

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

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

FY 2016 Omnibus – Homeland Security Appropriations

Legislation funds critical security and law enforcement operations to protect our homeland, prevent and prepare for potential terrorist attacks, and enforce immigration laws

Funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the fiscal year 2016 Omnibus is targeted to critical security and law enforcement efforts that keep our nation and citizens safe, prepare for and prevent terrorist attacks at home, and ensure the laws of the land are strongly enforced. The legislation prioritizes operations, counterterrorism, and targeting activities, saves tax dollars, and increases transparency and accountability at DHS.

In total, the bill provides \$41 billion in discretionary funding for DHS – an increase of \$1.3 billion compared to the fiscal year 2015 enacted level and a decrease of \$443 million compared to the President’s budget request. This level reflects the increased domestic discretionary funding provided by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which was enacted on November 2.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – The bill contains \$11 billion for CBP, an increase of \$359 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. This funding level fully supports the operational force levels needed for Border Patrol agents and CBP officers, who are vital to strengthening and safeguarding U.S. borders during this time of increased threats to our nation’s security.

This also includes \$1.2 billion in investments in border security and air operations, an increase of \$116.7 million above the 2015 enacted level. These funds will ensure round-the-clock surveillance of air, land, and sea approaches to the border and will maintain no less than 95,000 operational flight hours for law enforcement and surveillance.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) – The bill provides \$5.8 billion for ICE to strengthen enforcement of immigrations and customs laws, and to hire an additional 1,080 ICE agents and support personnel, bolstering efforts to fight illegal migration and other illicit activities. Of the funding for ICE, \$3.2 billion is targeted to detention programs to sustain 34,040 detention beds, and to fund the state and local partnership 287(g) program. The bill also provides \$1.9 billion for both domestic and international investigations, including increases to combat human trafficking, child exploitation, and to expand visa vetting capabilities.

Additionally, the bill fully funds E-Verify, a program that helps companies check if their employees may legally work in the United States, at a level of \$120 million.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) – TSA is funded at \$4.9 billion – an increase of \$27 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level – including funding increases to strengthen aviation security through improvements in passenger security screening operations, equipment, training, and other protocols, as well as enhancements to intelligence and vetting programs. The bill also restores funding for Federal Flight Deck Officers and canine detection teams, and includes \$167 million to fully fund privatized screening operations.

Cybersecurity – The bill includes a total of \$819 million for cybersecurity operations in the National Programs and Protection Directorate, an increase of \$66 million over the 2015 enacted level. This funding will improve the Federal Network Security and Network Security Deployment programs to help blunt cyberattacks and foreign espionage, and safeguard, enhance, and improve the Department’s IT systems and cybersecurity capabilities.

Coast Guard – The bill includes \$10.8 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard – \$933 million above the 2015 enacted level and \$1 billion above the President’s request – to improve readiness, modernize vessels and aircraft, and improve the quality of life for our service members.

The bill sustains military pay and allowances, and denies the President’s proposed cuts that would have gutted vital Coast Guard operations. Targeted increases are provided for: cutter and aviation operating hours, training, and maintenance; acquisition of the ninth National Security Cutter (NSC); six Fast Response Cutter (FRC) patrol boats; an additional C-130J aircraft; and urgently needed upgrades to shore facilities and family housing.

Secret Service – The bill includes \$1.9 billion for the U.S. Secret Service – an increase of \$268 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. This increase will fund preparation, training, and operations for the 2016 presidential election, and help address critical failures in communications and training that threaten the security of our executive branch.

The bill also increases funding for Secret Service cybersecurity investigations, and continues funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which the President proposed to eliminate.

Federal Emergency Management Agency – The bill allows \$7.4 billion for disaster relief – fully funding FEMA’s stated requirement for fiscal year 2016. The bill also provides a total of \$2.5 billion for first responder grants, \$10 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, including: \$1.5 billion for state and local grants; \$690 million for Assistance to Firefighter Grants; and \$350 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants.

To help states and local communities prepare for, prevent, and respond to emergent threats from violent extremism and from complex, coordinated terrorist attacks, \$50 million is provided for programs coordinated by FEMA. In addition, the Office of Community Partnerships is funded to coordinate federal, state, and local government initiatives to undercut terrorist activities developing here in the homeland.

The bill specifically does not fund the President’s climate change initiatives within FEMA and NPPD.

Research and Development – The bill includes \$787 million for Science and Technology, \$8 million above the President’s request. This funding will provide investments in high-priority research and development efforts that will advance the nation’s security.

Oversight – The legislation improves visibility into DHS’s budget formulation processes and justification exhibits, its hiring practices, and its acquisition processes.

For the full Committee Report on the Department of Homeland Security portion of the Omnibus, including a detailed funding table, please visit: <http://1.usa.gov/1I9035W>.