



Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen

House Committee on Appropriations

FY 2018 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill
Full Committee Markup
July 13, 2017
Opening Statement As Prepared

The \$54 billion provided in this bill funds critical programs within the Departments of Commerce and Justice that help our economy grow and thrive and keep the American people safe. It also supports American scientific innovation that keeps us on the cutting edge of space exploration and foster economic competitiveness.

The bill rightly prioritizes the security of our nation and the enforcement of our laws – cracking down on crime, illegal immigration, and terrorism. This is especially critical as we face increased threats here at home.

The bill includes \$29 billion for the Department of Justice to provide federal law enforcement with the tools needed to stop crime quickly and effectively, and to bring criminals to justice. In addition to fighting violent crime and cybercrime, the bill directs funds to anti-opioid and other illegal drug enforcement efforts within the DEA, and provides \$103 million for programs that work to stop opioid abuse, such as drug courts, treatment, and prescription drug monitoring.

The bill also includes \$2.2 billion for state and local law enforcement assistance grants, including Violence Against Women, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, the Reduce Sexual Assault Kits Backlog Grants, and Missing and Exploited Children grants.

The bill also makes targeted investments into important science programs. These investments will foster U.S. economic competitiveness, particularly in the areas of advanced manufacturing, physics, mathematics, and cybersecurity and will preserve our nation's status as a global leader in scientific innovation.

Supporting the continued growth and development of the American economy was also our priority as we directed funds within the Department of Commerce. This includes supporting ground-breaking core research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

All of these investments were made in a fiscally responsible way. In total, this bill is \$2.6 billion below fiscal year 2017. Chairman Culberson and his Subcommittee went carefully through every department, agency, and program funded in this bill, to find savings – terminating 39 programs and cutting or freezing even more – all while ensuring adequate funding is provided to keep our

nation secure, to provide our law enforcement officials with the resources they need to do their jobs, and to continue our pioneering space and scientific research programs. I thank the hard-working staff for all your efforts on this bill.

I urge this Committee to support this solid bill today.

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House Committee on Appropriations

FY 2018 Financial Services Appropriations Bill - Full Committee Markup **July 13, 2017** **Opening Statement As Prepared**

The United States has the largest and most liquid financial market in the world – and this bill ensures that it remains so. By providing funding for a whole host of federal agencies and preventing onerous and costly regulations from causing lasting economic harm, this bill does right by businesses small and large – as well as the American people.

The bill also promotes opportunities for American small businesses through key investments in the Small Business Administration. This includes funding for important loan programs that help small businesses get off the ground, grow, and thrive.

The bill right-sizes the IRS and streamline its operations. Targeted increases are provided for cybersecurity and information technology, and improving customer service and fraud prevention continue to be priorities within this bill. The bill also includes several provisions to address underperformance and mismanagement at the IRS.

These investments and policies will protect the rights and privacy of American taxpayers and ensure that IRS is using its funds to do its job well.

In addition to these critical financial investments, the bill also prioritizes what remains our top priority across all of our Appropriations bills – effective law enforcement that keeps the American people safe.

This includes providing \$7.09 billion for the federal courts – an increase of \$167 million above the fiscal year 2017 level – to ensure that all court activities continue in a timely and efficient manner. The bill also aims to protect against financial crime and supports efforts to fight the opioid abuse epidemic.

In addition, I'm pleased that the bill includes \$45 million for the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act. The SOAR program provides scholarship to low-income students in DC to attend private and charter schools and is worthy of our support.

I thank Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Quigley, the members of the Subcommittee, and the staff for their thoughtful work putting this bill together. It is a solid bill that exercises the congressional power of the purse to build a better government, save taxpayer dollars, and support the American economy.

I urge my colleagues to support it today.

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