

**House Report 107-576 - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS
BILL, 2003**

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

We are pleased to have worked with the majority to craft a Legislative appropriations bill that should receive the support of the full House.

Fortunately, the 302B allocation this subcommittee received was very favorable. The allocation allowed the subcommittee to accommodate two important priorities: (1) making sure this institution is secure from any future terrorist threat, and (2) ensuring that the Legislative-branch agencies have the resources they need next year to maintain their high level of professionalism and accountability.

The allocation also enabled the subcommittee to provide Legislative-branch employees more equitable treatment relative to their Executive-branch counterparts, including a 4.1% annual wage adjustment (COLA) for all employees effective in January 2003, and funding for a full \$100 monthly transit benefit for eligible employees of all agencies. Authorization and funding are also included for a student loan repayment program for the House, which will resemble programs in the Senate, other Legislative-branch agencies, and the Executive branch. This program will in particular help Members, committees and the House officers to attract and retain qualified employees.

The Liberty of Congress, the General Accounting Office, Congressional Budget Office, and the Government Printing Office will largely receive what they requested. We are pleased that the bill funds the full complement of additional officers that the Capitol Police can hire and train next year. To the current workforce of 1,166 officers, the bill adds funds for an additional 288, to bring the Police to a total of 1,454 sworn personnel. The bill makes funds available for a 5% pay increase for Capitol Police personnel (including civilians) effective this fall. It includes a number of other provisions designed to reduce officer attrition and improve recruitment, and administrative and management reforms.

We wish to thank Chairman Taylor and his staff for working so cooperatively with us on this measure, as they did last year. Together we have written an excellent bill, and we urge all Members to vote for it.

We also wish to take this opportunity to applaud the many selfless offices and individuals who worked, often around the clock, to keep the Legislative branch of government operating after the September 11th and anthrax attacks. The efforts of thousands of dedicated Legislative-branch employees

deserve recognition and our gratitude.

James P. Moran.

Steny H. Hoyer.

Marcy Kaptur.

