



Committee on Appropriations – Democrats

NO MONEY SHALL BE DRAWN FROM THE TREASURY BUT BY AN APPROPRIATION MADE BY LAW. US CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 9, CLAUSE 7



Congresswoman Ilia Loney,
Ranking Democratic Member

Top Democratic Priorities in Omnibus

Unified Democratic opposition to insufficient and partisan House Appropriations bills throughout Fiscal Year 2018 forced Republican majorities to come to the table and negotiate an increase in statutory spending caps. This \$143 billion total increase in defense and nondefense spending caps allowed Appropriations Democrats to negotiate an Omnibus that reflects important Democratic priorities. Democratic unity - and the majority's need for Democratic votes - also forced Republicans to agree to our demands to abandon scores of divisive, poison pill riders.

The Omnibus Appropriations Act is far from perfect, and the Republican majority included provisions to which Democrats strongly object. It is also important that all Democrats are aware of important priorities that are reflected. Each Member will determine for him or herself whether the final product is worthy of supporting.

Overall NDD Funding

President Trump's FY2018 budget request proposed cutting \$54 billion from the existing statutory cap. House Republican Appropriations bills were written at a level cutting \$5 billion from the same baseline. Following the Republican majorities' failure to enact Appropriations laws, enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 increased NDD by \$63 billion, the level to which this Omnibus is written.

Early Childhood and Education

The Omnibus includes a \$610 million increase for Head Start and a \$2.37 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program, putting CCDBG at its highest discretionary funding level in history. It includes a \$700 million increase for Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, a \$300 million increase for Title I Grants to Schools and a \$275 million increase for Special Education Part B State Grants (IDEA). It also provides funding to raise the maximum Pell Grant award by \$175 and creates a \$350 million discretionary relief fund for borrowers to receive public service loan forgiveness.

Opioids

The Omnibus includes a \$3.2 billion increase for programs to respond to the opioid crisis, including a \$2.7 billion increase across the Department of Health and Human Services for prevention, treatment, surveillance, research to develop non-opioid pain medication, behavioral workforce training, and support for children and families. It also includes \$114 million for FDA activities and a \$300 million increase for the Department of Justice for activities such as heroin enforcement task forces, drug courts, prescription drug monitoring, treatment, and overdose reversal medication.

Research

The Omnibus includes a \$3 billion increase for National Institutes of Health (NIH) medical research. It provides a \$231 billion increase for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, \$868 million increase for the Department of Energy Office of Science, and a \$47 million increase for Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). The Omnibus also includes a \$295 million increase for the National Science Foundation, a \$234 million increase for NOAA, and a \$1.08 billion increase for NASA.

Election Integrity

The Omnibus includes \$380 million in new money for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to distribute to states as grants for the purpose of protecting election systems from cyber threats. It also includes a \$1.3 billion increase for the Census Bureau, which is critical to ensure an accurate count leading into the decennial Census and subsequent reapportionment.

Public Safety

The Omnibus includes a \$375 million increase for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, including a \$54 million increase for the COPS office. It includes a \$40 million increase for the State Homeland Security Grant Program, a \$25 million increase for the Urban Area Security Initiative, a \$149 million increase for Predisaster Mitigation grants, and an \$85 million increase for Flood Mapping. It also includes \$806 million increase for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Local Infrastructure

The Omnibus includes \$2.525 billion in new funding for highway formula grants; \$1 billion increase for the National Infrastructure Investment (TIGER) grants program; \$232 million increase for subway, light rail, and commuter rail transit systems; and a \$446.6 million increase for Amtrak. It includes a \$305 million increase for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). It includes a \$789 million increase for Army Corps of Engineers water resources projects, including funding for new starts. It also includes a \$1.8 billion increase for rural water and wastewater treatment; and a \$2.1 billion increase for rural broadband.

Environment

The Omnibus provides a \$763 million increase for the Environmental Protection Agency. This includes increases of \$300 million each for Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Funds; \$63 million for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act grants; and \$50 million for three new grants programs to address lead in drinking water, including \$20 million for a Voluntary School Lead Testing grant program. It also includes a \$270 million increase for the National Park Service and \$25 million increase for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

Safe, Affordable Housing:

The Omnibus provides a \$808 million increase for the Public Housing Capital Fund, which will cut down the backlog of unmet renovation needs. It also includes a \$250 million increase for HOME Investment Partnerships, \$176 million increase for Housing for the Elderly, \$85 million increase for Housing for the Disabled, and \$90 million increase for Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes.

Veterans:

The Omnibus provides a \$7 billion increase for the Department of Veterans Affairs, with significant increases for medical services, mental health services, medical and prosthetic research, and opioid abuse services. This amount also includes \$2 billion for infrastructure improvements at VA facilities and state veterans' homes.