



Amendments to H.R. 2029—Fiscal Year 2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations (Dent, R-PA)

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The committee report can be found [here](#), and the text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

AMENDMENTS WITH REQUESTED VOTES:

1. **[Van Hollen \(D-MD\)](#)**: Would strike Global War on Terror (GWOT)/Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps. The bill would provide a total of \$532 million for military construction projects funded using GWOT. This level is \$532 million above the president’s budget request and \$311 million above the enacted FY 2015 level. GWOT spending is exempted from the annual spending caps established by the Budget Control Act. A list of construction projects funded by Title IV can be found [here](#).

In the president’s budget request, those projects were funded using base discretionary funding. However, the president’s budget was only able to fund those projects using base discretionary funds because the budget request broke the discretionary spending caps.

2. **[First Mulvaney \(R-SC\)](#)**: Would strike Global War on Terror (GWOT)/Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for Military Construction, Air Force. The bill would provide a total of \$532 million for military construction projects funded using GWOT. This level is \$532 million above the president’s budget request and \$311 million above the enacted FY 2015 level. GWOT spending is exempted from the annual spending caps established by the Budget Control Act. A list of construction projects funded by Title IV can be found [here](#).

In the president’s budget request, those projects were funded using base discretionary funding. However, the president’s budget was only able to fund those projects using base discretionary funds because the budget request broke the discretionary spending caps.

3. **[Second Mulvaney \(R-SC\)](#)**: Would strike Global War on Terror (GWOT)/Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding for Military Construction, Defense Wide. The bill would provide a total of \$532 million for military construction projects funded using GWOT. This level is \$532 million above the president’s budget request and \$311 million above the enacted FY 2015 level. GWOT spending is exempted from the annual spending caps established by the Budget Control Act. A list of construction projects funded by Title IV can be found [here](#).

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because the budget request broke the discretionary spending caps.

4. **Nadler (D-NY)**: Would strike the section of the bill that prohibits the use of funds for the renovation, expansion, or construction of any facility in the continental United States for the purpose of housing any individual who has been detained at Guantanamo Bay. This amendment is meant to allow the administration to transfer detainees from Guantanamo Bay. A similar amendment to the FY 2015 bill failed by a [168 – 249](#) vote.
5. **Blumenauer (D-OR)**: Would prohibit funds to implement a [VA directive](#) that prohibits VA medical providers from recommending medical marijuana to veterans seeking the drug in states that have legalized medical marijuana. Marijuana is classified as a Schedule 1 drug under the federal Controlled Substances Act. A similar amendment to the FY 2015 bill failed by a [195 – 222](#) vote.

Key Vote No: [The Family Research Council](#)

6. **Pocan (D-WI)**: Would prohibit funds to enter into a contract with a federal contractor that has a single violation of the [Fair Labor Standards Act \(FLSA\)](#). This law requires private employers to comply with federal minimum wage, overtime pay, and child labor standards.

Under current law, federal agencies have ability to reject a contractor who has a history of violating labor laws. Some may be concerned that this amendment would encourage frivolous lawsuits against employers and that the [GAO has reported problems](#) with the Department of Labor’s guidance on the FLSA.

In 2014, the President issued an executive order to deny contracts to any company that has violated or allegedly violated various federal labor laws. In February, the Education and Workforce Committee held a joint subcommittee hearing on this executive order “[The Blacklisting Executive Order: Rewriting Federal Labor Policies Through Executive Fiat.](#)”

According to the industry groups, the [following groups](#) have urged a “NO” vote on any version of this amendment: Acquisition Reform Working Group (ARWG), American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA), American Trucking Associations (ATA), Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), Associated General Contractors (AGC), HR Policy Association (HRPA), International Franchise Association (IFA), IT Alliance for Public Sector (ITAPS), National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), Professional Services Council (PSC), [Society for Human Resource Management \(SHRM\)](#), and U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

7. **Hice (R-GA)**: Would implement the Federal Employee Accountability Act for the VA by prohibiting funds for union work to be conducted on official time. A [GAO report](#) found that 259 VA employees spend 100 percent of their time in 2013 on union activities instead of assisting veterans. According to the amendment sponsor, the VA uses more official time hours on union activities than any other federal agency—1,086,257 hours in FY2012. The Federal Employee Accountability Act was included in the [RSC’s Budget](#).

Key Vote Support: [Competitive Enterprise Institute \(CEI\)](#) and [Heritage Action](#)

8. **King (R-IA)**: Would prohibit funds made available by the bill to enforce Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements. Davis-Bacon Act requirements for federal contracts [increases](#) costs for those projects. Placing these requirements on VA building harms veterans because it diverts limited funding to higher labor costs and away from building materials and services to veterans. According to [CBO](#), repealing

Davis-Bacon government-wide would save taxpayers \$14.5 billion. Repealing Davis-Bacon was included in the RSC's Budget.

Several groups oppose Davis-Bacon requirements, including the [Associated Builders and Contractors \(ABC\)](#), [Citizens Against Government Waste](#), [Competitive Enterprise Institute](#), [FreedomWorks](#), [Heritage Foundation](#), and [National Taxpayers Union](#).

Key Vote Support: [Associated Builders and Contractors \(ABC\)](#), [Completive Enterprise Institute \(CEI\)](#), and [Heritage Action](#).

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