



# Chairman Kevin Yoder

---

*Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch  
House Committee on Appropriations*

**FY 2018 Legislative Appropriations Bill - Full Committee Markup  
June 29, 2017  
Opening Statement As Prepared**

---

The recommendation for the FY 2018 Legislation Branch Appropriations bill provides \$3.58 billion, excluding Senate items, which historically are left to the Senate to determine. Our bill continues to hold spending on the House more than 12 percent below 2010 funding levels and adequately funds House operations while coming in \$228 million below the overall requested level.

The bill and report were developed in a bi-partisan fashion and I appreciate the input from Ranking Member Ryan and his staff.

Details of the bill and report have been shared with the Committee. I will provide a summary of the recommendations before us today. Before I do that I would like to highlight again several security items as I did before the Subcommittee last week.

Crystal Griner and David Bailey's heroism showed the country and the world what we all see every day – the bravery of the United States Capitol Police as they put their lives on the line protecting the Capitol Complex and its roughly nine million visitors every year. Their courage under fire saved the lives of countless Members of Congress, staff, and innocent bystanders. Steve Scalise, Matt Mika, Zach Barth, and everyone else on that baseball field are alive today because of them. We wish all of those associated with the events a speedy recovery.

We owe it to the Capitol Police to ensure they have the necessary resources to meet their mission in an increasingly polarized climate. After working with Ranking Member Ryan, we believe this bill appropriately prioritizes those needs – taking a comprehensive approach to ensuring the safety and security of not only Members of Congress, but our staff, and most importantly the constituents we serve.

Our bill will provide resources and make structural changes that will address security concerns both here at the Capitol and at home in our districts.

It includes: \$5 million dollars to House Sergeant at Arms for district office security; \$7.5 million dollars to the Capitol Police for an increased security posture; support for House Administration's authorization increase of \$25,000 per MRA account to address Member's physical security when away from the Capitol Complex; pending FEC decision on using campaign funds to support security upgrades in personal residences.

The bill includes \$1.194 billion for the operations of the House, which is \$29 million below the request. The level of funding for Member's Representational Allowances will allow for authorized levels as approved by the Committee on House Administration. Language also continues the policy of denying pay increases to Members of Congress.

The bill includes \$422.5 million for the Capitol Police, which is \$29.2 million above enacted levels. This funding level will provide the necessary resources for the Capitol Police to hire additional officers for the newly acquired O'Neill House Office Building and the Rayburn garage security initiative, as well as the \$7.5 million increase mentioned above.

The bill includes \$48.5 million for the Congressional Budget Office. These funds are meant in part to allow CBO to continue to provide the Congress with budget and economic information that is objective, insightful, and timely.

The bill includes \$578 million for the Architect of the Capitol, excluding Senate items. This is an increase of \$48.4 million over the FY 17 enacted level.

The Subcommittee recognizes the continuing challenge of preserving and maintaining our infrastructure and prioritizing critical projects in the current fiscal climate.

After more than 20 hearings, briefings, and tours of various portions of the Capitol Complex since January, we've determined the bill appropriately includes: \$62 million for the restoration and renovation of the Cannon House Office Building; \$31 million for Phase III of the Rayburn House Office Building Garage Rehabilitation project; \$19 million for a cooling tower at the Capitol Power Plant; \$45 million for Library of Congress book collection storage at Fort Meade; and \$10 million for the Revitalization Fund to finance major repairs and renovations to facilities of the House in future years.

The bill includes \$648 million for the Library of Congress, which is \$53.4 million below the request. New funding will go towards IT improvements Library-wide, as well as specific Copyright modernization initiatives. Despite many competing funding priorities Legislative Branch-wide, the Committee recognizes the vital importance of IT modernization across the Library and specifically within the Copyright office.

The bill includes \$117 million for the Government Publishing Office, which is the same as currently enacted levels. The bill includes \$544 million for the Government Accountability Office, which is the same as FY 17 enacted levels. Finally, this bill will provide \$5.6 million dollars for the Open World Leadership Center, which is equal to their current funding level.

In crafting this bill and report the Legislative Branch Subcommittee took into consideration the thoughtful feedback of Members throughout this Committee and this body. Various initiatives are included which we can all be proud of which help us serve our constituents and produce efficiencies and transparency in the way Congress operates.

Some of those include: transparency, including publishing of non-confidential CRS reports online, language on the feasibility of publishing IG reports via GAO, and language related to the

publishing of statutes at large; language with regard to preventing food waste, investigating ways to donate or compost food produced by food services on the hill; member requests to expand the Wounded Warrior program, allowing members expanded ability to hire veterans, increasing the total slots available to 85 (more than 57% increase over the existing 54 fellowships); language related to the Library of Congress's Veteran History Program; funding to achieve IT upgrades at the Library of Congress; and language in support of the work conducted at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

In closing, I would like to thank Ranking Member Ryan for his role throughout the process as well as appreciation to all the members of the Subcommittee for their participation in the process this year.

Finally, thank you to our full committee Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey for their work in getting this bill to full Committee today. This is a good bill and I urge all Committee members to support it.

#####