



Chairman Kevin Yoder

*Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations*

FY2019 LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP – April 26, 2018

CHAIRMAN YODER'S OPENING STATEMENT

The subcommittee has been very busy these last two months finishing up fiscal year 2018 and diving into 2019. We considered 215 requests from Members of Congress and just finished up yesterday with our 9th hearing of the season.

The recommendation for the fiscal year 2019 Legislation Branch Appropriations bill provides \$3.8 billion, excluding Senate items, which historically are left to the Senate to determine. This bill is \$78 million below the agency requested levels. Priorities were placed on security, transparency, and reducing the deferred maintenance list for the Capitol campus to include security projects and other critical infrastructure needs.

We also placed a major emphasis on listening to Member's priorities and testimony from outside witnesses and included as many of the requests as possible. We hope this openness in our own Committee has set a tone for what can be done throughout Congress.

I will summarize the recommendations before us today:

House of Representatives

The bill includes \$1.232 billion for the operations of the House. This is \$28 million below the request but I'm confident in the House's ability to achieve their mission at that level.

The level of funding for Member's Representational Allowances will allow for increased levels as authorized by the Committee on House Administration.

This is extremely hard work, time consuming, but also rewarding. I'm sure my fellow Subcommittee members agree.

While we do this work, we are not simply rewarding ourselves as some may think. This bill preserves, for the tenth consecutive year, the prohibition on pay increases for Members of Congress. The House will operate at 10% below fiscal year 2010 levels.

Capitol Police

\$456.358 million is provided for the Capitol Police. This funding level will provide the necessary resources for the Capitol Police to fund officers hired last year and hire additional

officers to staff garage security and limited prescreening. These men and women defend all of us and our constituents every day. We're so grateful for their service.

Office of Compliance

\$5.4 million is provided for the Office of Compliance. These funds will help address the increase in requests for in-person training, enhancements to the on-line training modules, and help address the overall increase in caseload.

Congressional Budget Office

The bill includes the request of \$50.7 million for the Congressional Budget Office. These funds will allow CBO to increase responsiveness and analytical capacity.

Architect of the Capitol

The Subcommittee recognizes the continuing challenge of preserving and maintaining the infrastructure on the Capitol campus. Included is \$642 million for the Architect of the Capitol, excluding Senate items.

We focused significant funding on infrastructure with the understanding that a measure of preventative maintenance will save money in the long haul.

Additionally, \$10 million is included for the Revitalization Trust Fund to finance major repairs and renovations to House Office Buildings in future years.

Library of Congress

The bill includes \$709.878 million for the Library of Congress. \$20 million is provided towards the visitor experience project at the Thomas Jefferson Building. I think the Committee was impressed with Dr. Carla Hayden's presentation yesterday regarding the operations of the Library, and I know this project will be an educational and uplifting experience for Americans, especially children, from all walks of life.

Full funding is provided towards the modernization of the Copyright Office and some additional FTE's for Congressional Research Service to address responsiveness to Congress and expanded analytical capacity.

Government Publishing Office

The bill includes \$117 million for the Government Publishing Office. We again commend the GPO for their ability to do more with less, their funding has slightly decreased which is a testament to their adoption of technology and extremely hard work.

Government Accountability Office

The bill includes \$579 million for the Government Accountability Office. Their funding is steady from fiscal year 2018 and will allow them to continue to assist Congress in making smart policy decisions.

Again, I would like to thank Ranking Member Ryan for his role throughout the process as well as appreciation to all the members of the Subcommittee for their participation in the process this year.

It has been an extreme pleasure working with Mr. Ryan and I'd venture that if all Committees could work with our level of collegiality that Congress would be a better functioning institution.

Finally, thank you to our Full Committee Chairman and Ranking Member for being here today.

###