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Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2018 –Highlights

INFRASTRUCTURE:

\$21.2B for infrastructure projects across the country, including transportation, energy and water, and cybersecurity.

Highways \$3.5B more than in fiscal year 2017 to rebuild, improve, and modernize America's highways, roads, and bridges

- The bill provides \$45 billion from the Highway Trust Fund to be spent on the Federal-aid Highways Program, which is \$1 billion above the fiscal year 2017.
- \$1.5 billion for TIGER infrastructure grants, \$1 billion more than in fiscal year 2017. TIGER grants to be used to fund critical transportation projects identified by state and local communities. At least 30% of these funds go to rural communities.

Railways \$3.1B for rail infrastructure

- \$250M for State of Good Repair Grants, \$225 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.
- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grants are funded at \$593 million, \$525 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level,
- \$250M for Positive Train Control Grants

Water Infrastructure \$2.9B bill-wide for local drinking water and sewage construction projects through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds.

- \$500M for grants for clean and reliable drinking water and sanitary waste disposal systems.
- \$918M for Army Corps and Bureau of Reclamation water resources infrastructure projects, including ports, waterways, flood control, and water supply.

Air – The bill includes \$18 billion in total budgetary resources for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – \$1.6 billion above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

- full funding for all air traffic control personnel, including 14,500 air traffic controllers, 7,400 safety inspectors, and operational support personnel.
- \$1.3 billion for NextGen investments, an increase of \$239 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.
- \$165 million for the Contract Tower program and language to ensure that towers ready to enter the program are not delayed further.
- \$1 billion in airport discretionary grants for airports with the greatest need for infrastructure improvements.

HOUSING The legislation includes a net discretionary total of \$42.7 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, an increase of \$3.9 billion above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

- **Section 8 and Public and Native American Housing** – Included in the bill is \$30.3 billion, an increase of \$2.8 billion above the fiscal year 2017 level.
- **Community Development Block Grants** are funded at \$3.3 billion, \$300 million above the fiscal year 2017 level.
- **The HOME Investment Partnerships Program** is funded at \$1.4 billion, \$412 million above the current enacted level.
- **Homeless Assistance Grants** are funded at \$2.5 billion, \$130 million above the current enacted level.

OPIOIDS: It would offer \$4.65 billion toward addressing the opioid epidemic, \$3 billion more than in fiscal 2017.

Opioid Abuse Treatment and Reduction

- \$1 billion in new funding for grants to States and Indian tribes to address the opioid epidemic. \$476 million at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support increased opioid overdose surveillance and prevention activities at the national, state, and local level;
- At least \$500 million in research on opioid addiction supported by the National Institutes of Health;
- \$130 million for the Rural Communities Opioid Response program, aimed to reach hard-hit rural America and target the unique issues associated with substance use disorder in rural areas.

EDUCATION

Department of Education – The bill funds the Department of Education at \$70.9 billion, \$2.6 billion above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

- **School Safety** – To help protect children and to promote safe learning environments, the bill provides more than \$2.3 billion in new funding for effective mental health programs, training, and school safety programs at the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services.
- The bill also raises the maximum **Pell Grant** by \$175 from \$5,920 to \$6,095 in the 2018-19 school year.
- **Impact Aid** – The bill provides more than \$1.4 billion for Impact Aid, \$86 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.
- **Charter Schools** – The bill provides \$400 million in funding for charter schools, \$58 million above the current enacted level.
- **TRIO and GEAR UP** programs, which help first-generation college students prepare for, enter, and complete college, are increased by \$60 million and \$10 million, respectively, bringing TRIO programs to a total of \$1.01 billion and GEAR UP to a total of \$350 million.
- **Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program** funded at \$123,183,000, an increase of 15,388,000 above the current enacted level.
- **Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)** – The bill includes \$768 billion for CNCS, \$32 million above the fiscal year 2017 level.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF)** – The legislation funds NSF at \$7.8 billion – \$295 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. Research and related activities are funded at \$6.3 billion, \$301 million above the current level. These funds will foster innovation and U.S. economic competitiveness, including funding for research on advanced manufacturing, physics, mathematics, cybersecurity, neuroscience, and STEM education.
- **Special Education** – The bill includes \$12.3 billion for IDEA special education grants to states, an increase of \$275 million over the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, which will maintain the federal share of special education funding to states.
- **Student Support and Academic Achievement State Grants** – The bill includes \$1.1 billion, \$700 million above the fiscal year 2017 level, for grants that provide flexible

funds to states and school districts, including to expand school-based mental health services and supports; for bullying prevention; and for professional development for personnel in crisis management and school-based violence prevention strategies.

- Job Corps – The bill provides \$1.7 billion for Job Corps, an increase of \$14.5 million over the 2017 enacted level. Funding is included in addition to amounts provided in fiscal year 2017 for physical facility safety and security improvements.
- Charter Schools Program.-The agreement modifies the language in Senate Report 115-150 to include up to \$7,500,000 for developer grants to establish or expand charter schools in underserved, high-poverty, rural areas, as described therein.

AGRICULTURE

- \$96.5 million for the Cattle Health Program, \$5 million above the fiscal year 2017 level. This includes \$5 million specifically for activities under the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program.
- \$1 million for USDA ARS research on cattle fever tick treatments.
- The bill includes language encouraging the relevant Mexican agencies to establish a cattle fever tick control and eradication program to prevent cattle crossing the border from infecting Texas cattle.
- \$48,627,000 for the Rural Community Facilities Program, which offers direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants to develop or improve essential public services and facilities in communities in rural communities.
- \$55.8 million for the Citrus Health Response Program under USDA APHIS.

DEFENSE & VETERANS

\$654.6 billion for the Department of Defense -Largest year-to-year increase in funding for the Department of Defense since the beginning of the War on Terror.

Military Personnel and Pay –includes \$137.7 billion – \$133.4 billion for base requirements and \$4.3 billion for OCO/GWOT requirements – to provide for 1,322,500 active-duty troops and 816,900 Guard and Reserve troops. The bill includes \$221.7 million above the request for additional end strength, and fully funds a 2.4 percent pay raise for the military.

Research and Development – The bill contains \$89.2 billion – \$88.3 billion for base requirements and \$0.9 billion for OCO/GWOT requirements – for research, development, testing, and evaluation of new defense technologies. Funding for base requirements is \$5.6 billion above the request and \$16 billion above the fiscal year 2017 level, and will help to

support current military operations and to prepare our nation to meet a broad range of future security threats

Military Family Housing – The bill provides \$1.4 billion to fund construction, operation, and maintenance of military family housing for fiscal year 2018.

Military Medical Facilities – The bill includes \$708 million for construction and alterations for new or existing military medical facilities, an increase of \$404 million above the fiscal year 2017 level.

DOD Education Facilities – The bill includes \$250 million for essential safety improvements and infrastructure work at four DOD Education Activities facilities located within the U.S. and overseas.

Veterans Affairs (VA) – The legislation includes a total of \$185.4 billion in both discretionary and mandatory funding for the VA, an increase of \$8.5 billion above the fiscal year 2017 level.

VA Medical Care –\$68.8 billion – providing for approximately seven million patients to be treated in fiscal year 2018. Within this total, funding includes:

- \$8.4 billion in mental health care services;
- \$196 million in suicide prevention outreach activities;
- \$316 million for traumatic brain injury treatment;
- \$7.3 billion in homeless veterans treatment, services, housing, and job training;
- \$751 million for hepatitis C treatment;
- \$386 million for opioid abuse prevention;
- \$270 million in rural health initiatives.

VA Electronic Health Record – The bill contains \$782 million for the new VA electronic health record system. This will ensure the implementation of the contract creating an electronic record system for VA that is identical to one being developed for DOD. These two identical systems will ensure our veterans get proper care, with timely and accurate medical data transferred between the VA, DOD, and the private sector.

Disability Claims Processing Backlog – Reducing the disability claims backlog is essential to ensuring adequate compensation and care for the almost 500,000 veterans still wading through the VA bureaucracy to get a final decision on their claims. The bill will help speed this process and get these veterans the decisions they are awaiting by providing \$54 million above the 2017 level, and \$5 million above the request for the Board of Veterans Appeals to be used for hiring additional claims and appellate staff, digital scanning of health records, and overtime pay. In addition, the bill continues rigorous reporting requirements to track each regional office’s performance on claims processing and appeals backlogs.

Construction – Major and minor construction within the VA is funded at \$855 million. In addition, \$2 billion is provided for infrastructure repair, with the funding allocated to

minor construction, non-recurring maintenance, and grants for state retirement homes for veterans. With this additional funding, the backlog in state home construction applications will be eliminated.

VA Mandatory Funding – The bill fulfills mandatory funding requirements such as: veteran disability compensation programs for more than five million veterans and their survivors; education benefits for one million veterans; and vocational rehabilitation and employment training for more than 100,000 veterans.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – The bill contains \$14 billion in discretionary appropriations for CBP – an increase of \$1.8 billion above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. These resources ensure our borders are protected by putting boots on the ground, improving infrastructure and technology. It increases funding for border security technology, unmanned aerial systems, multi-role enforcement aircraft, light enforcement helicopters, non-intrusive inspection equipment, and port and border building facilities. The bill increases funding for retention and recruitment activities to improve Border Patrol staffing levels and adds an additional 328 CBP officers for ports of entry.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

- \$45 million for a new U.S. Border Patrol Station in Freer, TX;
- \$14.7 for Office of Field Operations facilities;
- \$49.7 million for border access road construction;
- \$2.7 million for tactical aerostats;
- \$34 million for the Automated Commercial Environment;
- \$190 million for new CBP Air and Marine aircraft and sensors;
- \$170 million in surveillance technology; and
- \$263.6 million for new, non-intrusive inspection and trade equipment
- \$445 million for 25 miles of new primary pedestrian levee fencing in Rio Grande Valley, Texas
- \$196 million for new primary pedestrian fencing in Rio Grande Valley, Texas

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – To respond to both natural and manmade disasters, the bill funds FEMA’s disaster relief account (DRF) at a total of \$7.9 billion.

\$3 billion for FEMA grant programs includes:

- \$507 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program; of which \$85,000,000 is for Operation Stonegarden and \$10,000,000 is for nonprofit organizations.
- \$630 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative, including \$50 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program;
- \$700 million for firefighter assistance grants;
- \$249.2 million for Predisaster Mitigation grants; and
- \$262.5 million for flood mapping.

Cybersecurity and Protection of Communications – To combat increasingly dangerous and numerous cyber-attacks, the bill includes a total of \$1.9 billion for the National Protection and Programs Directorate to enhance critical infrastructure and prevent hacking. Within this amount, \$1.1 billion is provided to help secure civilian (.gov) networks, detect and prevent cyber-attacks and foreign espionage, strengthen and protect our election infrastructure, and enhance and modernize emergency communications. Funds are also included to enhance emergency communications capabilities and to continue the modernization of the Biometric Identification System

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Gun Crimes and School Safety – The bill increases resources for multiple programs to reduce violent and gun crime, including full funding for the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System; increases for U.S. Attorneys and the Marshals Service to address violent crime; \$75 million in grants to states to improve their records used in background checks; \$20 million in grants to reduce gang and gun violence; \$75 million for School Safety grants; \$94 million for youth mentoring programs; \$4 million for youth gang prevention; and \$10 million for police active shooter training.

Department of Justice (DOJ) – The bill funds DOJ at \$29.9 billion, an increase of \$1.3 billion above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. These investments will give federal law enforcement tools to thwart crime and terrorism, and bring criminals to justice.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) –\$9 billion for FBI operations – an increase of \$263 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

United States Attorneys (USA) –\$2.1 billion, an increase of \$102 million above fiscal year 2017

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) –\$2.6 billion – \$124 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

\$543 million for Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Forces, a \$26 million increase over the current level.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) – The legislation contains \$1.3 billion for the ATF, \$35 million above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) –is increased by \$65 million above fiscal year 2017, for a total of \$505 million. This increase will provide for 100 additional immigration judge teams to process immigration reviews more quickly and reduce the backlog of pending cases.

U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) –\$2.9 billion, an increase of \$187 million above fiscal year 2017.

Grant Programs –\$2.9 billion for various state and local law enforcement assistance grant programs including:

- \$492 million for Violence Against Women Act programs
- \$416 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants
- \$240 million for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program
- \$130 million for DNA Initiative Grants
- \$48 million for Reduce Sexual Assault Kits Backlog grants
- \$77 million for Anti-Human Trafficking grants
- \$330 million for Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act grants
- \$76 million for Missing and Exploited Children programs.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – NASA is funded at \$20.7 billion, \$1.1 billion above the 2017 enacted level.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) – The legislation includes \$302 million for the EDA, \$26 million above the fiscal year 2017 level. These funds will help innovative community development, coal communities, and boost economically recovering communities.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – The legislation contains \$5.9 billion for NOAA, which is \$234 million above the fiscal year 2017 level. Funding is targeted to important priorities such as the National Weather Service, fisheries management, weather research, and ocean exploration.

Rural Broadband -The legislation includes more than \$685 million for expansion of broadband service approximately \$625 million above fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

Other Issues in Bill

RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE: The bill includes funds for election security grants to the states and for the FBI budget for counter-intelligence efforts against Russian cyberattacks.

FIX NICS ACT - will help prevent future tragedies and ensure the integrity of our criminal background check system, the bipartisan Fix NICS Act would:

- Provide accountability for federal departments and agencies
- Reauthorize the NICS Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP), the only federal grant program for states that is focused exclusively on helping them upload records to NICS

- Reauthorize the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP), which currently provides funds to States for uploading criminal records to all relevant databases, not just NICS
- Improve information sharing with states
- Provide a written report on the use of bump stocks in crime

GUNS: Report language would clarify that the Centers for Disease Control can research gun violence. A provision known as the Dickey Amendment bans agencies from advocating for gun control, and had for years been treated as a de facto ban on research, as well.

CRS REPORTS: The bill would require the Congressional Research Service to make its reports available to the public, unless they include confidential information.

What Didn't Make the Cut

SANCTUARY CITIES: Despite a push to punish so-called “sanctuary cities” that shield undocumented immigrants from deportation, the bill doesn't include riders that would restrict their federal funding.