

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF THE HONORABLE NORM DICKS
AND HONORABLE MICHAEL HONDA

The Chairman followed the long tradition of this subcommittee and included the minority in the process of developing the fiscal year 2012 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. The Chairman and Ranking Member of this subcommittee are the stewards of the legislative branch of government and must operate in a bi-partisan manner to effectively serve in that role. Chairman Crenshaw should be applauded for the process followed.

The bill funds the Legislative Branch, minus the Senate, at \$3.3 billion which represents a 6.4 percent reduction from fiscal year 2011 and a 9 percent reduction from fiscal year 2010. The allocation is only understandable given that the majority is also cutting Women and Children's nutrition programs, consumer protection, and other important programs in other appropriations bills. This bill has succeeded in joining the other appropriations bills by cutting programs at the expense of jobs, strong oversight, and common-sense efficiencies.

DISTRICT OFFICE SECURITY

After the tragic shootings in Tucson, the Congress was left to re-evaluate security in Members' districts. While it is of the utmost importance to ensure that citizens have unfettered access to their Members of Congress, the Tucson event was a reminder that we must be vigilant in providing security to Members, to their staff and to their constituents that attend their events. The effort by the House to improve district security after the shootings put much of the onus on Members' offices, including the payment for that security. As Members' office budgets are being cut for the second time in a year, there has to be a reconsideration of that policy in order to consider a more centralized approach to security. That is not an inexpensive endeavor if you use the Secret Service's budget as a guide. The Capitol Police appropriation is \$340 million, equal to the fiscal year 2011 level. The Capitol Police protect the Capitol Complex with primary security responsibility for 541 Members of Congress, Resident Commissioners, and Delegates. By comparison, the House-passed Secret Service Appropriation included over \$1 billion for the protection of 50 to 70 individuals, including the President. If the Capitol Police is going to assess more threats against Members and take a more active role in district security then their budget should reflect these increased demands.

OVERSIGHT ROLE OF CONGRESS

The Government Accountability Office, the Congressional Budget Office, and the Congressional Research Service are extensions of Congress and assist Members in exercising their oversight role of government programs. All were cut over 6 percent and require reductions in force and furloughs. Many of the fiscal year 2012 appropriations bills considered by the Committee thus far have requirements of the Government Accountability Office to review a range of government programs and CBO has had to provide budget estimates for all the bills and amendments to those bills. In addition, the Committee's recently approved Semiannual Report of Committee Activities highlights the support provided by the GAO to the

Committee. The report lists over 60 GAO reports and staff studies that are underway during the 112th Congress. What will happen to that oversight and analysis after Members' staff are cut as well as these oversight agencies?

While the term "spending" has become a bad word for the majority, it is worth noting that some spending really is an investment. The return is high when investing in GAO by identifying inefficiencies, duplicative programs and best practices across the federal government. Every dollar spent at GAO results in \$4 of taxpayer savings. Those who claim to want increased oversight of government programs should reject cuts to GAO.

With regard to GAO, the Committee report directs the non-partisan oversight agency to reassess a study of for-profit colleges' recruitment practices. GAO must be allowed to employ its independent judgment, regardless of whether Members disagree with their conclusions.

OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER

During subcommittee and full committee consideration of the bill, Democratic Members spoke of their strong support for the Open World Leadership Center which received \$1 million in the bill for shutdown costs. In the additional views submitted to the fiscal year 2008 bill, the then-minority stated "If we would have had a more inclusive process, we are certain that the Chair would have realized that the Open World Leadership Program enjoys bipartisan support on this Committee. Instead, the Chair proposed to end this program and close it out." Given the support of Members for this program in 2008, it is surprising that the current majority has followed the course they rejected 4 years ago.

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