



# **Chairman John Culberson**

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

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## **FY2019 Full Committee Markup**

### **Opening Statement (as prepared)**

**May 17, 2018**

Good morning. I am pleased to present the fiscal year 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill to the Full Committee for your consideration and approval.

I'd like to begin by thanking Ranking Member Jose Serrano. I appreciate Mr. Serrano's approach to the Committee's work and his input has improved the bill.

I'd also like to thank Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey for their help in putting this bill together. I appreciate Chairman Frelinghuysen's guidance and thank him for providing a fair allocation for our Subcommittee.

As you know, this Subcommittee has jurisdiction over a diverse group of agencies which are responsible for thwarting drug and human traffickers, terrorism, espionage, gangs, and cybercrime; forecasting the weather; managing fisheries; exploring space; and advancing science.

The bill we are considering today provides \$62 billion in discretionary funding which is sufficient to fund priority programs and invest in the future.

One of the main priorities of the bill is funding law enforcement.

The bill provides increases across the Federal law enforcement agencies to enhance their capabilities. These increases include:

- funds for 100 new Immigration Judge teams to reduce immigration case backlogs;
- a \$113 million increase for US Attorneys to increase criminal prosecutions;
- an \$85 million increase for the US Marshals for additional deputy marshals and bed space; and
- a \$130 million increase for DEA to address opioid and other drug traffickers.

We have also increased funds for priority State and local law enforcement programs such as:

- Violence Against Women Programs;
- Human Trafficking;

- Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act grants to address opioids; and
- the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.

The bill also provides \$21.5 billion for NASA, which is an \$810 million increase over the current year. These funds will advance space exploration and ensure 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 development of the Space Launch System that will send astronauts beyond low-Earth orbit in the Orion crew vehicle. It also increases funding to Planetary programs, including the Europa mission. Additionally, the bill includes the requested level for the Administration's proposed lunar program.

The bill provides \$8.2 billion for the National Science Foundation to increase research grants and invest in scientific infrastructure.

Funding for NOAA prioritizes improving weather forecasting, weather research and fisheries management, enhancing ocean exploration, and addressing Harmful Algal Blooms.

With the 2020 Decennial Census quickly approaching, we provide the Bureau of the Census with a \$2 billion increase. The Administration estimates this census will cost over \$15 billion and we are making investments today to ensure that Secretary Ross has the resources needed to provide an accurate count within a responsible budget.

In order to live within our allocation, we froze or reduced funding for several agencies and programs that can operate with a little less.

The bill also includes numerous oversight provisions to protect hard-earned taxpayer dollars, such as:

- Requiring each agency to submit a spending plan;
- Capping life-cycle costs for poorly performing programs;
- Requiring agencies procuring sensitive IT systems to conduct supply chain risk assessments in consultation with the FBI; and
- Requiring additional performance reporting from troubled agencies such as the Census Bureau and the Executive Office for Immigration Review.

With the vast majority of the programs funded in the bill unauthorized, it would be good if the authorizing committee worked to authorize more of the programs in the Departments of Justice and Commerce.

We've tried to address everyone's concerns and priorities in this bill whether through funding levels or with report language and urge the bill be approved so it can be considered and passed by the House.

I yield back.

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