

Congressman Cuellar's FY19 CJS Appropriations Language

1. NSF HSI STEM education program:

“Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs).—Hispanic Serving Institutions and the HSI grant program play an important role in increasing the recruitment, retention and graduation rates of Hispanic students pursuing STEM degrees. The Committee directs NSF to fund the HSI-specific program and demonstrate a \$50,000,000 investment no later than September 30, 2019.”

2. Immigration Judge Teams:

“The committee recommends \$630,000,000 for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), of which \$4,000,000 is from immigration examination fees. The recommendation is \$125,500,000 above fiscal year 2018 and \$66,593,000 above the request. The recommendation will support a total of 584 Immigration Judge teams, 100 more than funded in fiscal year 2018. Funding is also provided to annualize costs associated with the new teams funded in fiscal year 2018, provide additional law clerks to assist Immigration Judges and reduce case processing time, and upgrade information technology and facilities. The recommendation includes funding to sustain the current Legal Orientation Program and related assistance, such as the information desk pilot, at no less than current levels. The recommendation does not include any funding to establish or fund a legal representation program.

EOIR performance—For several years the Committee has been concerned with the slow pace of hiring Immigration Judges and the unacceptable amount of time it takes to resolve immigration cases. The Committee understands that the Department is working to accelerate the hiring process and is deploying additional resources to those areas with the highest workload such as the Southwest Border. Committee directs this effort to continue and that the Department coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop metrics, practices, and pilot programs to institute rapid court proceedings at holding facilities along the Southwest Border where individuals are detained at immigration violations to ensure their court appearance. The Committee notes with approval that EOIR has set new prioritization standards and court-based performance measures, as the Committees on Appropriations had directed. The Committee looks forward to seeing those efforts bear fruit in the form of more timely adjudication and reduced backlog, while ensuring due process is observed. The Committee directs EOIR to continue reporting monthly on performance and Immigration Judge hiring in the manner and level of detail as provided in fiscal year 2018. Such reports should also include information on the number of cases where visa overstay is the sole or primary factor for adjudication.

Efficiency initiatives.—The Committee understands that EOIR is considering approaches that could result in savings in time and resources, such as modifying the procedure for Immigration Judges to issue oral decisions, which currently may involve lengthy and detailed recitations of legal authorities and case analysis. Other potential approaches to streamlining operations include use of preliminary hearings or similar approaches to screening cases to address frivolous filings and reduce court time required

to process them. The Committee encourages EOIR to actively explore and, if appropriate, pilot approaches that hold promise of improving the efficiency of the EOIR court system.”

3. State Criminal Alien Assistance Program:

\$255,000,000 for SCAAP.

4. COPS Initiative:

\$225,500,000 for COPS Hiring Program.

5. Byrne JAG Grants:

\$441,500,000 for Byrne/JAG Program.

6. NIBIN on Southwest Border:

“*NIBIN*. – The Committee is encouraged by the promise of improved crime gun intelligence and information sharing, and expects funding provided in this bill will aid in interdicting crime guns and preventing gun trafficking through the NIBIN. The Committee encourages ATF to establish a NIBIN presence on the Southwest Border, and directs the Department to update the Committee on its efforts not later than 90 days after enactment.”

7. Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability program:

\$15,000,000 for Officer Robert Wilson III VALOR Initiative.

8. Drug courts:

\$75,000,000 for Drug Courts.

9. CASA Special Advocates Program:

\$12,000,000 for Court Appointed Special Advocates Program.

10. Byrne JAG Grants to service-connected disabled vets:

“The Committee requests additional consideration be given to applicants who seek to hire service-connected disabled veterans.”

11. Rural broadband coordination:

“Rural Broadband Coordination. – The Committee directs National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to continue coordinating with the Rural Utilities Service, the Federal Communications Commission, and other related Federal agencies to ensure that policies tied to one Federal program do not undermine the objectives and functionality of another. The Committee encourages NTIA to continue working with the rural communications industry to identify and pursue ways to continue broadband deployment and adoption.

Outcome-Based Measures. – The Committee directs NTIA to include outcome-based goals and performance measures for its broadband adoption and availability work in its performance plan as soon as practicable.”

12. Business-to-Business Networks:

“Business-to-Business.– The Committee directs the ITA to conduct Business-to-Business Networks for industry clusters in Northern Mexico and Southern United States to promote regionally-driven economic development strategies that support advanced manufacturing and exports of American goods and services.”

13. Performance measures:

“Performance Measures.– The Committee directs each of the agencies funded by this Act to comply with title 31 of the United States Code, including the development of their organizational priority goals and outcomes such as performance outcome measures, output measures, efficiency measures, and customer service measures. Each of the agencies funded in this Act shall report on their plans to comply with the requirements of title 31 of the United States Code within 90 days of enactment of the Act.”

14. Federal employee conduct:

“Federal Employee Conduct.– Public service is a public trust that requires federal employees to place ethical principles above private gain. The Code of Federal Regulations (5 CFR 2635.101) specifies the basic obligation of public service. Each of the agencies funded in the Act shall ensure their employees understand and are in compliance with this obligation.”

15. Public access to federally-funded research:

“Public access to Federally funded research.-- “Public access to Federally funded research. – The Committee appreciates the progress that the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has made to increase access to the results of Federally funded scientific research. OSTP shall continue efforts to coordinate implementation of public access policies across Federal departments and agencies and identify additional opportunities to enhance access to the results of Federally funded research. OSTP shall continue to report, on an annual basis, on the progress of departments and agencies in implementing their public access plans, including relevant measure of progress, and on additional steps being taken to improve access to the results of Federally funded research. OSTP shall brief the Committee within 90 days of enactment on this status of these efforts.”

16. Census outreach to colonias:

*“Language assistance and data on small population groups.—*The Committee also directs Census to increase outreach activities to historically undercounted communities, including colonias.”

17. Minority University Research Education Program:

*“Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP).—*The recommendation includes \$32,000,000 for MUREP.”

18. NSF cybersecurity research partnerships with HSIs

“Cybersecurity Research. – The Committee encourages NSF to form partnerships with Hispanic Serving Institution and Historically Black Colleges and Universities with respect to cybersecurity research.”

19. Trafficking and money laundering enforcement:

*“Trafficking and money laundering enforcement.--*The Committee expects the Department to continue to make drug trafficking and money laundering enforcement an investigative and prosecutorial priority for Federal prosecutors.”

20. Paper reduction efforts:

“Paper Reduction Efforts. – The Committee urges the Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Science Foundation, and NASA to work with the Office of Management and Budget to reduce printing and reproduction costs and directs each agency to report to the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this Act on the steps it.

has taken to achieve this goal. The report should specifically identify how much funding each agency expects to save by implementing these measures.”

21. NICS grants to states:

“*National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Initiative grants.*—The recommendation includes \$75,000,000 for grants to improve records in NICS. The Committee directs that the grants made under the broader NCHIP authorities be made available only for efforts to improve records added to NICS. Additionally, the Department shall prioritize funding under the NICS Act Records Improvement Program (narip) authorities with the goal of making all States NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 (NIAA) compliant. The Department also shall apply penalties to noncompliant states to the fullest extent of the law.”

22. SMART team pilot program:

“*Strategic Mobile and Response Teams.*-- The Committee encourages DOJ to investigate the opportunity to conduct pilot programs to implement Strategic Mobile and Response Teams, (SMART) at the Southwest Border. Border Smart Pilot programs should combine the use of officers and technology, including ground sensors and drones. The pilot programs should have inter-agency partnership, local government participation, and multi layered security efforts, including marine, air and terrestrial components, with the goal of increasing border security while reducing cost. The Department should brief the Committee on its plans within 180 days.

23. Crime Victims Fund:

\$2,600,000,000 for the Crime Victims Fund.

24. National Firearms Act Application processing:

“*Investigative Support Services.*--The committee recommendation includes a \$13,200,000 increase, as requested, for the activities of the National Firearms Act Division to continue improvements in processing NFA applications. The committee notes that an increase of not less than \$10,000,000 was provided in the fiscal year 2018 Appropriations Act for these activities, and expects that resources provided for fiscal year 2019 will complement and accelerate activities begun in 2018 to expedite the handling of an unprecedented volume of applications, while employing technology to enhance processing capabilities.

Funding provided should support progress in developing and implementing ATF's next generation eForms system.”

25. School safety:

“*STOP School Violence Act*.—The recommendation provides \$100,000,000 for the STOP School Violence Act grant program, which is equal to authorized amount and is \$25,000,000 above the fiscal year 2018 level. Through the STOP School Violence Act program, school districts should consider using funds for security hardening measures, such as reporting systems for threats of school violence; locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures; and technology for expedited notification of local law enforcement during an emergency.”