 billion – or 21% – since 2010. In addition, the bill continues reductions to EPA staff, bringing staffing to the lowest level since 1989. Within the EPA, the bill:

- Does not include a White House proposal to spend \$66 million on new or expanded EPA regulatory programs;
- Provides \$2.35 billion in grants to states for local drinking water and sewer construction projects through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds; and
- Funds the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at \$300 million – the same as the fiscal year 2014 level.

The agreement also includes several policy provisions to rein in regulatory overreach at the EPA. These provisions will help prevent excessive bureaucratic red tape that unnecessarily burdens American businesses and industries and slows economic growth. Some of these provisions include:

- A prohibition on funding for the EPA to regulate lead content in ammunition or fishing tackle under the Toxic Substances Control Act;
- Exemptions for livestock producers from onerous greenhouse gas regulations;
- A provision requiring the Administration to report to Congress on federal agency obligations and expenditures on climate change programs;
- A directive to enhance congressional oversight of EPA’s review of mining permits; and
- A directive for EPA to identify solutions for an in-home lead test kit that meets EPA criteria and reduces costs for consumers, remodelers, and families.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – The BLM is funded at \$1.1 billion – \$14 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level – to provide for the effective stewardship of the nation’s vast public lands.

The legislation also seeks to protect American ranchers from regulations that increase costs and harm their livelihoods. For example, the bill does not include Administration and Senate proposals to charge \$6.5 million in new grazing fees on BLM and Forest Service lands, and provides \$79 million for Range Management to continue to reduce the backlog of grazing permit applications.

U.S. Forest Service – The bill provides \$5.1 billion for the Forest Service – which includes full funding for wildfire prevention and suppression. The legislation also includes a provision requiring the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service to report on non-emergency closures of public lands to hunting, fishing, shooting, and other recreational activities.

American Indian and Alaska Native Programs –The bill helps to meet the nation’s treaty obligations to American Indians and Alaska Natives by increasing funding for health care and education. The legislation funds the Indian Health Service at \$4.6 billion – \$208 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level – and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Education at \$2.6 billion – \$70 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – The FWS is funded at \$1.4 billion, \$12 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. Within the total, the bill provides: \$1 million to compensate ranchers for livestock killed by wolves; \$2 million to stop the spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels in the West; and \$5.5 million to stop the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. The legislation also continues funding for effective state wildlife grant programs, and includes funding and a directive to ensure national fish hatcheries remain open and at full production.

Sage-Grouse – To stop actions by the Fish and Wildlife Service that would have severe economic consequences on Western states and the nation’s efforts to become energy independent, the bill prohibits funding for the Service to issue further rules to place sage-grouse on the Endangered Species List. The bill also includes \$15 million within the BLM to conserve sage-grouse habitat to continue efforts to protect the species and its natural environment for the future.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) – The bill includes \$372 million for PILT, a program that provides funds to local governments to help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal lands within their jurisdictions. When combined with the PILT funding authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014, the total for PILT in the next year is the full amount of \$442 million.

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House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

FY 2015 Omnibus – Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations

Bill stops new funding for ObamaCare, targets investments toward disease prevention and research, helps to prevent and respond to Ebola in the U.S.

The Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education portion of the Omnibus includes \$156.8 billion in discretionary funding, which is the same as the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$926 million below the President's budget request. The bill targets investments toward important core areas such as biomedical research and disease prevention, while preventing any new or additional spending on the flawed ObamaCare law.

In addition, this section of the bill includes \$2.7 billion in emergency funding to address the Ebola crisis, \$410 million below the President's request. This funding level is sufficient to meet all emergency and immediate needs to ensure U.S. hospitals and medical personnel are fully prepared to respond to and stop the spread of this dangerous virus within our country.

ObamaCare – The bill provides no new funding for ObamaCare, and holds the line on funding within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – the prime agency responsible for the law's implementation. In addition, the bill:

- Stops any taxpayer bailout of the Risk Corridor program;
- Blocks the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPH Fund) from being used as an ObamaCare slush fund;
- Directs the Inspectors General at HHS and the Treasury Department to report on improper payments of ObamaCare tax subsidies;
- Cuts the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), created by ObamaCare, by \$10 million; and
- Continues restrictions to stop HHS from using taxpayer dollars to lobby for ObamaCare.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) – The legislation includes \$3.6 billion for CMS management and operations, which is equal to the level put in place by sequestration and the same as the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. The bill continues to provide CMS and additional \$305 million for the timely processing and payment of benefits, and for the continuation of essential services for the growing number of Americans who rely on traditional Medicare programs. These additional funds are prohibited from being used for ObamaCare.

Biodefense - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – The legislation targets funding to critical disease prevention and bio-defense research activities. In total, the bill includes a program level of \$6.9 billion for the CDC, \$43 million above the fiscal year 2014 program level. This includes:

- \$30 million to support the Advanced Molecular Detection initiative to enhance CDC's ability to find and stop deadly infectious disease outbreaks;

- \$160 million for the Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant, which allows each state to address its most critical public health needs; and
- \$1.3 billion for Public Health Preparedness and Response to help ensure ample resources for State and Local Preparedness programs. These critical programs provide supplies and resources for a quick and effective response in the event of a bio-terror attack or pandemic disease emergency.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) – The bill includes a program level of \$30 billion for the NIH, \$150 million above the fiscal year 2014 level. This funding will continue basic bio-medical research and translational research through programs like the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) and Institutional Development Award (IDeA) to help scientists discover cures. It includes specific increases for Alzheimer’s, cancer, and brain research, and \$12.6 million for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Act pediatric research initiative.

Prescription Drug Abuse – To combat the scourge of prescription drug abuse around the country, the bill provides \$20 million in increased funding for prescription drug abuse prevention within CDC and a \$12 million increase for state grants within Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to expand treatment services for opioid dependence.

Protecting Life – The bill contains several provisions to protect life, continues all longstanding restrictions on abortion funding that have been included in Appropriations legislation in prior years, and promotes abstinence education. Some of these items include:

- A provision to prevent HHS from discriminating against health care providers who refuse to provide, pay for, or refer for abortions;
- A ban on federal funding for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or endangerment of the life of the mother;
- A ban on creating embryos for research purposes, or federal funding of research in which embryos are destroyed;
- New language allowing approximately \$12 million in unused abstinence education funds to be redistributed to states that desire more funding for these programs;
- New language directing the HHS Secretary to increase the transparency of abortion coverage within federal exchange health care plans, so that consumers can know which plans cover abortion services prior to purchase;
- New language directing the HHS Office for Civil Rights to quickly respond to claims filed by health care providers on the violation of conscience clause protections; and
- A ban on funding for any needle exchange program.

Social Security Administration (SSA) – The bill provides \$1.4 billion, a \$199 million increase over fiscal year 2014, for Program Integrity activities within the SSA. This includes funding for activities to ensure that disability and SSI benefits are properly paid.

Early Childhood Education and Care – Administration for Children and Families (ACF) – The bill provides \$17.8 billion in discretionary resources for the ACF, which is a \$108 million increase. This includes a \$75 million increase for activities within the Child Care and Development Block Grant to improve the quality and safety of infant and toddler care. The bill also continues increased funding provided in fiscal year 2014 for the expansion of the Early Head Start program, providing additional early education opportunities for toddlers from low-income families throughout the country.

Department of Education – The bill funds the Department of Education at \$70.5 billion. This is \$133 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted program level.

- **Title I Program** – These basic grants to local school districts to help children become proficient in reading and math are funded at \$14.4 billion, an increase of \$25 million above the 2014 level.
- **Pell Grants** – As per existing statute, the maximum Pell Grant award is increased to \$5,830, funded by a combination of discretionary and mandatory funds. This funding increase is outside of the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee.
- **Special Education** – Special Education grants to states are funded at \$11.5 billion in the legislation – \$25 million above the 2014 level.
- **No Funding for Newly Proposed Administration Initiatives** – The bill does not include the creation of a new account to fund preschool grants, and eliminates the President’s controversial Race to the Top initiative.

Department of Labor (DoL) – The bill provides \$11.9 billion for the Department of Labor, a cut of \$99 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This funding includes:

- \$9.7 billion for the **Employment and Training Administration**, which is a decrease of \$651 million from the fiscal year 2014 enacted level;
- \$1.7 billion for the Office of **Job Corps**, which is equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level, to help unemployed, young Americans receive education, job training, and employment assistance;
- \$270 million for **Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)**, which is \$458,000 above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level, including \$14 million for the Transition Assistance Program to help new veterans receive training for civilian employment and job search assistance; and
- \$375.9 million for the **Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)**, which is equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) – The bill includes \$274.2 million for the NLRB – equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$3.6 million below the President’s budget request. In addition, the legislation continues a provision intended to stop the NLRB’s harmful anti-business regulations related to the implementation of “e-Card Check,” which could promote coercion in union elections.

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House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

FY 2015 Omnibus – Legislative Branch Appropriations

Bill maintains lower levels for House operations, provides for the safety and accessibility of the Nation's Capitol

The Legislative Branch portion of the fiscal year 2015 Omnibus holds the line on spending for the House of Representatives and provides important investments to keep our Capitol safe, functional, and accessible to the thousands who work and visit the Capitol Complex every day. In total, the bill includes \$4.3 billion in discretionary funding for the Legislative Branch – an increase of less than 1% above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

House Operations – The bill contains \$1.2 billion to fund the operations of the House – maintaining the 2014 fiscal year level. This account provides funding for Members' Representational Allowances (MRAs), which funds leadership, Member, and committee office expenses, as well as operating costs for officers of the House. This funding will ensure that these offices have the resources needed to serve the people they represent.

Capitol Police – The bill funds the Capitol Police at \$348 million, an increase of \$9.5 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This funding level supports 1,775 sworn officers and 370 civilian workers who provide critical safety and security functions for all Members, staff, and visitors of the Capitol Complex.

Architect of the Capitol (AoC) – The legislation provides \$600 million for the AoC, which is \$1.8 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. The bill will fund essential projects that protect and promote the safety and health of those who visit and work in the Capitol Complex, including deferred maintenance projects. This also includes \$21 million in funding to continue the final phase of the Capitol Dome restoration project, and \$70 million for the Historic Buildings Trust Fund to maintain historically significant structures within the Capitol Complex.

Library of Congress (LoC) – The legislation provides \$591 million for the Library of Congress, an increase of \$11 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This includes funding for LoC personnel salaries and expenses, the Copyright Office, the Congressional Research Service, collections for the blind and physically handicapped, and other LoC programs and operations.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) – The bill contains \$522 million in funding for the GAO, an increase of \$17 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This funding level is sufficient to continue the essential work of the GAO to provide Congress with accurate, nonpartisan reporting of how taxpayer dollars are spent.

Government Publishing Office (GPO) – The legislation includes \$120 million for GPO (formerly the Government Printing Office), providing an increase of \$1 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. The legislation maintains the current level of funding for congressional publishing services, and

implements limitations on delivery of documents to individual Member offices in order to reduce excess costs and the waste of both taxpayer dollars and materials.

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House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

FY 2015 Omnibus – Military Construction/Veterans Affairs **Appropriations**

Legislation includes funding for key infrastructure projects, medical records system, and veterans claims processing

The fiscal year 2015 Omnibus includes funding for key military infrastructure projects to support our troops and their families at home and abroad. It also includes increased funding to meet our obligations to our nation's veterans – including helping to increase the efficiency and interoperability of the combined Department of Defense (DoD)/Veteran Affairs (VA) medical records system, and to reduce the claims backlog at the VA. The discretionary total for the Military Construction/VA portion of the Omnibus is \$71.8 billion – \$1.5 billion below the enacted fiscal year 2014 level – reflecting a decline in military construction, while funding for VA programs and services is increased. The bill also includes \$221 million in Overseas Contingency Operations funds for military construction.

Military Construction – The bill provides \$6.6 billion for military construction projects – a decrease of \$3.3 billion below the enacted fiscal year 2014 level – largely due to a reduction in new projects. The funds will provide for large and small construction and rehabilitation projects on military bases at home and abroad that support our troops and their families.

- **Military Family Housing** – The bill provides \$1.2 billion to fund construction, operation, and maintenance of military family housing for fiscal year 2015. This is \$325 million below the enacted fiscal year 2014 level, a result of savings from the privatization of family housing. The funding will ensure quality housing is continued for 1,926,500 military families.
- **Military Medical Facilities** – The bill includes \$416 million for construction and alterations for new or existing military medical facilities. These facilities support and care for 9.8 million eligible beneficiaries, including our wounded troops abroad.
- **Department of Defense (DoD) Education Facilities** – The bill includes \$394.5 million for essential safety improvements and infrastructure work at seven DoD Education Activities facilities located within the U.S. and overseas. This funding will help address health, safety, and efficiency problems at these facilities for military children and families.
- **Guard and Reserve** – The bill includes \$427 million for construction or alteration of Guard and Reserve facilities in 18 states.

Veterans Affairs (VA) – The legislation includes a total of \$159.1 billion in both discretionary and mandatory funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. This funding will help provide our nation's veterans with the services and care they have earned from their dedicated service to the country.

Discretionary funding for VA programs in the agreement is \$65 billion – \$1.8 billion above the enacted fiscal year 2014 level.

- **VA Medical Services** – The agreement funds VA medical services at \$45.2 billion – providing care and treatment for approximately 6.7 million veterans. This includes: \$7.2 billion in mental health care services; \$133 million in suicide prevention activities; \$229 million for traumatic brain injury treatment; \$7.4 billion in homeless veterans treatment, services, housing, and job training; and \$250 million in rural health initiatives.

The bill includes \$209 million to help address new costs related to the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 – such as hiring medical staff and expanding facility capacity – and to implement the Caregivers Act, which provides stipends and other assistance to families of seriously wounded veterans.

- **DoD-VA Electronic Health Record** – The bill provides \$344 million to help ensure that the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs are developing electronic health records that will seamlessly transfer medical information. The legislation also includes language to require the VA to create a truly interoperable, working system – in a timely and cost-effective fashion – to help prevent unnecessary mistakes or delays in veterans’ medical care. If goals are not met, a portion of the funding will not be released.
- **Disability Claims Processing Backlog** – To assist the VA in meeting its goal of ending the disability compensation claims backlog by the end of 2015, the bill includes \$2.5 billion for the costs of processing disability claims. This level is an increase of \$40 million over the President’s request and \$69 million over the fiscal year 2014 level. Language is also included directing that the \$40 million increase be used to support digital scanning of claims, to hire additional claims processors in regional offices, and for the centralized mail initiative. Funding for the Board of Veterans Appeals is increased by \$11 million over fiscal year 2014, for a total of \$99 million, to address the looming appeals backlog.
- **Construction** – Major Construction within the VA is funded at \$562 million – the same as the President’s request and \$220 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. Funds will be used for correcting critical seismic deficiencies and repairing crumbling infrastructure in some of the VA’s oldest structures.
- **VA Mandatory Funding** – The agreement fulfills mandatory funding requirements such as: veteran disability compensation programs for 4.6 million veterans and their survivors; post-9-11 GI bill education benefits for more than 851,000 veterans; and vocational rehabilitation and employment training for more than 149,000 veterans.
- **Oversight** – The legislation includes provisions to increase oversight of taxpayer dollars at the VA, including requiring the agency to report on construction expenditures and savings, forbidding changes in the scope of construction projects, and restricting the agency from taking certain spending actions without notifying Congress.

To help address issues related to the “wait list” scandal at the VA, funding for the VA Office of Inspector General is increased by \$5 million over the fiscal year 2014 level to provide the resources necessary to continue the Office’s audits of hospital appointment scheduling and lapses in patient care. The legislation also includes language directing the VA Office of the Medical

Inspector to report on problems or deficiencies in the implementation of its recommendations, and on any violations of law by VA employees.

Advance Appropriations for Veterans Medical Programs – The agreement contains \$58.7 billion in advance fiscal year 2016 funding for the VA – the same level provided in the House budget resolution. This funding will provide for medical services, medical support and compliance, and medical facilities, and ensure that our veterans have continued, full access to their medical care.

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House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

FY 2015 Omnibus – State and Foreign Operations Appropriations

Bill will help ensure the safety of American diplomats and facilities abroad, address instability in the Middle East, counter Russian aggression, and provide critical humanitarian assistance

The State and Foreign Operations portion of the fiscal year 2015 Omnibus contains funding for diplomatic operations, security assistance for key allies, and humanitarian assistance abroad. The legislation provides \$49 billion in discretionary funding – approximately the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$1.2 billion less than the fiscal year 2015 request.

The legislation also includes \$2.5 billion in emergency funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Ebola virus, which is \$370 million less than requested by the President. This funding level is sufficient to meet all critical and immediate needs to address the Ebola crisis in Africa.

The bill rejects the President’s proposed reductions to embassy security and targets funding to prevent and protect against future terrorist attacks, unrest, and other acts of violence. It also contains funding to address instability in the Middle East – including assistance to key allies such as Israel and Jordan – and includes funding above the requested amount for Ukraine and other countries in the region to counter Russian aggression.

International Security Assistance – The bill provides a total of \$8.4 billion in base and contingency funding for international security assistance. This includes funds for international narcotics control, anti-terrorism programs, nonproliferation programs, peacekeeping operations, and other critical international security and stabilization efforts. The bill restores \$237 million of cuts proposed by the White House for these essential programs.

Within this amount, the legislation provides security assistance to key allies, including full funding for the \$3.1 billion commitment to the United States-Israel Memorandum of Understanding, and prioritizes funding for counter-narcotics and law enforcement efforts in Mexico, Colombia, and Central America.

Export and Investment Programs – The bill supports continued operations of the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. The legislation also includes a provision to prohibit the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and Export-Import Bank from blocking coal-fired or other power-generation projects that increase the export of U.S. goods or services and prevent the loss of U.S. jobs.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) – The bill provides no funds for the IMF.

State Department Operations and Related Agencies – The bill contains a total of \$15.7 billion in base and contingency funding for the operational costs of the State Department and related agencies – \$838 million less than the President’s request. Within this total, the legislation targets \$5.4 billion – \$46 million above the amount requested – for embassy security to keep U.S. personnel abroad safe from harm and to ensure the security of our facilities.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – The bill contains \$1.4 billion for base and contingency funding for USAID, a reduction of \$168 million from the requested level. This includes funding for the USAID Inspector General to conduct appropriate and rigorous oversight of U.S. taxpayer dollars in countries receiving USAID assistance.

Bilateral Assistance – The legislation contains a total of \$22.3 billion in base and contingency funding for bilateral assistance to foreign countries. Within this amount, funding is prioritized to support global health and humanitarian assistance. The bill rejects cuts proposed by the President for life-saving international HIV/AIDS programs, and it provides \$1.5 billion above the request for disaster and refugee assistance to respond to the extraordinary levels of unrest and instability around the world.

Funding Prohibitions – The bill includes provisions to rein in wasteful or unnecessary spending, such as:

- No funding for the “Green Climate Fund”;
- A prohibition on funding for the renovation of UN Headquarters in New York;
- A prohibition on appropriations for a new London embassy;
- No funding for debt relief for foreign countries;
- A prohibition on aid to Libya until the Secretary of State confirms Libyan cooperation in the Benghazi investigation;
- A prohibition on funding to implement the UN Arms Trade Treaty; and
- No funding for the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Other Important Policy and Oversight Provisions – The bill includes other important policy provisions to ensure the respect for life around the globe, to promote good government, and to enhance oversight and accountability of our foreign assistance. For example, the bill:

- Maintains longstanding pro-life provisions, including the “Tiahrt Amendment,” which ensures family planning programs are voluntary; the “Helms Amendment,” which bans foreign aid from being spent on abortions; and the “Kemp-Kasten Amendment,” which prohibits funds to organizations the President determines to support coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.
- Withholds funds from the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) – dollar-for-dollar - if they operate a program in China.

- **Afghanistan** – Withholds funds for the Government of Afghanistan until certain conditions are met, such as requiring Afghanistan to implement the Bilateral Security Agreement with the United States.
- **Egypt** – Allows funds to be provided to Egypt if certain conditions are met – including maintaining the strategic relationship with the United States and upholding the peace treaty with Israel.
- **Palestinian Authority (PA)** – Stops economic assistance to the PA if they obtain membership in the United Nations or UN agencies without an agreement with Israel, restricts aid if the PA pursues actions against Israel at the International Criminal Court, prohibits funds for Hamas, and halts funds unless action is taken to counter the incitement of violence.
- **Central America** – Conditions assistance to Central American governments on their progress on addressing the migration of unaccompanied, undocumented minors, including increasing border security, enforcing laws to reduce the flow of illegal migrants to the U.S., and supporting repatriation for migrants returning from the U.S.
- **Guantanamo Bay Detainee Transfers** – Requires the State Department to report to Congress on agreements with other countries to accept detainees from Guantanamo Bay.
- **Iran** – Requires the Secretary of State to inform Congress about nuclear negotiations.
- **UN Relief and Works Agency** – Requires a report by the Secretary of State to ensure that UNRWA is implementing a no-weapons policy and conducting regular inspections of facilities.

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House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

FY 2015 Omnibus – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations

Legislation includes funding for vital infrastructure investments, maintains housing programs for low-income families and veterans

The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) portion of the Omnibus prioritizes funding for infrastructure projects and programs that are essential to growing the nation's economy and commerce, as well as for programs that support the housing needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

In total, the bill provides \$53.8 billion in discretionary funding – an increase of \$2.9 billion compared to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. However, when accounting for changes in various offsets and collections, the bill represents an actual, programmatic increase of only \$294 million over last year. This funding will support critical investments such as staffing the nation's busy airports, maintaining roads and bridges, and providing housing assistance for low-income families and veterans.

Transportation – The bill includes \$17.8 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Department of Transportation (DOT) – the same as the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$4.8 billion below the President's request. The bill also allows DOT to access \$53.5 billion in non-discretionary "obligation limitation" funding. Within this total, the legislation provides \$500 million for the TIGER program, which funds competitive grants for state and local road, transit, port, and railroad construction projects.

- **Highways** – The bill provides almost \$41 billion in obligation limitation funding for the Federal Highway program – the same level authorized in the MAP-21 transportation authorization legislation, which expires on May 31, 2015. This is the same as the fiscal year 2014 level. This funding will provide for critical construction and improvements to the nation's roadways to improve safety, lessen travel times, and help increase commerce to boost our economy.
- **Air** – Included in the legislation is \$12.4 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), \$17 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This funding will support the full operation of our air traffic control system, including the hiring and training of air traffic controllers and safety inspectors to ensure that facilities are ready and capable to serve the nation's flying public.

The bill preserves funding for FAA's Next Generation air transportation systems (NextGen) – investments that will help ease future congestion and reduce delays for millions of travelers in the U.S. In addition, \$3.35 billion in “obligation limitation” funding is provided for airport construction projects. The bill rejects the Administration's proposals for new passenger facility fees.

- **Rail** – The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is funded at \$1.6 billion, an increase of \$23 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. The bill maintains policy reforms for Amtrak to ensure the best use of tax dollars – such as requiring overtime limits on Amtrak employees to reduce unnecessary costs, and prohibiting federal funding for routes where Amtrak offers a discount of 50% or more off normal, peak fares. **No funding is provided for high-speed rail.**
- **Transit** – The bill contains \$2.3 billion for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – an increase of \$141 million over the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. The legislation also allows \$8.6 billion in state and local transit grant funding from the Mass Transit Account (of the Highway Trust Fund), consistent with MAP-21, to help local communities build, maintain, and ensure the safety of their mass transit systems.

The legislation provides a total of \$2.1 billion for Capital Investment Grants (“New Starts”), full funding for state and local “Small Starts,” and funding for all current “Full Funding Grant Agreement” projects within FTA. These programs provide competitive grants for major transit investments – including rapid rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, and commuter rail – that are planned and operated by local communities.

- **Safety** – The legislation contains funding for the various transportation safety programs and agencies within DOT. This includes \$830 million in both mandatory and discretionary funding for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), an increase of \$11 million over the fiscal year 2014 enacted level; and \$584 million for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, a decrease of \$1 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. Also included is a \$9.1 million increase over the fiscal year 2014 level for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.
- **Maritime** – The legislation contains \$186 million for the Maritime Security Program – the same level contained in the current authorization.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – The legislation includes a total of \$35.6 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, an increase of \$2.8 billion above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. However, when accounting for a decrease in offsets related to Federal Housing Administration collections, the HUD portion of the bill is actually \$90 million below last year.

- **No funding is included** for any new, unauthorized “sustainable,” “livable,” or “green” community development programs. The bill also does not contain any new mortgage fees as proposed by the President.

- **Section 8 and Public Housing** – Included in the bill is \$26.4 billion for Public and Indian Housing. This is an increase of \$156 million above the fiscal year 2014 enacted level, and is \$1 billion below the President’s request. Within this total, the bill provides funding to continue assistance to all 2.2 million families that the Housing Choice Voucher program serves. The bill also fully funds the President’s request for 10,000 new veterans’ housing vouchers at \$75 million.
- **Housing Programs** – Housing programs are funded at \$10.35 billion, \$139 million below fiscal year 2014’s enacted level and \$84 million below the President’s request. Within this total, the bill targets \$135 million to housing for the disabled and a total of \$436 million to housing for the elderly.

Community Planning and Development – The bill contains \$6.5 billion for Community Planning and Development programs – a cut of \$110 million below last year’s level. The Community Development Block Grant formula program is funded at \$3 billion, \$30 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

Other Provisions – The bill includes several policy provisions to ensure good government, rein in unnecessary regulations, and to keep our economy moving. Some of these provisions include:

- A prohibition on funding for the intrusive “National Roadside Survey” conducted by NHTSA;
- Provisions to protect small businesses from multiple instances of overregulation related to commercial trucking, including truck weight limitations, truck driver hours of service, and hazardous materials permitting;
- A provision requiring DOT to ensure citizens’ rights to privacy when issuing vehicle safety regulations;
- A prohibition on funding for the FHA to finance mortgages seized by eminent domain;
- A prohibition on funds for a new HUD requirement that would force public housing authorities to conduct a costly and unnecessary “physical needs assessment.”
- A provision limiting the salaries of public housing authority directors.

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