



Chairman John Culberson

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations

**FY 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill
May 14, 2015
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Good morning. Today I am pleased to present the fiscal year 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill to the subcommittee for your consideration and approval.

I'd like to begin by thanking Ranking Member Chaka Fattah. I appreciate Mr. Fattah's approach to the Committee's work and his desire to get back to regular order. His input has improved the bill. I know that he believes there should be additional funds in the bill and I look forward to working closely with him and all Members of the Subcommittee as the bill moves forward.

I'd also like to thank Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey for their help in putting this bill together. This is my first year chairing the CJS Subcommittee, and I appreciate Chairman Rogers's guidance and want to thank him for his generous allocation to this subcommittee.

I'd also like to thank the Subcommittee staff for their tireless work drafting this bill.

As you know, this Subcommittee has jurisdiction over a diverse group of agencies and activities responsible for combating terrorism, espionage, gangs, and cybercrime; enforcing trade laws; forecasting the weather; managing fisheries; exploring space; and advancing science.

The bill we are considering today provides \$51.4 billion in discretionary funding which is \$1.3 billion or 2.5 percent more than fiscal year 2015 and \$661 million below the President's request. The allocation is sufficient to fund priority programs while reducing funding for activities that are not essential to the operations of the Federal government.

One of the main priorities of the bill is funding for law enforcement activities. The bill provides the FBI with \$8.5 billion, which is \$111 million over fiscal year 2015 and \$64 million above the request. These critical resources are necessary to enhance the FBI's efforts against cybercrime, terrorism, and espionage. The threats against our security are real and evolving. The FBI must have sufficient resources to address them.

The bill includes funds for 55 new Immigration Judge teams to reduce immigration case backlogs. Increased funding is also provided for other critical Federal law enforcement activities such as US Attorneys, the Marshals Service, DEA, ATF and the Prison System.

For State and local law enforcement, we have increased funds for priority programs such as the Byrne formula program, SCAAP, and Youth Mentoring. We created a new \$50 million

community trust program that will fund body camera demonstration programs and justice reinvestment initiatives.

Another priority in the bill is NASA. The bill provides \$18.5 billion for NASA, which is a \$519 million increase and equal to the request. The bill advances space exploration and ensures our nation remains the world's leader in space exploration and technology, aeronautics research and discovery in space and science. The bill provides for the continued development of the Orion crew vehicle, and increases resources for the Space Launch System and Exploration Ground Systems that will one day send astronauts beyond low-Earth orbit. The bill continues funding for critical scientific missions and technology programs, including restoring proposed reductions to Planetary programs. The Committee also directs NASA to follow the direction of the decadal surveys in prioritizing activities during fiscal year 2016 and in the future.

The bill increases National Science Foundation funding \$50 million above the historically high fiscal year 2015 level. This includes fully funding the BRAIN Initiative which Ranking Member Fattah has championed over the years.

Funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration prioritizes improving weather forecasting, fisheries management, and the Joint Polar Satellite System and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R Series.

In order to live within our allocation, we had to reduce funding in some areas. We eliminate programs that are no longer necessary or are not critical to the operations of the Federal government. We also froze or reduced funding for more than a dozen bureaus, agencies and programs that can operate with a little less.

The bill also includes numerous oversight provisions to protect hard earned taxpayer dollars. A few of these oversight provisions include:

- Requiring each agency in the bill to submit a spending plan;
- Capping life-cycle costs for poorly performing programs;
- Withholding some Department of Justice funding until the Attorney General demonstrates that the Inspector General's recommendations regarding sexual harassment and inappropriate conduct are being implemented;
- Requiring agencies procuring sensitive IT systems to conduct supply chain risk assessments in consultation with the FBI;
- Requiring quarterly reporting on Immigration Judge performance; and
- Requiring agencies to provide Inspectors General with timely information.

In addition, the bill continues existing Second Amendment protections and language prohibiting the transfer or housing of GTMO prisoners in the United States.

I want to thank all of the Subcommittee Members for their input into the bill and their participation in our hearings this year. We've tried to address your concerns and priorities in this bill whether through funding levels or with report language.

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