



# COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

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### The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act: A Win for Families, Jobs and the Economy

Consistent with the Murray-Ryan deal, the omnibus bill represents a responsible compromise. This bill puts the government on a solid footing:

- ✓ No government shutdown.
- ✓ No government on autopilot.
- ✓ After three years of damaging cuts to programs that Democrats care about, we **turn a corner** with increases to invest in programs that help middle America grow, while helping those in need.

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- **Military Pensions** – Reverses the cut to the cost-of-living adjustment for disabled military retirees and survivors.
  - **National Institutes of Health** -- **\$1 billion increase** in funding will allow approximately 385 new medical research studies and trials to begin
  - **Head Start** – Investments in early childhood programs **increased by \$1 billion** to serve **90,000 more kids**
  - **WIC** – Provides **87,000 more mothers and children** with **nutrition assistance**
  - **Child Care** – **additional 22,000 children and their working families** will receive **child care**
  - **IDEA** – sufficient funding to cover the costs of employing an additional **6,000 special education staff across the nation**
  - **LIHEAP** – Ensures **415,000 additional low income households** will have **home energy assistance** this winter and summer
  - **FBI** – a **10 percent boost**, allowing the bureau to conduct **1,300 more investigations**
  - **COPS** – Additional investment in **COPS grants** will put **1,500 more officers** on the beat across America
  - **FAA** – **ends the hiring freeze and furloughs** to hire and train enough controllers and inspectors to maintain workforce and **fully fund the contract tower program**
  - **Federal workers** -- provides for the **first COLA in four years**



## Top Ten Accomplishments of The FY 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act

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### 1. PROTECTS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- **WIC** – The bill includes a \$194 million increase over last year for the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program, which provides healthcare and nutrition to low-income pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and infants and children under the age of five. The bill's increase for WIC will provide 87,000 more mothers and children with nutrition assistance than last year.
- **Child Care and Development Block Grant** – The bill invests \$2.36 billion in this vital child care grant program, a \$154 million increase, which will support child care for an additional 22,000 children and their working families.
- **Home Energy Assistance** – The bill increases investment in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by \$169 million, which will provide home energy assistance to 415,000 additional households this winter and summer.
- **Housing** – The bill includes \$19.2 billion for the Section 8 tenant-based rental assistance program. This includes \$17.4 billion for renewal of existing vouchers—an increase of \$1 billion—ensuring that no one will lose their housing. It is estimated that if sequestration continued in 2014, over 100,000 families would lose housing assistance. The bill also provides \$9.9 billion for the Section 8 project-based rental assistance program – an increase of \$1.1 billion from last year.
- **Pay Raise for Federal Civilian Workers** – The bill would provide Federal workers with a one percent cost-of-living salary adjustment – their first COLA raise in 4 years.

### 2. INCREASES PUBLIC SAFETY

- **FBI** – The bill contains a \$762 million increase – a boost of 10% over last year – for the FBI, which will allow the bureau to conduct 1,300 more investigations into financial crime, cyber threats, and violent crimes. If the Sequester were to continue into this year, FBI agents would each be forced into roughly ten furlough days in 2014.
- **Violence Against Women Act** – VAWA will be fully funded at \$417 million – an increase of \$29.1 million – for grant programs that prevent and prosecute domestic violence and rape and help women recover.
- **Gun Violence** – The bill invests \$257 million in increased funding to curb gun violence, including: \$75 million for a new comprehensive school safety program; \$42 million for improvements to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to help States



improve the quality of criminal and mental health records; a \$60 million increase for the FBI to run instant background checks; and a \$10 million increase for training for local police to respond to active shooters.

- **COPS** – Considering the House bill zeroed out the COPS program, this bill provides strong funding for the COPS program – \$214 million, which will place nearly 1,500 additional officers on the beat across America.

### **3. INVESTS IN SCIENCE, MEDICINE AND INNOVATION**

- **National Institutes of Health** – Provides a \$1 billion increase in NIH funding, which will allow approximately 385 new medical research studies and trials to begin. The bill also invests in new Alzheimer’s research. Without a medical breakthrough, Medicare and Medicaid costs related to Alzheimer’s are expected to rise by as much as 500 percent in the coming years.
- **National Science Foundation** – Increases NSF funding by \$288 million – a 4.2% boost, which means 780 more grants and 9,120 more researchers and technicians making discoveries leading to new products, new companies and new jobs.
- **NASA** – The bill provides \$781 million above NASA’s 2013 funding level, which will support a balanced space program, including a 2018 launch for the James Webb Space Telescope to secure U.S. leadership in astronomy, continued robotic science on Mars, development of vehicles to take astronauts to low Earth orbit and beyond, and scientific use of the International Space Station National Lab.
- **Food and Drug Administration** – Includes a \$217 million increase for the FDA, which is \$3 million above the President’s budget request. The bill will also allow all of the user fees to be collected and spent as requested in the President’s FY14 budget, and restores the user fee funding lost to the FY13 Sequester.
- **Weather Forecasting** – The bill includes \$1.89 billion for the development of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s satellite systems, \$207 million more than 2013, which is critical to keep our next-generation of weather forecasting satellites on-track and on-budget. One-third of U.S. GDP is affected by climate and weather, from farmers trying to protect livestock and crops, to cities relying on energy from wind turbines and solar panels, to air travelers trying to get home safely and on time through storms.
- **Energy Department Office of Science** – The DOE Office of Science budget is increased by \$450 million. This increased investment will be used to develop and build next generation computer systems and experimental science facilities to advance energy technologies and maintain U.S. economic competitiveness. Additional funding also focuses research and development activities on the discovery of new materials for the generation, storage, and use of energy and improved biofuels production.

### **4. STRENGTHENS OUR MILITARY**



- **Military Pensions** -- Reverses the cut to the cost-of-living adjustment for disabled military retirees and survivors.
- **Military and DOD Civilian Pay** – The bill provides a 1% pay raise for both military personnel and civilian employees.
- **Maintains DOD Contracting** – The bill will allow DOD to enter into contracts with confidence. Under the full sequester, DOD would have been forced to cut significant quantities of ships, aircraft, satellites, vehicles, missiles and other equipment. However, this bill will prevent these cutbacks.
- **Healthcare for Military Families** – The bill rejects DOD’s proposal to increase TRICARE and pharmaceutical fees on military families and adds \$218 million to fully fund these benefits.
- **DOD Medical Research** – The bill includes over \$960 million for DOD medical research, a \$202 million increase, to be used for a wide range of research, including cancer, traumatic brain injury, and various other diseases.
- **Science and Research** – Under full sequestration, the military would have been forced to cut basic science and technology research by at least 11 percent. This bill not only prevents these cuts, but increases investment in basic research by 5.6 percent.
- **Preventing Sexual Assault** – The bill contains \$25 million in new funding for Sexual Assault Special Victims Counsel.
- **Iron Dome** – The bill adds \$173 million for joint U.S./Israel missile defense programs and fully funds the \$220 million budget request for Israel’s Iron Dome program.



## 5. IMPROVES INFRASTRUCTURE AND CREATES JOBS

- **Army Corps of Engineers** – The bill provides \$5.467 billion for the Corps of Engineers, an increase of \$748 million, funding Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund activities, increasing resources for flood and storm damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, navigation and environmental infrastructure projects.
- **Community Development Block Grants** – The bill includes \$3 billion for CDBG, nearly double the \$1.6 billion the House proposed, to invest in the construction and improvement of public infrastructure, housing and other local economic development projects. This funding level will create or support nearly 78,000 jobs, almost 50 percent more than the House’s proposed funding level.
- **Amtrak** – The bill includes \$1.39 billion for Amtrak, an increase of \$47 million over last year and \$440 million more than the House bill, which will keep our national passenger rail service moving forward.
- **Transit New Starts** – The bill includes \$1.9 billion to support rail transit and bus rapid transit projects across the country. This level of investment is \$88 million higher than last year, and will help create new transit services to improve access to jobs and ease commutes, as well as \$120 million to increase ridership on existing rail lines where demand is high.
- **TIGER Program** – The bill includes \$600 million for the TIGER program at the Department of Transportation, which issues grants for highways and bridges, public transportation systems, passenger and freight railroads and port infrastructure. This level of investment is \$126 million higher than last year. The need for investment in our transportation infrastructure is enormous. The American Society of Civil Engineers has assigned the grade of D+ to the condition and performance of our nation’s infrastructure.
- **Air Traffic Controllers and Safety Inspectors** – The bill invests in essential employees at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), such as air traffic controllers and aviation safety inspectors, protecting these employees from furloughs and allowing the FAA to hire and train enough controllers and inspectors to maintain its workforce. Last year, the FAA had to institute a hiring freeze and began to furloughs almost all of its employees. The furloughs delayed flights across the country for hours at a time until Congress enacted legislation allowing the FAA to transfer additional funding to its operational expenses.
- **FAA Contract Towers** – The bill fully funds the FAA’s contract tower program, and protects the program from FAA cuts. Last year, because of budget shortfalls, the FAA imposed drastic cuts to its contract tower program and tried to shut down 149 towers across the country. The shutdown was averted when Congress enacted legislation allowing the FAA to transfer additional funding to the contract tower program.



## 6. BOOSTS HOMELAND SECURITY

- **Customs and Border Protection** – Funding for CBP is increased by \$715 million over the FY13 sequester level, which will fund 2,000 new CBP officers at air and seaports and land border crossings to facilitate trade and improve the economy.
- **Coast Guard** – The bill provides \$10.2 billion for the Coast Guard, \$464 million above the President’s request, ensuring that the Guard has the ships, planes and helicopters it needs to save lives, interdict drugs, and protect the environment.
- **Cybersecurity**: The bill provides \$792 million to fund cybersecurity efforts to protect the Federal government’s computer networks from intrusions and also assess what damaging “malware” is currently affecting computer systems.

## 7. ADVANCES ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

- **Environmental Protection Agency** – The bill increases EPA funding by \$299 million over last year – reversing 3 years of cuts and preventing employee furloughs.
- **Clean Water Infrastructure**– Investments in clean and safe water are boosted over last year’s level. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund is increased by \$73 million and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund receives a \$46 million increase. With these increases, the programs will create 130,000 jobs in total.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund** – Despite the House subcommittee bill’s zeroing out of the land acquisition and state grant programs through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the conference bill provides \$306 million in funding for this critical program.
- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy** – The conference bill provides \$1.9 billion for the EERE program, a \$182 million increase over last year and \$1.1 billion above the House bill’s level. This investment will accelerate American development and deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, including biofuels, electric vehicles, and advanced manufacturing.



## 8. INVESTS IN THE NEXT GENERATION

- **Head Start** – Boosts Head Start funding by \$1.025 billion, including \$500 million to expand Early Head Start for children 0-3. In total this increase will provide high-quality comprehensive early childhood services to approximately 90,000 additional children, including 40,000 additional infants and toddlers through Early Head Start.
- **IDEA/Special Education** – The bill increases IDEA funding by \$498 million, which will cover the costs of employing roughly an additional 6,000 special education staff in schools across America, removing pressure from state and local taxpayers who would otherwise be asked to foot the bill.
- **Title I/Disadvantaged Students** – The bill increases Title I funding for disadvantaged students by \$625 million, which will support approximately one million additional students. Roughly 90 percent of the nation's school districts receive Title I funding.
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers** – The bill provides \$1.149 billion for these much-needed grants to after-school and expanded learning time programs, an increase of \$58 million.
- **Pell Grants** – The bill maintains funding for Pell Grants at \$22.8 billion. Combined with mandatory funds, the bill will support an estimated maximum award of \$5,730 – an \$85 increase to support college students. The number of Pell Grant recipients is estimated to rise by 186,000 students in the coming school year to a total of 9,311,000 nationwide. The final maximum award will be announced by the Department of Education in early February.

## 9. RESPECTS OUR NATION'S VETERANS

- **VA Disability Claims Processing** – The bill provides \$2.465 billion for VA disability claims processing, an increase of \$304 million – equal to the Senate bill and \$10 million over the House bill and the President's budget request. The bill also requires the VA to implement a 10-point action plan to reduce the claims backlog. In addition, the bill provides \$32.9 million above the President's request for investments in claims processing, which includes funding for computer hardware upgrades at regional offices and additional personnel for the Board of Veterans Appeals.
- **Rural VA Healthcare** – Provides full funding of \$250 million for VA rural healthcare.



## **10. IMPROVES THE OPERATIONS OF GOVERNMENT**

- **Inspectors General** – The bill contains robust funding for Inspectors General at the various Federal agencies to root out the causes of waste, fraud and abuse.
- **Conference Spending** – Inspectors General are ordered to guard against wasteful, lavish conferences sponsored by Federal agencies by auditing such conference gatherings.
- **Purchasing Military Spare Parts** – The bill takes steps to prevent the Department of Defense from overpaying for the purchase of spare parts after the Pentagon Inspector General found that fair and reasonable pricing analysis was not conducted in several of these purchases.
- **Consolidation and Efficiency** – The bill consolidates or eliminates duplicative programs, such as those within the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.