

**Committee on House Administration**  
**119<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**Committee Resolution 119-16**  
**September 10, 2025**

**Resolution to Approve Committee Views and Estimates**

**Resolved**, pursuant to §301 (d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and House Rule X, clause 4(f), the Committee adopts the following views and estimates for Fiscal Year 2026:

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION**  
**VIEWS AND ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026**

**U.S. Election Assistance Commission**

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was established in 2002 with a mission to assist state and local election officials with the administration of federal elections. The agency's core responsibilities are to provide a testing certification program for voting equipment, administer Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grants, and serve as a national clearinghouse for election administration information.

The Committee appreciates the role the EAC plays in assisting our state and local election officials and lauds the agency's successful efforts during the coronavirus pandemic in adoption of a new set of voluntary voting system guidelines, VVSG 2.0. We recognize that, with the additional grants appropriated to the EAC, the increased engagement in the area of election security in recent years, and expenses associated with the relocation of its headquarters from Maryland back to Washington, DC, an increase in EAC's operational budget was needed a few years ago. However, its budget has more than doubled in recent years. The Committee agrees with the President's budget request of \$17 million for Fiscal Year 2026. This request includes resources for improving election technology, increasing voter awareness and confidence, enhancing data collection and accuracy, and investing in the professionalism of the election workforce. Appropriately, the President's budget request does not provide additional funding for grant programs.

The Committee appreciates the EAC's commitment to utilizing methods to improve the automation of functions and to reduce full-time equivalent employment while minimizing service disruptions to states, localities, and the American voter. The Committee supports the mission of the EAC and will continue its oversight responsibilities to ensure that the agency is a good steward of taxpayer dollars, meets its obligations as set forth in HAVA, and its efforts are beneficial to the administration of federal elections.

## **Federal Election Commission**

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the right of all Americans to state their political views and donate money to the candidates, causes, and organizations of their choice without fear of retribution. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) is an independent regulatory authority of the conduct and financing of campaigns for federal office. The FEC enforces federal campaign finance laws, publishes disclosures of campaign contributions, and brings enforcement actions for violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA). As with all budget requests, the Committee expects the FEC will allocate the funding and resources it receives to ensure proper and thoughtful oversight of our federal campaign finance system. The relatively small increase in the President's budget request during the past ten years appears to comport with the funding needed to fulfill its statutory mission while accounting for inflation. In September 2023, the Committee held the first oversight hearing of the FEC in 12 years.

The Committee plans to continue to engage with the agency and the Inspector General's office to ensure appropriate oversight is conducted. The Committee agrees with the President's budget request of \$75.8 million for Fiscal Year 2026, which would support hundreds of employees by the end of the fiscal year. This amount is a slight decrease, but in line with the agency's recent operating budgets.

## **House Sergeant at Arms**

The House Sergeant at Arms is a position established in House Rules, who is tasked with maintaining order on the House Floor, ensuring emergency procedures for the House community, and represents the House on the Capitol Police Board. The House Sergeant at Arms manages the Residential Security Program, which provides resources to Members to make security upgrades to their personal residences.

Given the rise in threats against Members in recent years, the Committee supports a Member-driven process to increase the resources provided to the Residential Security Program to ensure greater safety of Members while in the service of their communities and country.

## **Modernization of Congress**

In the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Committee on House Administration created the Subcommittee on Modernization and Innovation to continue the work of the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. It is responsible for authorizing expenditures from the Modernization Initiatives Account, and it is tasked with closing out the remaining recommendations from the Modernization Committee and identifying operational inefficiencies and technological gaps in the House.

The Committee supports the funding level requested in the President's budget for the Modernization Initiatives Account of \$10,000,000. We believe it is essential as it will ensure long-term savings and efficiencies for the House for years to come. The Committee is also

pushing to pass HR 1234, ending the publishing requirement for the Constitution Annotated (CONAN) and replacing it with a digital-only version.

### **Government Publishing Office**

The Government Publishing Office (GPO) provides various printing and publishing services to the US Government, including mass published reports, US passports, and statutorily required reports. The GPO also manages the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) which is a nation-wide network of libraries that services the distribution of official government publications throughout the country.

This Congress, the Committee is working with relevant stakeholders to streamline the statutorily required printing requirements for the GPO with the long-term goal of eliminating such printing requirements through legislation. The Committee also supports efforts to streamline and digitize the FDLP to provide greater efficiency and cost savings for its participants and for taxpayers.

### **Library of Congress**

The Library of Congress (LOC) is a nonpartisan Legislative Branch agency that serves to inform Congress and preserve knowledge and resource materials as the nation's library. The Committee on House Administration, and the Joint Committee on the Library serve to oversee and manage the operations of the Library of Congress. Chairman Bryan Steil serves as Chairman of both Committees in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The National Recording Preservation Board and National Film Preservation Board have coordinated with the Library of Congress since 1988 to provide advice and technical assistance to the study of sound recordings and film preservation. In addition to these, Congress chartered corporations to encourage private gifts to support the boards: the National Recording Preservation Foundation and the National Film Preservation Foundation. The National Recording Preservation Board and National Film Preservation Board, along with their respective foundations, have authorization of appropriations that are due to expire in fiscal year 2026. The Committee is actively examining their reauthorizations to identify potential cost savings.

## **Committee on House Administration Minority Views and Estimates for FY2026 Budget**

The Committee on House Administration Democrats welcome the opportunity to provide our views on budgetary priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, including enhancing the institutional capacity of the House of Representatives and our partner agencies in the legislative branch, enhancing security protocols for Members, supporting the Smithsonian Institution’s growing mission, and ensuring our federal elections are safe, fair, and accurate.

### **Sufficient Funding for Federal Elections**

The safe and secure elections upon which our democracy rests require significant resources. Since its inception in the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) has provided support to states and election officials at all levels. According to the EAC, between 2003 and 2021, over \$4 billion in federal funds were awarded across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories.<sup>1</sup> In 2018 and 2020, Congress appropriated a combined \$805 million to improve federal election administration, with an emphasis on security enhancements to election systems—\$380 million in FY18 (which was the first time since 2010 that Congress made resources available through HAVA in support of federal election improvements<sup>2</sup>) and \$425 million in FY20—including \$400 million under the CARES Act in for improvements or supplements necessary in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup> The funds appropriated under the CARES Act, however, required jurisdictions to match federal funding with state or municipal funds,<sup>4</sup> a potentially significant expenditure for jurisdictions with financial limitations. By 2023, various states had returned over \$63 million of the \$400 million in CARES Act funding to the federal government.<sup>5</sup>

The funding crisis for elections administrators has not abated since 2020, it has only grown more acute. The FY23 Omnibus provided \$75 million for Election Security Grants to help states secure election systems and improve election administration, and the FY22 Omnibus also provided \$75 million in Election Security Grant funding. But even with this money, “elections offices are left with limited options to meet urgent gaps in equipment, personnel, and facilities.”<sup>6</sup> And support from the federal government has been dropping—Congress provided only \$55 million in Election Security Grant funding in FY24. That number dropped to \$15 million for FY25.

Election officials have consistently told Committee staff that they need additional, sustained funding for the administration of elections. Further, the EAC has also done significant work in enhancing election security, both physical and cyber security, assisting election officials and voters, promoting accessibility, highlighting best practices, working with sister agencies and

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<sup>1</sup> *2021 Grant Expenditure Report: October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021*, Elec. Assist. Comm. (July 2022), at [https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/paymentgrants/expenditures/EAC\\_2021\\_Grant\\_Expenditure\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/paymentgrants/expenditures/EAC_2021_Grant_Expenditure_Report_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Guidance on Meeting Match in CARES Act Grants under HAVA*, ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMM’N (Mar. 31, 2023), <https://www.eac.gov/grants/guidance-meeting-match-cares-act-grants-under-hava>.

<sup>5</sup> *Quarterly Report to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee*, ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMM’N (Jul. 10, 2023), [https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/15011\\_Quarterly\\_Report\\_on\\_CARES\\_Funding\\_Due\\_July\\_10\\_2023.pdf](https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/15011_Quarterly_Report_on_CARES_Funding_Due_July_10_2023.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> *League Urges Congress to Preserve funding for elections*, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (Sept. 28, 2023), <https://www.lwv.org/expanding-voter-access/league-urges-congress-preserve-funding-elections>.

stakeholders, combating mis- and disinformation, and more. To best continue fulfilling its mission, the EAC must be fully funded. Committee Democrats will push to ensure that the EAC and its programs are fully supported by Congress.

Further, Committee Democrats support fully funding the Federal Election Commission (FEC). As an independent regulatory agency responsible for administering, enforcing, defending, and interpreting the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, a fully functioning FEC is vital to the health of the American political system. The FEC is currently funded by a single annual appropriation for salaries and expenses. For FY24, the FEC received \$80,800,000 for salaries and expenses, an almost \$1 million decrease from the prior year's funding. This funding level remained flat for FY25. A lack of adequate funding prevents the FEC from filling high-priority positions that have remained unfilled for years. The decreased funding also hinders the FEC's ability to maintain essential support functions, as well as contribute to its ongoing efforts to modernize its IT infrastructure and realize the attendant future efficiencies of these efforts.

### **The House of Representatives**

The House of Representatives Salaries and Expenses (S&E) account includes funding for salaries for officers and employees of the House, including the Clerk, Sergeant at Arms, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the Whistleblower Ombuds, Office of the Inspector General, Office of General Counsel, Office of the Parliamentarian, Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House, Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House, and the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, allowances for the compensation of interns, and other allowances and expenses. In FY26, Committee Democrats commit to a range of critical priorities for the House, including:

- Protecting the House's its ability to recruit, train, and retain a talented and diverse workforce while improving workplace culture;
- Supporting the CAO and Clerk's collaboration on upgrades to the Legislative Information Management System (LIMS);
- Develop enhanced cybersecurity practices and defensive countermeasures for the Office of Cyber Security;
- Ensuring continuity of operations and institutional resilience in the event of third-party vendor outages;
- Leveraging innovative technology to improve the accessibility of Capitol facilities, websites, and proceedings;
- Supporting the Sergeant at Arms to meet escalating threats with residential security, office protections and threat-assessment capabilities; and
- Sustaining and expanding funding for professional training, internships, and student loan repayment so House offices can attract talent despite rising living costs.

Committee Democrats support fully funding the House S&E account. The account should build institutional capacity, improve employee recruitment and retention, provide adequate security to Members, and allow Congress to better serve the American people. But despite the growing needs of the House in an age of Artificial Intelligence innovation, escalating threats to Member security, and the imperative to legislate more technically following the Supreme Court's decision in *Loper*

*Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*,<sup>7</sup> House Republicans decreased funding for this account by six percent from \$2,113,553,000 in FY25 to \$1,984,315,000 in FY26.

- The House Sergeant at Arms will see a 19 percent increase in FY26, bringing funding to \$41 million. Committee Democrats support robust funding for Member security and appreciate the bipartisan collaboration with Committee Republicans on significantly expanding the security resources available to Members. Committee Democrats also support additional funding to continue and build upon the success of the recently launched personal and residential security pilot program, which expires at the end of the fiscal year.
- The Clerk of the House receives a 9 percent increase in FY26, raising funding to \$49 million. Funding grew 53 percent between FY21–26, averaging +9 percent annually, driven by modernization efforts and the need to efficiently process an ever-rising volume of legislative activity submitted via the Clerk’s eHopper system.
- The Chief Administrative Officer will see a 10 percent increase in FY26, bringing funding to \$234 million. We are concerned, however, that critical cybersecurity and enterprise technology initiatives remain underfunded even as daily operations depend on them.

### *Modernization Initiatives*

Committee Democrats strongly support full funding for the House Modernization Initiatives Account and appreciate the good-faith partnership demonstrated by the Modernization Subcommittee’s Republican Members and staff. This account funds implementation of the bipartisan recommendations set forth by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress during the 116<sup>th</sup> and 117<sup>th</sup> Congresses. Unfortunately, it faces a 60 percent reduction under House Republican appropriators’ current proposal. This follows an 80 percent reduction in the account in the FY25 continuing resolution. These reductions severely constrain the Modernization Subcommittee’s ability to deliver measurable return on investment for Members, staff, and Capitol visitors.

Moreover, Committee Democrats are confounded by language inserted in the report accompanying the FY26 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, which appears to justify the funding decrease by noting it is “reflective of expenditure trends” and by restricting House entities from drawing from the account more than once per project. This arbitrary limitation would hinder responsible, phased implementation of projects and force House entities to instead submit less accurate, one-time funding requests covering every phase of the project from discovery to execution before research is complete and requirements determined. Penalizing the Modernization Subcommittee and House entities for utilizing the fund in a responsible way undermines both good governance and fiscal responsibility. Accordingly, Committee Democrats support fully funding this account at \$10 million.

### *Legislative Capacity Post Loper Bright*

The Supreme Court’s 2024 decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* eliminated *Chevron* deference, the longstanding legal principle that required courts to defer to reasonable agency interpretations of ambiguous statutes. For more than four decades, Congress has relied on this framework to guide its legislative drafting, frequently opting for broadly worded laws over highly specific and technical measures. This has allowed Congress to maintain flexibility in addressing

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<sup>7</sup> 603 U.S. 369 (2024).

unforeseen implementation challenges and allows Congress to rely on the expertise of agency subject matter specialists—expertise Congress often lacks—to effectively realize legislative intent. Without *Chevron* deference, Congress must now draft legislation with far greater precision and technical detail. Failure to do so would result in the courts, which constitute the one unelected branch of government, resolving nearly every open policy question.

Even prior to *Loper Bright*, the bipartisan Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress warned that Congress lacked sufficient specialized policy, legal, and technical expertise, while noting that agency capacity has remained flat. The Subcommittee on Modernization examined this issue by convening roundtables with institutional leaders such as the House Clerk, Legislative Counsel, Chief Administrative Officer, and Government Publishing Office Director. Each participant highlighted the urgent need to expand their offices' capacity to handle a more substantial and complex workload.

Accordingly, Committee Democrats believe it is imperative to increase funding for legislative support entities, including the Office of the Clerk, Office of Legislative Counsel, and Chief Administrative Officer, as well as the Members' Representational Allowance.<sup>8</sup> Regrettably, however the FY26 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill advanced by Republican appropriators fails to provide adequate resources to expand the House's legislative capacity.

### **Architect of the Capitol**

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is the builder and steward of Capitol Hill buildings and grounds. Among the agency's many areas of expertise are architecture, engineering, electrical, gardening, historic preservation, masonry, mechanics, painting, and visitor services.

Following a 14 percent reduction in funding between its FY24 enacted and FY25 continuing resolution budgets, and in anticipation of upcoming major construction such as the proposed Rayburn House Office Building renovation, the AOC sought just over \$1.1 billion for FY26, but the agency would only receive \$701 million under the FY26 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill.

This shortfall jeopardizes major projects such as Phase IV of the Cannon House Office Building renovation and preparations for the proposed Rayburn House Office Building renovation. It also limits the AOC's ability to recruit quality executive leaders, complete post-January 6th security upgrades, and invest in enterprise risk management and inventory capabilities.

Committee Democrats support full funding to enable important AOC activities, programs, and initiatives including but not limited to:

- Continuing restorations, repairs, and security improvements necessitated by the January 6, 2021, attack at the Capitol;
- Improving agency diversity, particularly among senior leadership;
- Hiring and retaining leaders, from C-suite executives to office heads, that will foster an environment of innovation, collaboration, and inclusion throughout the AOC;
- Completing Phase IV of the Cannon House Office Building Renovation Project;
- Initiating design phase of the Rayburn House Office Building Renovation Project, including selection of transitional swing spaces;

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<sup>8</sup> Non-House entities are also in desperate need of a funding increase, as discussed *infra*. These entities include the Congressional Research Service, Government Accountability Office, and Government Publishing Office.

- Deploying enterprise asset-management systems to facilitate replacement of aging elevators, fire alarms, sprinklers, and leaks;
- Sustainability efforts, including initiatives to reduce energy consumption and waste in the Capitol Complex; and
- Closing open AOC Inspector General recommendations.

## Library of Congress

The Library of Congress (Library), a legislative branch agency, is the largest library in the world, with millions of books, photographs, recordings, newspapers, maps, and manuscripts in its collections. It is also home to the Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the U.S. Copyright Office (USCO).

Disturbingly, the Library remains under attack by the Trump Administration, which has attempted to assert control over it, notwithstanding its status as a legislative branch agency. President Trump arbitrarily terminated longtime Librarian Dr. Carla Hayden and attempted to install the Deputy Attorney General in her place, despite lacking any apparent legal authority to do so. He likewise attempted—again, without any apparent legal authority—to terminate Register of Copyrights Shira Perlmutter and replace her with another Department of Justice official. These unprecedented actions directly contravene Congress’s Article One authority.

Committee Democrats commend Acting Librarian of Congress Robert Newlen, who continues to shepherd the Library through uniquely challenging times.

The proposed FY26 appropriation represents a 10 percent cut from FY25 levels, reducing the total Library account from \$852.1 million in FY25 to \$767.6 million in FY26. But though Library-hosted resources such as the Legislative Branch Financial Management System require increasing investment to securely meet First Branch IT needs, Legislative Branch appropriations for the Library has decreased to FY21 levels, when the Library’s enacted budget was \$757.3 million. These cuts exacerbate the challenges facing one of Congress’s oldest and most essential support agencies:

- The Congressional Research Service will see a 3 percent decrease from FY25, bringing FY26 funding to \$141 million. As detailed in the House of Representatives section, *supra*, the elimination of *Chevron* deference in *Loper Bright* has increased demand on CRS, requiring a surge in capacity rather than a reduction. These funding levels, which are 2 percent under the agency’s \$144.5 million FY26 request, are not adequate to support Congress’s need for timely, rigorous, and nonpartisan policy analysis.
- Funding for the National Library Service Books for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) increases 3 percent in FY26 to \$68 million, keeping pace with the agency’s average growth rate of +3 percent from FY21 through FY26, which average +3 percent annually, as rising technology and outreach costs continue to put pressure on the availability of print and audio materials for disabled patrons. Committee Democrats support full funding of NLS.
- The USCO will be reduced 2 percent from FY25 enacted levels, dropping from \$103.1 million in FY25 (before offsetting collections) to \$101.5 million in FY26. This funding level, which is 10 percent lower than the USCO’s \$108.3 million FY26 request, will pose challenges for the USCO as it works to modernize copyright registration, recordation, and claims processes, as well as assess the impact of generative artificial intelligence on copyright.



Committee Democrats support full funding to enable important Library activities, programs, and initiatives associated including but not limited to:

- Increasing access to the Library and its collections, particularly through the Visitor Experience Initiative, the Stacks software platform, and renovations to the Thomas Jefferson Building;
- CRS operations, including diversity/inclusion, staff morale, attrition rates, work conditions, resource allocation, and administrative support for subject matter experts;
- Continued modernization of USCO, including development and implementation of the Enterprise Copyright System and further study of the copyright issues, legal challenges, and potential areas for congressional action, expansion of the Licensing Modernization Initiative, and further study of the challenges and opportunities associated with the rapid development of generative artificial intelligence;
- Continued modernization of the Library's information technology, consistent with guidance from the Government Accountability Office;
- Activities of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, including efforts to increase the number of users and plan a move to a new physical headquarters; and
- Closing open Library Inspector General recommendations.

### **Smithsonian Institution**

The Smithsonian Institution is an independent quasi-federal agency consisting of museum, education, research, and revenue generating entities with facilities and activities across the United States and world. Founded by Congress in 1846, the Smithsonian is governmental in nature but organizationally separate and distinct from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. Approximately 70 percent of the Smithsonian's budget comes from federal appropriations, while 30 percent comes from private support. Proposed FY26 funding for the Smithsonian Institution is \$961.3 million, decreasing nearly 12 percent below the \$1.09 billion enacted in FY25.

Unfortunately, the Smithsonian is also under attack by the Trump Administration. In addition to the proposed 12 percent overall funding decrease, the White House issued a flawed "executive order" outlining its alarming plan to remove exhibits it deems to be based upon "corrosive ideology," and even sought to terminate Smithsonian personnel, including the Director of the National Portrait Gallery.

Remarkably, the White House appears to view the history of slavery in the United States as inappropriate for the Smithsonian, as President Trump has publicly expressed disapproval of exhibits addressing "how bad slavery was."<sup>9</sup>

Committee Democrats support full funding for the Smithsonian, particularly with respect to the construction of the National Museum of the American Latino and American Women's History Museum. Both museums were authorized through the efforts of Committee Democrats during the 116<sup>th</sup> and 117<sup>th</sup> Congresses, and we remain committed to ensuring both museums take their rightfully places on the National Mall. In addition, Committee Democrats support robust funding for:

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<sup>9</sup> Lalee Ibssa, *Trump says Smithsonian should focus on America's 'Brightness,' not 'how bad Slavery was'*, ABC NEWS (Aug. 19, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-smithsonian-portray-americas-brightness-bad-slavery/story?id=124788598>.

- Efforts to improve workplace culture, particularly at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI);
- Efforts to protect Smithsonian facilities and collections from the effects of climate change, including implementation of the Smithsonian’s Climate Change Action Plan;
- Continued renovations at the National Air and Space Museum;
- Expansion of the Smithsonian Affiliates Program;
- Collaboration with rural and tribal stakeholders via initiatives including the Rural Needs Sensing Project, representing rural history, culture, and community in educationally enriching experiences;
- Working with indigenous communities to observe ethical archaeological principles and execute successful repatriation efforts;
- Initiatives to improve diversity at the Smithsonian, both at senior employment levels and in exhibits/collections; and
- Efforts to improve access to the Smithsonian through traveling exhibitions and digital resources.

### **Government Publishing Office**

The Government Publishing Office (GPO) is a legislative branch agency responsible for producing, procuring, cataloging, indexing, authenticating, disseminating, and preserving the official information products of the Federal Government. Such information products include the official publications of Congress and the White House, passports, and the official publications of other Federal agencies and the courts.

The FY26 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill provides a 3 percent increase over FY25, bringing GPO to \$135 million. Committee Democrats support full funding to support important GPO activities, programs, and initiatives including but not limited to:

- Digitization of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP);
- Continued work related to the Committee Print Project;
- XPub system development;
- Enhancing cybersecurity based on an evolving threat environment; and
- Exploring potential applications and governance of AI and large language models at GPO in areas including process automation, screening for personally identifiable information (PII), and quality assurance image analysis;
- Hire and train staff to meet publishing demands for the semiquincentennial and national elections
- Continuing improvements to GovInfo, including new content collections, enhanced accessibility, electronic submission of Congressionally Mandated Reports, and improved discoverability of hosted information; and
- Meeting Congressional printing requirements.

### **United States Capitol Police**

The United States Capitol Police Department (Department) is responsible for policing the Capitol Buildings and Grounds under the direction of the Capitol Police Board. This includes protecting Members, staff, visitors, and facilities so that Congress can fulfill its constitutional and legislative responsibilities safely, securely, and transparently.

The proposed FY26 appropriation raises USCP funding by 10 percent to \$890 million—a critical investment to meet escalating security demands. Committee Democrats support the requisite funding to ensure the safety of Members, their families, visitors, and staff. Important activities, programs, and initiatives associated with this funding include, but are not limited to:

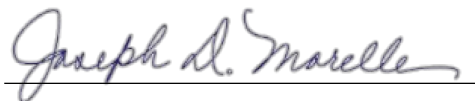
- Mitigating the unprecedented and increasing number of threats made to Members of Congress;
- Efforts to improve security for Members of Congress outside Washington, DC, including in their districts and in transit;
- Reimbursing state, local, and federal law enforcement partners for providing mutual aid;
- Continued overhaul of the Training Services Bureau, including opportunities for in service training and leadership training, as well as procedures for quality control;
- Expansion of the Howard C. “Howie” Liebengood Center for Wellness;
- Improving recruitment and retention so that all authorized officer slots are filled;
- Ensuring readiness for National Security Special Events;
- Strengthening cyber defense and threat monitoring;
- Increasing the Department’s intelligence capabilities and competencies;
- Further expansion of the Civil Disturbance Unit and specialized training programs;
- Continued improvements to relationships with National Capitol Region law enforcement partners;
- Adoption of technological innovations like artificial intelligence;
- Replacing outdated or ineffective equipment; and
- Continued use of contract security officers to augment the Department’s workforce.

### **Office of Congressional Workplace Rights**

The Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) was established to administer the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA). The office administers a range of federal workplace regulations applying to the legislative branch, including the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act<sup>1</sup>, Fair Labor Standards Act<sup>2</sup>, and Federal Employee Paid Leave Act<sup>3</sup>. Its mission is to advance workplace rights, safety, and health for employees in the legislative branch, as well as ensure accessibility for members of the public.

The Office of Congressional Workplace Rights is reduced 3 percent in FY26, bringing its funding down from \$8.59 million in FY 25 enacted levels to \$8.35 million. Committee Democrats support full funding for OCWR to support important activities, programs, and initiatives associated with this funding request include, but are not limited to:

- Confidential advising;
- Hearings and mediations;
- Safety and health inspections;
- Unfair labor practice investigations;
- Family and medical leave benefits;
- Facilitating the employment and reemployment of servicemembers and veterans;
- Americans with Disabilities Act investigations; and
- Improvements to cybersecurity capabilities.



Joseph D. Morelle  
Ranking Member  
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