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DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2018

JULY 27, 2017.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1662]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 1662) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

Total obligational authority, fiscal year 2018

Total of bill as reported to the Senate ¹	\$65,022,000,000
Amount of 2017 appropriations	65,218,000,000
Amount of 2018 budget estimate	59,941,833,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2017 appropriations	– 196,000,000
2018 budget estimate	+ 5,080,167,000

¹ This level does not include –\$11,317,000,000 in adjustments that the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] scores to the bill. With these scorekeeping adjustments, the bill totals \$53,366,000,000 in discretionary budget authority.

CONTENTS

	Page
Purpose of the Bill	3
Summary of the Bill	3
Fighting Waste, Fraud, and Abuse	5
Reprogrammings, Reorganizations, and Relocations	6
Congressional Budget Justifications	7
Reporting Requirements	8
Reductions-in-Force	8
Appropriations Liaisons	8
Title I: Department of Commerce	9
Title II: Department of Justice	58
Title III: Science	100
Office of Science and Technology Policy	100
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	101
National Science Foundation	114
Title IV: Related Agencies	122
Commission on Civil Rights	122
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	122
International Trade Commission	123
Legal Services Corporation	124
Marine Mammal Commission	124
Office of the United States Trade Representative	125
State Justice Institute	126
Title V: General Provisions	127
Compliance With Paragraph 7, Rule XVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate	130
Compliance With Paragraph 7(c) Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate	133
Compliance With Paragraph 12, Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate	134
Budgetary Impact of Bill	134
Comparative Statement of Budget Authority	135

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The bill provides funding for: (1) the Department of Commerce [DOC]; (2) the Department of Justice [DOJ]; (3) several independent science agencies: the Office of Science and Technology Policy [OSTP], the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA], and the National Science Foundation [NSF]; and (4) several related commissions and agencies: the Commission on Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission [EEOC], the International Trade Commission [ITC], the Legal Services Corporation [LSC], the Marine Mammal Commission, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and the State Justice Institute [SJI].

SUMMARY OF THE BILL

The total amount of discretionary budget authority recommended by the Committee for fiscal year 2018 is \$53,366,000,000, which is \$3,189,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

The Committee's recommendation is consistent with the allocation for the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. Within these boundaries, the Committee has achieved a careful balance between the competing priorities of law enforcement, national security, economic development, scientific research, and space exploration.

The Department of Commerce is charged with addressing several critical functions for our nation, which include: operating weather satellites and forecasting severe storms; enforcing trade laws to ensure American businesses can compete on a level playing field; completing a timely and accurate census; working with distressed communities to spur economic development; and properly managing our Nation's fisheries. The President's fiscal year 2018 request for the Department of Commerce is \$1,423,270,000 below the 2017 enacted level, representing a 15-percent cut in the department's budget. While the bill adopts some of the requested cost saving measures, the Committee does not support some of the proposed cuts to core programs, such as advanced weather forecasting operations and research. The administration also proposes to eliminate important external competitive grant programs that partner with States and local communities across the nation, and which use matching funds to maximize any Federal investment. In contrast, the bill retains many of these grant programs which allow States and communities to steer financial priorities through a bottom-up approach instead of Federal agencies driving local decisions from afar.

The constantly changing landscape of criminal activity at home and abroad tests the Department of Justice's ability to deal with emerging threats. The Committee believes that our Federal law enforcement agencies must work together—particularly in tough

budget environments—to focus limited resources in a manner that safeguards taxpayer dollars while preserving public safety. Despite the overall reduction in discretionary spending in fiscal year 2018, this bill provides increased funding for Federal law enforcement agencies, United States Attorneys, and the Executive Office for Immigration Review, while maintaining strong funding for State and local justice grants.

The bill provides \$3,636,000,000 to victims and victim services through the Crime Victims Fund [CVF], which is \$1,063,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$636,000,000 above the request. The Committee notes that the Congressional Budget Office estimates of the fund's annual collections increased in fiscal year 2018. The Committee has ensured that the amount disbursed from the fund matches the 3-year average of deposits into the CVF, a metric for CVF spending that has been called for by the Senate Budget Committee.

While the Committee strives to disburse the appropriate amounts to victims and survivors of victims, the Committee is also mindful of the nature of collections deposited into the fund. The CVF was established to receive a broad array of different types of collections from offenders convicted of Federal crimes including criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys' Offices. However, the dramatic increase in deposits into the fund during fiscal year 2017 highlights the need for accountability to monitor the scope of funds deposited into the CVF compared to other accounts in the Treasury that receive similar settlements. Therefore, the Committee directs that the DOJ submit a quarterly report to the Committee detailing the amount and source of each deposit made into the Fund.

Balancing the Committee's consistent support for increased CVF spending with the Committee's concerns for fiscal oversight, this bill once again offsets \$379,000,000 from the CVF for victim-related discretionary grants in the DOJ's State and local accounts. The stagnant fiscal climate, coupled with high spending out of the CVF and increased demand to provide higher funding for grant programs, makes supporting important victim-related programs with discretionary funding unsustainable. As a result of this offset, overall funding for all of these DOJ grant programs, which are widely supported by many members of the Committee, remains close to the fiscal year 2017 enacted levels in this bill.

For the science agencies, the administration proposes a reduction of 3 percent below the fiscal year 2017 spending level to NASA, and 11 percent to NSF. This budget request attempts to navigate a challenging fiscal environment, but the deep cuts to these science agencies would dramatically curtail ongoing missions and research, and, for NASA, delay future exploration for years to come. While leveraging some strategic reductions, this bill makes it possible for NASA and NSF to achieve balanced and cost-effective operations. NASA in particular will have sufficient financial resources to achieve its management plans and launch schedules for the agency's science and exploration missions, many of which will reach critical stages of development during fiscal year 2018.

FIGHTING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

The departments, agencies, boards, and commissions funded in this bill can and should continue to reduce operating expenses by placing greater scrutiny on overhead costs. Savings can and should be achieved by reducing non-essential travel, office supply, rent, and utility costs. The Committee also calls on departments, agencies, boards, and commissions funded in this bill to continue to achieve savings by lowering travel contractor costs related to air fares. The Committee continues longstanding restrictions on first class travel.

The Committee is extremely concerned about the persistent pattern of cost overruns and schedule slippages on major projects and missions carried out by the agencies within this bill. In addition, reports have exposed a culture within many agencies that exhibits a lack of accountability and oversight of grant funding. Therefore, the Committee has continued bill-wide provisions to ensure greater oversight and fiscal responsibility of taxpayer dollars.

First, the bill requires each agency to notify the Committee immediately upon identification of program cost overruns greater than 10 percent.

Second, the bill requires the Inspectors General of the Departments of Commerce and Justice, NASA, NSF, and the Legal Services Corporation to conduct reviews of grant and contract funds to ensure funds are being spent appropriately. For projects with persistent accountability issues, such as the decennial census and weather satellites, special funding is provided for additional Inspector General scrutiny.

Third, the bill requires all departments and agencies to link all contracts that provide award fees to successful acquisition outcomes, and prohibits funds to pay for award or incentive fees for contractors with below satisfactory performance.

The Committee also supports long-standing provisions that were once solely included in this bill but have since become government-wide provisions. These include: requiring each department, agency, board, and commission funded in this act to report spending on large conferences to the Inspectors General for audit; requiring all departments and agencies funded in this act to provide full access to documents and data for their respective Inspectors General to conduct investigations and audits; and prohibiting funds from being used for contracts, memoranda of understanding, cooperative agreements, grants, or loan activities if the proposed recipient has unpaid Federal tax liabilities or was convicted of a felony criminal violation.

Finally, the Committee intends to continue to work with the Government Accountability Office [GAO] to expand the review of selected large-scale acquisition and construction projects. Specifically, the Committee directs ongoing GAO reviews of large NASA projects, major research equipment and facilities construction at the National Science Foundation, and separate reviews of the James Webb Space Telescope, with reports to the Committee on a biannual basis.

Agencies shall provide access to all necessary data, as determined by the GAO, in order for these reviews to be completed and

provided in a timely manner to the Committee. The Committee believes that these project status reports are valuable in identifying cost overrun and schedule slippage problems early so they can be addressed immediately and has used information in the reviews to develop this recommendation.

Representation Funds.—The Committee has reduced official reception and representation funds by 25 percent since fiscal year 2011. Modest representation funds are included for agency executives to provide necessary courtesies to our diplomatic partners and hold events to honor fallen officers, or to mark historic occasions such as space exploration missions or significant discoveries. However, savings can and should be achieved by reducing the costs of executive meetings, receptions, ceremonies, and conferences, and by purchasing fewer promotional items such as T-shirts, hats, mugs, key chains, and other similar items.

Federal Vehicle Fleet Management.—The General Services Administration [GSA] issues guidance on Federal fleet management, but the Federal vehicle fleet is decentralized, with each agency maintaining flexibility to manage vehicle utilization as appropriate. In order to provide better transparency and accountability of funding for Federal vehicles, the Committee directs agencies funded in this bill to conduct an annual review of fleet utilization during the third quarter of each fiscal year and provide their corresponding Offices of Inspectors General [OIGs] with supporting documentation on the method used for determining optimal fleet inventories and justification for any deviation from GSA's Federal Property Management Regulations. OIGs shall be responsible for conducting annual audits of fleet management practices and make the subsequent results for non-law enforcement sensitive agencies publicly available.

Reducing Duplication and Improving Efficiencies.—The Committee directs each agency funded in this bill to report to the Committee, within 1 year of enactment of this act, on all efforts made to address the duplication of Federal programs identified by annual GAO reports along with identifying substantive challenges and legal barriers to implementing GAO's recommendations, along with suggested legislative recommendations that could help the agency to further reduce duplication.

REPROGRAMMINGS, REORGANIZATIONS, AND RELOCATIONS

Section 505, contained in the "General Provisions" of title V, provides procedures for the reprogramming of funds. To reprogram is to change the use of funds from the specific purposes provided for in the act and the accompanying report or, in the absence of direction from the Committee, from the specific purposes provided for in the administration's budget request. Each title of the bill has also traditionally included separate provisions that define permissible transfers of resources between appropriation accounts. These transfer authority provisions are also pursuant to section 505 and were initiated in the early 1990s to provide additional flexibility to the agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction.

The Committee expects each department and agency to closely follow the reprogramming procedures listed in section 505. These procedures apply to funds provided under this act, provided under

previous appropriations acts that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2018, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury available to the agencies funded by this act. Section 505 requires that the Committee on Appropriations be notified by letter, at least 15 days prior to reprogramming of funds, whether permanent or temporary, in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, between programs, projects, or activities. Section 505 of this act is also applicable in cases where funding for an activity is reduced by 10 percent. In addition, the Committee is to be notified of reprogramming actions which are less than these amounts if such actions would have the effect of: committing the agency to significant funding requirements in future years; increasing funds or personnel by any means for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been previously denied or restricted by Congress; creating new programs, offices, agencies, or commissions or substantially augmenting existing programs, offices, agencies, or commissions; relocating offices or employees; or reorganizing offices, programs, or activities.

The Committee also expects that any items that are subject to interpretation will be reported. The Committee expects that each department and agency funded in the bill will follow these notification policies precisely and will not reallocate resources or reorganize activities prior to submitting the required notifications to the Committee. Reprogramming or transfer requests shall be submitted only in the case of an unforeseen emergency or situation that could not have been anticipated when formulating the budget request for the current fiscal year.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS

The Committee directs that all departments and agencies funded within this bill shall submit all of their fiscal year 2019 budget justifications concurrently with the official submission of the administration's budget to Congress. Further, all departments and agencies with classified programs funded within this act are directed to submit their classified budget justification documents to the Committee, through appropriate means, at the same time the unclassified budget justifications are transmitted.

These justifications shall include a sufficient level of detailed data, exhibits, and explanatory statements to support the appropriations requests, including tables that outline each agency's programs, projects, and activities for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. For example, when requesting an enhancement of resources, the justification should detail the existing program and what the new resources would buy. The Committee directs the chief financial officer of each department or agency funded in this act's jurisdiction to ensure that adequate justification is given to each increase, decrease, and staffing and function change proposed in the fiscal year 2019 budget, particularly within the departmental operations and management accounts.

The Committee expects that the fiscal year 2019 submissions will include sufficient detail to justify all programs, projects, and activities contained in each department, agency, or commission budget request. Budget justifications are prepared not for the use of the agencies but are the primary tool of the Committee to evaluate the

resource requirements and proposals requested by the administration.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Committee directs the departments and agencies funded in this bill to submit reports by the deadlines detailed herein or to provide advance notification if there is sufficient reason why deadlines cannot be met, along with the expected date of submission.

The Committee also recognizes that some enduring reporting requirements from previous Appropriations laws may no longer be necessary for Congressional oversight purposes. In the interest of reducing government waste and expediting responses to current report mandates, each department or agency is invited to submit a list of reporting requirements that it considers outdated or no longer relevant for the review of the Committees on Appropriations. Any list submitted for review shall cite the original authority as well as a justification for eliminating each reporting requirement.

REDUCTIONS-IN-FORCE

The Committee directs departments or agencies funded in the accompanying bill that are planning to conduct a reduction-in-force to notify the Committee in writing 30 days in advance of the date of the proposed personnel action.

APPROPRIATIONS LIAISONS

The Committee prefers to channel the majority of its inquiries and requests for information and assistance through the budget offices or comptroller offices of the departments and agencies which it oversees but reserves the right to call upon any individual or organization in any agency under its jurisdiction.

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Committee recommends a total of \$9,160,528,000 for the Department of Commerce [DOC]. The recommendation is \$76,441,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$1,346,829,000 above the budget request.

The Department of Commerce is responsible for a variety of activities critical to our Nation's well-being, including economic development, intellectual property protection, standards and measurements, trade enforcement, weather forecasting, and fisheries management. Our Nation relies on the Department to maintain America's competitiveness within today's foreign markets while promoting and expanding international trade opportunities. The Department brings together a diverse set of bureaus, specialized experts, research laboratories, and applied technology programs to support and expand opportunities for growth in the private sector. Few departments have such potential to directly impact the strength and sustainability of our communities and local businesses.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2017	\$495,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	455,500,000
Committee recommendation	495,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$495,000,000 for the International Trade Administration [ITA]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$39,500,000 above the budget request. The discretionary appropriation is offset by \$13,000,000 in fee collections.

Offsetting Fee Collections.—ITA shall continue to identify and include an accurate assessment of expected fee collections and corresponding expenditures in its fiscal year 2018 spending plan and in its fiscal year 2019 budget request.

Trade Enforcement.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance. ITA should make enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duties [AD/CVD] a priority, including thoroughly investigating dumping and subsidies causing injury to domestic businesses and expeditiously reducing trade remedy case backlogs.

Additionally, the Committee is supportive of the Administration's request to self-initiate AD/CVD cases, as is authorized under current law. The process of preparing and filing a petition is time-consuming and expensive and, frequently, industry has already suffered injury in order to meet the statutory standard for initiating

an AD/CVD investigation. ITA is encouraged to use funding under Enforcement and Compliance to provide direct assistance to industries in support of self-initiated cases and other AD/CVD enforcement.

Trade Fraud and Evasion.—The Committee encourages ITA to coordinate with appropriate agencies, such as Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the International Trade Commission, and the Departments of Justice and State, in order to report to the Committee on legislative remedies that may be needed to support U.S. Government-wide efforts to combat trade fraud and evasion.

Additionally, the Committee notes that funding formerly requested for the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center has been moved from ITA to the Office of the United States Trade Representative for the Interagency Center on Trade Implementation, Monitoring, and Enforcement, following passage of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–125). As such, no funds are provided for these activities in ITA, but ITA shall continue to collaborate with all other Federal trade agencies to ensure U.S. trade laws and agreements are enforced fairly.

U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service.—The U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service [US&FCS] provides significant value to U.S. businesses looking to expand overseas export opportunities. The Committee rejects the proposed cuts to the US&FCS and directs ITA to fund US&FCS, and its core mission of export promotion, at the highest possible level in fiscal year 2018, and at no less than the amount provided in fiscal year 2017. At this funding level, the Committee does not anticipate the closure of any foreign or domestic offices. No offices shall be closed in fiscal year 2018 unless the Committee approves a reprogramming request to close such office or offices. Additionally, the Committee will not approve requests to close any domestic offices, called U.S. Export Assistance Centers, if such Center is the only one located in a given State.

Additionally, ITA is directed to submit, in its fiscal year 2018 spending plan and 2019 budget request, a breakdown of Global Markets funding for the US&FCS and for other activities.

Report on Export Successes.—The Committee directs ITA to submit, not more than 90 days after enactment of this act, a plan to account for and publish U.S. export successes resulting from interactions with the US&FCS or other entities at ITA, to include information relating to industry, value, and States involved in such exports.

SelectUSA.—Up to \$10,00,000 is provided for SelectUSA, except that none of the funds provided may be used to facilitate foreign direct investment in the United States unless an updated protocol to ensure that SelectUSA activities do not encourage such investments in the United States by State-owned entities is delivered to the Committee within 30 days of enactment of this act.

China AD/CVD.—The Committee provides no less than \$16,400,000 for China AD/CVD enforcement and compliance activities.

Capture and Trade Enforcement.—The Committee has long supported and valued the importance of trade enforcement for ensuring American businesses and products can enter the global market-

place on a level playing field. The objectivity of trade officials at ITA is essential for the success of our trade enforcement laws. The Committee is aware that the nature of trade enforcement activities involves the risk of “capture,” which is the process in which regulating officials begin to identify with regulated parties. Capture is often unintentional and develops over long periods of time, but can significantly influence regulators’ decisionmaking. To better ensure the objectivity of enforcement decisions against foreign entities, including decisions not to enforce trade laws, the Committee directs ITA to provide a report to the Committee and the Office of Inspector General [OIG] reviewing the policies and procedures the agency has in place to prevent capture of its Enforcement and Compliance employees. The report shall focus on those employees that interact most often with foreign regulated parties and the risk of capture for these types of employees with regard to the foreign businesses they regulate, and shall be delivered to the Committee and the OIG within 180 days of enactment of this act.

Survey of International Air Travelers [SIAT].—The Committee does not adopt the administration’s proposal to seek alternative funding sources for SIAT and directs ITA to continue funding SIAT out of its base budget. Within funds provided, ITA is encouraged to increase the sample size for SIAT.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2017	\$112,500,000
Budget estimate, 2018	113,500,000
Committee recommendation	112,500,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$112,500,000 for the Bureau of Industry and Security [BIS]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$1,000,000 below the budget request.

BIS is the principal agency involved in the development, implementation, and enforcement of export controls for commercial technologies and for many military technologies as a result of the President’s export control reform initiative. The Export Enforcement Division detects, prevents, investigates, and assists in the sanctioning of illegal exports of such items.

Export Control Reform.—The Committee recognizes the importance of completing the Export Control Reform Initiative, which is designed to enhance U.S. national security and the competitiveness of American businesses in the global economy by simplifying and streamlining the export control system. The Committee directs BIS to continue to work with the Department of State, in consultation with the Senate Committees on Appropriations, Foreign Relations, and Banking, and with other interested parties to conclude work on the remaining categories on the U.S. Munitions List and directs the Department to provide a summary of its progress within 180 days of enactment of this act.

Restrictive Regulations.—The Committee recognizes the rapid growth of technologies controlled under Category XII of the U.S. Munitions List and Category 6 of the Commerce Control List [CCL]. Photonic components such as optics, sensors, fibers, lasers,

photodetectors, and light modulators constitute \$182,000,000,000 global industry, supporting 190,000 jobs in the United States alone. Overly restrictive regulation on dual-use technologies create barriers to business, research, and workforce development for U.S. manufacturers and exporters. Well-written, precise regulations that account for international availability and commercial uses of controlled technologies are critical to U.S. competitiveness, especially for small- and mid-size companies in the United States.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2017	\$276,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	30,000,000
Committee recommendation	254,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$254,000,000 for the Economic Development Administration [EDA]. The recommendation is \$22,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$224,000,000 above the budget request.

EDA provides grants to local governments and nonprofit agencies for public works, planning, and other projects designed to facilitate economic development. The Committee directs EDA to coordinate with regional development organizations to support projects that will address some of the pressing issues that challenge rural economic development, including the opioid epidemic and inequities in broadband access. Funding amounts for the two appropriations accounts under this heading are displayed below.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2017	\$237,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	
Committee recommendation	215,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$215,000,000 for Economic Development Assistance Programs. The recommendation is \$22,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$215,000,000 above the budget request. EDA is directed to focus on its core programs and mission to aid the most distressed communities across the country. The Committee expects EDA to use all available carryover and prior year recoveries to the maximum extent possible. EDA shall consider geographic equity in making all award decisions and shall ensure that rural projects are adequately represented among those selected for funding. Of the amounts provided, funds are to be distributed as follows, and any deviation of funds shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 505 of this act:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Public Works	100,00
Economic Adjustment Assistance	37,000
Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms	13,000
Regional Innovation Program	21,000
Partnership Planning	33,000
Technical Assistance	9,500

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Research and Evaluation	1,500
Total	215,000

Economic Adjustment Assistance [EAA].—EAA is EDA’s most flexible economic development program, which provides access to appropriate funding for everything from disaster recovery to business accelerators and incubators. Within funding for EAA, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level to support EDA’s collaborations with the Delta Regional Authority and the Appalachian Regional Commission to assist distressed communities. In addition, \$3,000,000 is provided for EDA to collaborate with the Northern Border Regional Commission to support the development of markets for wood products. The Committee encourages EDA to work with communities researching and developing new construction technologies, such as engineered wood products.

Historic Railroad Corridors.—The Committee notes that projects to preserve historic railroad corridors through development of shared-use pedestrian, bicycle, and transit paths may be eligible for EDA funding. EDA is encouraged to consider such projects when consistent with a region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

Regional Innovation Program [RIP].—The Committee provides \$21,000,000 to EDA for grants under RIP as authorized under the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–235). RIP awards competitive grants to regional entities in support of innovation and entrepreneurship. EDA shall continue to ensure that RIP awards go to multiple grantees in multiple and diverse geographic areas, including an increased focus on organizations and States that have not previously received funding from the program. Furthermore, within funds provided for RIP, EDA shall award not less than 40 percent of grants to support rural communities.

University-based Business Incubators.—Within funding provided under RIP, the Committee directs EDA to invest in university-based, high-tech business incubators to encourage entrepreneurship and promote technology commercialization through business startups. Funding awards should include support for incubator projects where Federal labs and universities are collaborating to stimulate commercialization of research. Furthermore, this activity should support private-public partnerships for economic growth and job creation in areas of high unemployment.

New Forest Products.—The Committee notes that many forest-based economies have experienced disruption and decline in recent years. EDA is encouraged to work with communities and regions that have been adversely impacted by rapid changes in the timber marketplace and to support projects that help these communities develop related industries, including commercialization of new forest products using low-grade wood. This work may include the co-

ordination of economic development efforts across multiple States or Economic Development Districts. Additionally, the Committee reiterates that communities facing job losses are eligible for all EDA programs.

Denali Commission Federal Co-Chairperson.—The Committee notes that under the Denali Commission’s enabling statute, the Federal Co-chairperson is specifically granted authority to respond to the Commission’s work plan and is required to do so not later than 30 days after such plan has been published in the Federal Register. The Committee believes that the requirements of this statute might be met more efficiently by housing the Federal Co-chairperson in the Office of the Secretary. Not later than 45 days following enactment of this act, the Department shall review and report to the Committee on ways in which the Commission’s work plans will be consistently and more efficiently responded to by the statutory deadline.

STEM apprenticeships.—The Committee notes that over the past decade, the growth in jobs requiring sophisticated science, technology, engineering, and math [STEM] skills was three times faster than growth in non-STEM jobs. Yet, U.S. employers have struggled to fill jobs in these fields. Because more than 50 percent of jobs that require STEM skills do not require a bachelor’s degree, non-traditional higher education, such as apprenticeships, will be instrumental in meeting the urgent demand for a STEM-literate workforce. The Committee encourages EDA to provide grants to communities to create and expand STEM apprenticeship and other workforce training models, as directed in section 312 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, Public Law 114–329.

Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership Program [IMCP].—The Committee notes that no funding has been requested and no funding is provided for the IMCP for fiscal year 2018.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$39,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	30,000,000
Committee recommendation	39,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$39,000,000 for salaries and expenses. The recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$9,000,000 above the budget request.

The Committee is concerned by the number of vacancies at EDA, particularly in its six regional offices. The Department is reminded that budget requests to Congress do not supersede current appropriations, and the Committee directs EDA to expedite its efforts to fill all outstanding vacancies regardless of any current or future budget requests.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Appropriations, 2017	\$34,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	6,000,000
Committee recommendation	34,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$34,000,000 for the Minority Business Development Agency [MBDA]. The recommenda-

tion is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and is \$28,000,000 above the budget request. MBDA is the only Federal agency dedicated to promoting the growth of minority-owned firms and assists small, medium, and large minority business enterprises to increase revenues and create jobs.

Annual Report.—The Committee recognizes the disparities in access to capital for minority-owned firms and businesses, including lower loan amounts, loan denials, and liquidated constraints. MBDA is encouraged to submit an annual report to Congress on the state of minority-owned businesses, which may include policy recommendations to ensure fair access to credit between minority-owned businesses and non-minority-owned businesses.

Indian Tribes.—Within funds provided, MBDA is encouraged to address barriers to economic development for tribes and American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian populations, including full implementation of Public Laws 106–447 and 106–464.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$107,300,000
Budget estimate, 2018	97,000,000
Committee recommendation	99,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$99,000,000 for Economic and Statistical Analysis [ESA]. The recommendation is \$8,300,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$2,000,000 above the budget request. ESA conducts research to provide a better understanding of the U.S. economy, which helps Government make more informed policy decisions.

The Committee does not object to the Department’s proposed consolidation of the Economics and Statistics Administration and the Bureau of Economic Analysis [BEA]; however, the proposed consolidation will not be approved until a reprogramming package detailing the planned consolidation is approved by the Committee. The reprogramming should include additional information about the impacts of the consolidation, including whether Gross Domestic Product [GDP] estimates and other critical economic reports will be released by BEA or by the Office of the Secretary; an accounting of which positions will be moved to BEA or to the Office of the Secretary, or will be eliminated entirely; and how the Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs will oversee BEA, the Bureau of the Census, and activities conducted within the Office of the Secretary.

The Committee provides funding for continued development of the Regional Economic Dashboard, including improved local area statistics and providing GDP data by county. The Department is directed to continue development of these products. Additionally, the Committee encourages the Department to strengthen coordination with authorities and commissions, such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority, and Northern Border Regional Commission, to improve economic development reporting and support State and local decision makers who use these data products to catalyze private sector investments in rural and geographically challenged areas.

The Committee continues to support the Department's ongoing collaboration with the Federal Recreation Council and other Federal agencies to quantify the outdoor recreation sector's contributions to the U.S. economy and encourages the Department to prioritize existing resources to complete the analysis before the statutory deadline of December 8, 2018. The Department shall provide a written update on its efforts to fulfill the requirements of Public Law 114–249 within 30 days of enactment of this act, and semiannually thereafter, until such data products are released.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Appropriations, 2017	\$1,470,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	1,497,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,521,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$1,521,000,000 for the Census Bureau. The recommendation is \$51,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$24,000,000 above the budget request.

CURRENT SURVEYS AND PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2017	\$270,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	246,000,000
Committee recommendation	270,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$270,000,000 for current surveys and programs. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$24,000,000 above the budget request. This account provides for the salaries and expenses associated with the statistical programs of the Bureau of the Census, including measurement of the Nation's economy and the demographic characteristics of the population.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$1,200,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	1,251,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,251,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$1,251,000,000 for periodic censuses and programs. The recommendation is \$51,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

This account provides for the constitutionally mandated Decennial Census as well as other cyclical programs. Additionally, individual surveys are conducted for other Federal agencies on a reimbursable basis.

While the Committee provides the full requested amount for Periodic Censuses and Programs, the Committee is seriously concerned that the request may not be adequate to meet the Bureau's planning, testing, and development needs for the 2020 Decennial Census, particularly in light of the 47-percent increase in the lifecycle cost estimate for the Census Enterprise Data Collection and Processing [CEDCaP]. The Committee understands that the Secretary of Commerce and the Office of Management and Budget [OMB] are in the process of reexamining the budget request, and

the Committee will reevaluate any proposed changes to the request for Periodic Censuses and Programs when this assessment is complete. The Office of the Secretary and the Census Bureau are directed to work with OMB to complete their review as expeditiously as possible, and to consider the impact of fiscal year 2018 testing and development on total lifecycle cost.

To help ensure the Census Bureau is on track and managing its key decisions that still need to be made, Information Technology [IT] systems that need to be delivered, and risks that need to be managed, the Census Bureau shall provide the Committee and GAO with the following information not later than 60 days after enactment of this act: (1) a list of all operations and IT systems, functionality, or infrastructure still being considered for the 2020 Census; (2) a list of all operations and IT systems, functionality, or infrastructure being considered for the 2020 Census that will not be in the 2018 End-to-End Test, as well as the current estimates of when those elements will be operationally tested, if at all; (3) a list of all operations and IT systems, functionality, or infrastructure for which it is known that what or how it is being tested in the 2018 End-to-End test differs from what or how those elements will be used for the 2020 Census; (4) plans to manage and mitigate each “red” program-level risk identified for either the 2020 Census or CEDCaP programs; (5) a spend plan for the 2018 End-to-End Test, including quarter-by-quarter expected obligations, and (6) an updated life-cycle cost estimate for the 2020 Census.

Oversight of Periodic Census Programs.—The Committee’s recommendation provides \$2,580,000 for the OIG to continue oversight and audits of periodic censuses and to provide the Bureau and Congress with independent recommendations for improving operations, which will be useful for oversight of the 2020 Decennial Census. The Committee directs the Bureau to follow the OIG’s recommendations.

Quarterly Status Reports.—The Census Bureau is directed to continue its quarterly status reports to the Committee as it prepares for the 2020 Decennial Census. As the 2020 Decennial Census approaches, the Bureau is reminded that these quarterly reports must be scheduled on a timely basis to keep the Committee informed of the progress in executing the Bureau’s plans, to identify ongoing and emerging risks, and to provide early warnings when goals and cost schedules are not being achieved.

2020 Decennial Census.—The Census Bureau is directed to prioritize spending for activities that have the greatest potential to reduce cost and risk for the 2020 Decennial Census. Controlling costs for the 2020 Decennial Census remains a top oversight concern for the Committee. The Bureau shall continue to work to bring down the cost of the 2020 Decennial Census to a level less than the 2010 Census, not adjusting for inflation.

Administrative Records.—The Census Bureau plans to save money during the 2020 Decennial Census cycle by using existing records and data to reduce unnecessary and costly duplication and to conduct more efficient non-response follow up. The Bureau is directed to work with Federal, State, tribal, local, and other partners to obtain the necessary records. In order to identify progress and gaps in administrative records access, the Bureau is directed to

provide the Committee, within 30 days of enactment of this act, a report that details which records the Bureau currently has access to and which additional records the Bureau is seeking, including the purpose of each category of records, a summary of their impact on reducing cost or burden in the 2020 Decennial Census, and steps taken to acquire them.

Undercounting.—The Committee urges the Census Bureau to ensure that the impact of new enumeration methods do not negatively affect demographic groups identified in its 2010 Census Coverage Measurement Survey as undercounted and directs the Bureau to provide a report within 60 days of enactment of this act providing the measures that are being taken to ensure potential undercounts of these groups are appropriately mitigated.

American Community Survey [ACS].—The Committee supports the ACS and directs the Bureau to continue using the ACS as a testbed for innovative survey and data processing techniques that will help to save money and reduce risk during the 2020 Decennial Census cycle. The Committee also notes that ACS is often the primary or only source of data available to State, local, and Federal agencies that need adequate information on a wide range of topics, including the needs of veterans, retirees, and families with school-age children, in order to reliably serve those communities. The ACS is especially important to Americans who live in small towns and rural areas, as this survey often provides the only reliable and consistent source of information about these communities, and the Bureau should ensure that rural areas are covered with the same accuracy as urban areas to the maximum extent practicable. The Committee further expects the Bureau to continue providing updates to the Committee on efforts to evaluate and, where possible, to reduce the number of questions included in the ACS, and the steps being taken to ensure that the ACS is conducted as efficiently and unobtrusively as possible.

Local Service Organizations.—The Bureau should consider working with local service organizations as part of the overall strategy to maximize survey response, especially for homeless and displaced populations in rural areas.

Asian American and Pacific Islanders.—Within funds provided, the Bureau is encouraged to continue collecting data and reporting on the homeownership rates of Asian American and Pacific Islanders and to include this data in a separate column in the Census Quarterly Press Release on Homeownership Rates by Race and Ethnicity of Householder.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$32,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	36,000,000
Committee recommendation	32,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$32,000,000 for National Telecommunications and Information Administration [NTIA] salaries and expenses. The recommendation is the same as the fis-

cal year 2017 enacted level and \$4,000,000 below the budget request.

The Committee retains language from previous years allowing the Secretary of Commerce to collect reimbursements from other Federal agencies for a portion of the cost resulting from the coordination of spectrum management, analysis, and operations. NTIA shall submit a report to the Committee no later than June 1, 2018, detailing the collection of reimbursements from other agencies.

Next Generation Broadband in Rural Areas.—The Committee remains concerned that next-generation broadband technologies have not been sufficiently deployed in rural areas of the nation. The Committee directs NTIA, in coordination with the Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee and the Broadband Opportunity Council, to study the impact that next-generation broadband technologies can have on rural areas and to report to the Committee no later than 1 year after enactment of this act on policies to promote deployment of broadband technologies in rural areas, including identification of critical gaps in broadband access, hurdles to deployment, and establishment of goals and benchmarks by which to measure progress in future years.

Federal Spectrum Management.—The Committee directs NTIA to continue to evaluate options for repurposing spectrum for broadband in support of making 500 megahertz [MHz] of spectrum available for wireless broadband use. NTIA shall also provide the Committee with quarterly updates on the progress in making 500 MHz of spectrum available for commercial mobile use, including the strategy for freeing up additional spectrum from Federal agencies.

Accelerating Spectrum Transitions.—Permitting Federal entities to accept certain payments, including in-kind payments and services, from private entities may expedite the implementation of Federal transition plans after spectrum auctions. The Committee directs NTIA to evaluate whether permitting eligible Federal entities to accept such payments could result in access to auctioned spectrum frequencies sooner than would otherwise occur without such payments, including any necessary legislative changes. NTIA is directed to report to the Committee and to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation no later than 180 days after the enactment of this act on the results of its evaluation.

Spectrum Management for Science.—Preserving access to key portions of radio spectrum important for radio astronomy observations and other scientific uses is essential for scientific discovery. The Committee encourages NTIA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] and other appropriate stakeholders, to continue ensuring spectrum access for radio astronomy as commercial use of radio spectrum increases.

Low Power Television Translators.—The Committee directs NTIA to continue providing any requested technical assistance to the FCC in its efforts to address the needs of low power broadcasters.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers [ICANN].—The Committee directs NTIA to remain a strong advocate for American companies, consumers, and government interests through its participation within the Governmental Advisory Committee and other mechanisms within ICANN. The Committee di-

rects NTIA to ensure that the principles of accountability, transparency, security, and stability of the Internet are protected for consumers, businesses, and Government users. NTIA shall report semiannually to the Committee on adopted ICANN policies, including whether or not NTIA supported any changes, and to report on any changes that affect the .gov, .mil, .edu, and .us domains.

FirstNet.—The Committee is supportive of FirstNet continuing a funding agreement with the Department of Commerce’s Inspector General for the purposes of oversight and accountability of FirstNet through the end of fiscal year 2018.

PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, PLANNING, AND
CONSTRUCTION

The Committee provides bill language allowing NTIA to continue oversight and administration of previously awarded grants. NTIA shall not use unobligated balances to award new grants.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$3,230,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	3,500,000,000
Committee recommendation	3,500,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$3,500,000,000 for the United States Patent and Trademark Office [USPTO], which is \$270,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget request, to be derived from offsetting fee collections. Since fiscal year 2005, the Committee has refused to divert patent fees to other purposes.

USPTO examines patent applications, grants patent protection for qualified inventions, and disseminates technological information disclosed in patents. USPTO also examines trademark applications and provides Federal registration to owners of qualified trademarks.

Budget Execution.—The Committee continues to allow USPTO full access to patent and trademark fees and provides bill language allowing USPTO to retain any revenue in excess of appropriated levels.

Transfer to Office of Inspector General [OIG].—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for OIG to continue oversight and audits of USPTO operations and budget transparency, and USPTO is directed to work with the Department of Commerce to implement all OIG recommendations.

Reprogramming and Spend Plan.—USPTO shall follow the reprogramming procedures outlined in section 505 of this act before using excess fee collections to forward fund expenses beyond fiscal year 2018. Any deviations from the funding distribution provided for, including carryover balances, are subject to the standard reprogramming procedures set forth in section 505 of this act. USPTO is directed to provide, as part of the spending plan required in section 533 of this act, all carryover balances from previous fiscal years and a description of any changes to the patent

or trademark fee structure. Any changes from the spending plan shall also be subject to section 505 of this act. USPTO is directed to submit all reprogramming requests, spending plans, and budget justifications to the Committee through the Department of Commerce.

Intellectual Property [IP] Attachés.—The Committee is concerned by reports that USPTO’s IP attachés may not have adequate access to their foreign government counterparts and are not consistently involved in Embassy or consulate conversations regarding intellectual property matters. The Secretary is directed to work with USPTO, the US&FCS, and the Department of State to ensure that the attachés are appropriately utilized, including in discussions and negotiations at the Counselor rank and above.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2017	\$952,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	725,000,000
Committee recommendation	944,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$944,000,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST]. The recommendation is \$8,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$219,000,000 above the budget request. Up to \$9,000,000 may be transferred from the Scientific and Technical Research and Services account to the Working Capital Fund.

NIST’s mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

A description of each NIST account and the corresponding Committee recommendation follows in the subsequent three headings.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$690,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	600,000,000
Committee recommendation	695,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$695,000,000 for NIST Scientific and Technical Research and Services [STRS]. The recommendation is \$5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$95,000,000 above the budget request. The Committee directs NIST to provide a detailed spending plan for NIST’s highest priority laboratory programs describing resources used for each program, project, or activity.

Cybersecurity.—No less than the fiscal year 2017 amount is provided for cybersecurity research, outreach, industry partnerships, and other activities at NIST. Within funds provided, NIST is encouraged to update and enhance the NIST Cybersecurity Framework.

National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence [NCCoE].—The Committee is still awaiting the report directed in fiscal year 2017 regarding the NCCoE’s absorption of the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace mission, personnel, and funding. No less than \$33,000,000 is provided for the expanded NCCoE. NIST

shall provide a detailed accounting for the NCCoE's budget and activities in its fiscal year 2018 spend plan.

Internet of Things [IoT].—The Committee provides up to \$2,000,000 to develop an IoT cybersecurity research initiative and partner, as appropriate, with academic entities and industry to address vulnerabilities of IoT devices. The initiative shall seek to improve security of IoT devices in consumer and industrial settings, including new designs, protocols, algorithms, system architectures, identity and lifecycle strategies, system hardware features, and proposed security standards.

Forensic Sciences.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount for forensic science research. Additionally, the Committee provides \$3,000,000 to support the Organization of Scientific Area Committees and \$1,000,000 to support technical merit evaluations previously funded by transfer from DOJ.

Disaster Resilient Buildings.—The Committee continues to recognize the importance of industry and municipal standards to better mitigate the impact of natural disasters and extreme weather events. However, because the private sector can provide meaningful contributions to these advancements, the Committee believes this program should be reduced by not less than \$5,000,000 from the fiscal year 2017 enacted amount. Furthermore, no funding shall be provided through competitive external awards under STRS for Disaster Resilient Buildings.

Helmet Safety.—The Committee is aware of scientific data that demonstrates a correlation between football-related collisions and concussions, as well as other traumatic brain injuries that can lead to debilitating neural diseases such as dementia and chronic traumatic encephalopathy. The Committee encourages NIST to investigate an effective national testing standard to better scientifically understand the inadequacies of sports helmets while exploring future product designs that can safely reduce the neural risk of playing football, hockey, and other high-impact sports. The academic community has substantial knowledge of these issues and NIST should work cooperatively with the academic community by funding research for advanced helmets and equipment and in developing new testing standards to ensure player safety. Additionally, NIST should consider establishing an effective national testing standard to inform the development of youth-specific helmet safety standards.

Metals-Based Additive Manufacturing.—The Committee provides up to \$5,000,000 for competitive external grants for academic institutions to support research, development, and workforce training to overcome barriers to high-volume additive manufacturing of metals. While the Committee is aware of recent breakthroughs in metals-based additive manufacturing, major technical barriers still exist to dramatically improving build rates that would enable commercial markets to benefit from high-volume, metals-based additive manufacturing.

Plastics and Polymeric Materials.—The Committee recognizes the significant contributions that plastics have made to virtually all sectors of the economy, including in healthcare, infrastructure, food, and cosmetics, among many others. However, plastics take significant time to degrade in the environment due to their dura-

bility—a feature that makes them valuable for various societal uses. The Committee believes advancements in creating products from recycled plastics could provide a more sustainable option for their use. Many hurdles remain in manufacturing products from recycled plastics with the same strength, color, odor, and malleability of new plastic products. Therefore, the Committee provides up to \$5,000,000 for competitive external grants for academic institutions to investigate plastic and polymeric materials, as well as novel methods to characterize both known and newly developed materials. Such investigations should address ways to increase the strength of recycled plastics and better understand mechanical properties including tensile stress, compressive stress, thermal properties, and nanostructure of polymeric materials that could serve as industry standards for recycled plastic products.

Pyrrhotite in Concrete Aggregate.—NIST shall consider establishing standards for acceptable levels of pyrrhotite in concrete aggregate, and shall continue providing technical assistance to those interested in pyrrhotite detection, prevention, and mitigation tools.

Regenerative Medicine Standards.—The Committee recognizes the important role of standards in spurring the discovery and development of new, innovative therapies in regenerative medicine, cell and gene therapy. The Committee applauds NIST for its continued leadership and collaboration with the recently established Standards Coordinating Body [SCB], which facilitates standards development for the regenerative medicine, cell and gene therapy, and tissue engineering sectors. The Committee notes the SCB has formed a public-private partnership with NIST and encourages NIST to continue its work through the SCB with the Food and Drug Administration [FDA], regenerative medicine, cell and gene therapy product developers, contract manufacturers, standards development organizations, and other stakeholders. Further, as required under the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255), the Committee directs NIST to continue its work with FDA and relevant stakeholders to engage in a public process to come up with standards for the development, evaluation, and review of regenerative medicines.

Spectrum Challenge Prize.—The Committee encourages NIST, subject to the availability of funds, to conduct prize competitions to dramatically accelerate the development and commercialization of technology that improves spectrum efficiency and is capable of cost-effective deployment. NIST is encouraged to work with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Federal Communications Commission, and other relevant Federal agencies to assist in the design of the prize competitions.

Urban Dome Program.—The Committee notes the value of NIST's Urban Dome program and the importance of accurate measurement science for environmental monitoring and human health, as more than half the world's population is living in urban areas, and this concentration is expected to intensify over the coming decades. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount for the Office of Special Programs to maintain and consider expanding the number of urban dome locations in fiscal year 2018.

Baldrige Performance Excellence.—The Committee provides \$2,200,000 for costs associated with NIST's current level of per-

sonnel support and expertise that contribute to the Baldrige program. However, the Committee has previously directed the program to become self-sufficient and self-funded, and believes that with adequate fundraising and private sector support, appropriated funds will not be needed in future fiscal years. The Committee encourages the Secretary to work with the Baldrige program's private sector foundation to conduct a fundraising campaign to support the program as authorized in section 3(f) of Public Law 100–107.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Appropriations, 2017	\$153,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	21,000,000
Committee recommendation	145,000,000

The Committee provides \$145,000,000 for Industrial Technology Services. The recommendation is \$8,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$124,000,000 above the budget request. Supporting the Nation's manufacturers, especially small businesses, is critical to keeping America innovative in a global marketplace.

Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program [MEP].—The Committee rejects the proposed elimination of MEP and instead provides \$130,000,000 for the program. The Committee supports MEP's focus on strengthening the existing network of MEP centers and providing additional support to centers based on the documented performance of the center's activities and the manufacturing capacity of the area served by the center.

Manufacturing USA.—The Committee provides the full request of \$15,000,000 for NIST's activities in the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation [NNMI] (also known as "Manufacturing USA"), to include no more than \$5,000,000 for coordination activities. The Manufacturing USA program promotes American competitiveness by fostering the development of new manufacturing techniques and fields, accelerating commercialization, and providing technical assistance to U.S. companies. Within funding provided, NIST shall strive to minimize administrative costs in order to provide more direct support for research and development.

CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2017	\$109,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	104,000,000
Committee recommendation	104,000,000

The Committee provides \$104,000,000 for construction of research facilities. The recommendation is \$5,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget request. The funding provided includes \$60,000,000 for the continued renovation of NIST's radiation physics laboratories. Additionally, NIST is directed to request sufficient funds in fiscal year 2019 to accelerate completion of the Building 1 renovation, which has been underway since 2010 and is currently scheduled for completion in 2028.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$5,675,425,000
Budget estimate, 2018	4,770,699,000
Committee recommendation	5,590,284,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$5,590,284,000 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA]. The recommendation is \$85,141,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$819,585,000 above the budget request. The Committee commends the Department for its work to bring down the costs of NOAA's Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction [PAC] accounts, which have continuously consumed nearly half of NOAA's budget. These costs were driven primarily by budget overruns and schedule slips in NOAA's flagship weather satellite programs, which limited the resources available for NOAA's other mission areas. The decrease in PAC resource needs in fiscal year 2018 reflects the Department's and the Committee's concerted efforts to rein in the cost of NOAA's satellite programs and put them on a sustainable path. While overall funding for NOAA is below the fiscal year 2017 level, the reduction in PAC resource needs alleviates the strain on other operations and research areas critical to NOAA's core mission. This allowed for an increase above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level in NOAA's Operations, Research, and Facilities accounts.

OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$3,367,875,000
Budget estimate, 2018	2,965,549,000
Committee recommendation	3,416,401,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$3,416,401,000 for NOAA's operations, research, and facilities. The recommendation is \$48,526,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$450,852,000 above the budget request.

NOAA NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides \$533,219,000 for the National Ocean Service [NOS]. NOS programs provide scientific, technical, and management expertise to promote safe navigation; assess the health of coastal and marine resources; respond to natural and human-induced threats; and preserve coastal and ocean environments.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES
[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Navigation, Observations and Positioning:	
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	153,947
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts	30,000

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Integrated Ocean Observing System—Regional Observations	33,700
Total, Navigation, Observations and Positioning	217,647
Coastal Science and Assessment:	
Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration	74,472
Competitive External Research	11,000
Total, Coastal Science and Assessment	85,472
Ocean and Coastal Management and Services:	
Coastal Zone Management and Services	42,500
Coastal Management Grants	85,000
Coral Reef Program	26,600
National Estuarine Research Reserve System	25,000
National Marine Sanctuaries	51,000
Total, Ocean and Coastal Management and Services	230,100
GRAND TOTAL NOS	533,219

Navigation, Observations and Positioning.—The Committee strongly supports activities under Navigation, Observations and Positioning, including the full operational funding for NOAA's Navigation Response Teams.

Hydrographic Surveys and Contracts.—The Committee continues to be concerned with NOAA's slow progress in reducing the backlog of hydrographic survey work for navigationally significant U.S. waters. Within the amount provided for Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts, NOAA is directed to accelerate the acquisition of survey data and the preparation of navigation charts needed to minimize the risks associated with increased maritime traffic. In addition, not more than 5 percent of funds available for the Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts program may be used for internal Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts program management costs.

Hydrographic Charting in the Arctic.—Hydrographic survey work in the Arctic is subject to a shorter operational season than other U.S. coastal regions. The Committee believes Arctic surveys could be completed more efficiently through the use of locally available resources and expertise. Therefore, NOAA is directed to award contracts for hydrographic surveys in the Arctic as early in the calendar year as possible to maximize the operational season, utilizing effective and efficient contract services. In addition, where feasible, NOAA should consider awarding adjoining survey areas to a single contract provider to decrease logistical costs.

Geospatial Modeling Grants.—The Committee provides \$8,000,000 within Navigation, Observations and Positioning for the competitive Geospatial Modeling Grants program for which all funding shall be distributed externally.

Hydrographic Research and Technology Development.—The Committee supports the intended use of funds requested for Hydrographic Research and Technology Development. In addition, the

Committee provides \$2,000,000 above the request for NOAA to designate and continue supporting joint ocean and coastal mapping centers in other areas of the country to be co-located with an institution of higher education as authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11). The Committee emphasizes that additional funding is provided for the designation of other joint ocean and coastal mapping centers and therefore shall not decrease funding levels for any existing centers.

Integrated Ocean Observing System [IOOS].—The Committee directs NOAA and the IOOS regions to work with Federal agencies collecting regional observations to better integrate and disseminate information with the goal of reducing duplication of effort and to provide users with streamlined access to observational information. In addition, within funding provided above the request for IOOS, NOS shall work to complete and operate the National High Frequency Radar System. Within funds provided for IOOS grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts, the Committee directs each regional entity to assess current spending practices for resources that become damaged or unworkable as a result of hurricanes or other significant storms, including continually replacing damaged assets instead of repairing them or seeking to use hardened designs, and provide a cost-benefit analysis to the Committee on such practices within 120 days of enactment of this act.

Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration.—Within the funds provided for Coastal Science, Assessment, Response and Restoration, \$2,372,000 shall be for operations and staffing of the Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center [DRC]. The DRC shall continue to serve as the Gulf Coast hub for NOAA’s emergency preparedness, response, and recovery operations. Furthermore, within funds provided, NOAA is directed to expand regional emergency preparedness training and to develop and disseminate best practices for using data from past environmental disasters to better prepare for, respond to, and assess the environmental impacts of future events.

Marine Debris.—The Committee provides an increase of \$500,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for NOAA’s Marine Debris Program. The Committee strongly supports ongoing efforts to address marine debris around the country including projects in rural and remote communities, as well as projects in urban communities that include removal of abandoned vessels and pilings that harm the ecosystem and hinder recreational fishing. Activities under the Marine Debris program should help lead to the development of cost-effective programmatic solutions to address land-generated marine debris.

Harmful Algal Blooms [HABs].—The Committee recognizes the need to support local efforts to address [HABs]. Within funding for Coastal Science and Assessment, the Committee provides up to \$3,000,000 to accelerate deployment of effective methods of intervention and mitigation to reduce the frequency, severity, and impact of harmful algal bloom events in freshwater systems.

HABs Regional Watershed Integrated Assessments and Action Strategies.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Great Lakes Integrated Assessment and Action Strategy to harmful algal bloom prevention, control, and mitigation efforts in the Great

Lakes region, and encourages the Federal Inter-agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia, established under section 4001 of title 33, and the Interagency Working Group tasked with implementing the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act to identify and prioritize additional watersheds that would benefit from the development of regionally-specific Integrated Assessments and Action Plans, including those regions that have been impacted by freshwater and saltwater harmful algal blooms.

Integrated Water Prediction.—Within funding provided for Coastal Zone Management and Services, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 level for NOS to continue supporting the development and operation of the Integrated Water Prediction program with NOAA’s National Weather Service.

Coastal Management Grants.—The Committee provides \$85,000,000 for Coastal Management Grants. This includes \$70,000,000 for Coastal Zone Management Grants and \$15,000,000 for Regional Coastal Resilience Grants [RCRG], which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level. NOAA is encouraged to continue developing the RCRG program in coordination with other ocean and coastal funding opportunities to ensure that the broadest array of projects, geographic regions, and research needs for oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are met. NOAA is also encouraged to prioritize projects that are coordinated between State, Federal, and tribal partners; non-governmental organizations; and academia. However, NOAA may only award these funds to coastal State projects that have written support from the State’s Governor.

As NOAA explores ways to make coastal areas more resilient, NOAA should consider depositing up to \$10,000,000 from the RCRG into the National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund for grants as authorized in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113), subject to the reprogramming procedures set forth in section 505 of this act.

Coral Reef Program.—As part of its research to assess the impacts of acidification and increasing temperatures on coral reefs, the Committee encourages NOAA to include temperate and cold water corals, such as the Northern Star Coral.

Marine National Monuments.—Within funding provided for National Marine Sanctuaries, up to \$500,000 may be used for competitive research and management grants for existing marine national monuments administered by NOS, provided such grants are subject to a 100 percent non-Federal match.

National Estuarine Research Reserve System.—The Committee provides \$25,000,000 for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System [NERRS], which is \$25,000,000 above the President’s request and \$1,500,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. NERRS sites provide mixed-use areas that are protected for long-term research, monitoring, education, and coastal stewardship. The program is a positive example of State and Federal partnership.

NOAA is further encouraged to work with its NERRS and National Marine Sanctuary partners on efforts for early detection, rapid response, and control of invasive species, especially those that jeopardize endangered or threatened native species.

NOAA NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides \$867,034,000 for the National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]. NMFS programs provide for the management and conservation of the Nation's living marine resources and their environment, including fish stocks, marine mammals, and endangered species.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Protected Resources Science and Management:	
Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species	113,342
Species Recovery Grants	7,000
Atlantic Salmon	6,224
Pacific Salmon	62,000
Total, Protected Resources Science and Management	188,566
Fisheries Science and Management:	
Fisheries and Ecosystem Science Programs and Services	141,327
Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys and Assessments	164,749
Observers and Training	43,655
Fisheries Management Programs and Services	117,051
Aquaculture	15,000
Salmon Management Activities	35,469
Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions	35,871
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants	3,004
Total, Fisheries Science and Management	556,126
Enforcement	69,000
Habitat Conservation and Restoration	53,342
GRAND TOTAL NMFS	867,034

Marine Mammal Protection.—The Committee supports NMFS's mission under this activity to monitor, protect, and recover at-risk marine mammal species listed under the Endangered Species Act [ESA] in 2005, but whose populations continue to decline. The Committee encourages NMFS to utilize funding for the protection and recovery of marine mammal species at risk due to factors such as limited prey species, water-borne toxin accumulation, and vessel and sound impacts.

Hawaiian Monk Seals and Sea Turtles.—Within funding for Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, the Committee provides NOAA no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount for Hawaiian Monk Seals and Hawaiian Sea Turtles.

Prescott Grants.—Within Marine Mammals, Sea Turtles, and Other Species, no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted amount is provided for the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance grant program.

Atlantic Salmon.—NOAA has identified major threats to Atlantic salmon, including interrelated effects of freshwater salmon habitat loss, lost prey buffering, and marine derived nutrients from declines of co-evolved diadromous species. Within funding provided

for Atlantic Salmon, the Committee directs NOAA to enable a broader use of funds for restoration of diadromous species and habitats that support salmon recovery by providing ecological functions critical to the Atlantic salmon life cycle. The Committee further directs NOAA to ensure that adequate resources continue to be provided for State agencies to implement the recovery strategy effectively.

Pacific Salmon.—Within funding provided for Pacific salmon, NOAA shall consider expanding salmonid monitoring activities, including through the use of tags and acoustic tracking to utilize real-time monitoring to avoid impacts to protected species. NOAA is also encouraged to work with partners to address the backlog of hatchery genetic management plans and expedite approval.

Promote and Develop Fisheries Products and Research Funding Transfer.—The bill maintains the provision restricting the use of the Promote and Develop Fisheries Products and Research funds transferred from the Department of Agriculture to NOAA in a way that better meets the intended purpose of the transfer mandated by the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act. None of the funds may be used for internal NOAA or DOC management, but rather funds may only be used for activities that directly benefit U.S. fisheries and fishery communities. Specifically, these funds may only be used for: cooperative research; annual stock assessments; efforts to improve data collection, including catch monitoring and reporting for commercial, charter, and recreational fisheries; interjurisdictional fisheries grants; and Fisheries Information Networks.

As part of the fiscal year 2018 spending plan, NOAA shall include a clear accounting of how the Promote and Develop transfer funds will be allocated based on the funding criteria described in this bill.

Saltonstall-Kennedy [S-K] Grant Program.—The Committee rejects the Administration's proposal to eliminate the S-K grant program and further directs that not less than 15 percent of the total amount of the transferred funds shall be provided for the competitive S-K grant program. The Committee also directs NOAA to obligate no less than 80 percent of the S-K grant program funds externally through a competitive grant process. NOAA shall consult with a diverse group of industry participants representing the entirety of the supply chain, from all regions of the country, to identify funding priorities. Prior to obligating these funds, NOAA shall provide the Committee with a detailed spending plan describing which fisheries activities will be funded in each of the regions and how the plan incorporates regional priorities. The Committee further encourages NOAA to prioritize marketing and development of the seafood industry, as was the original intent of the S-K grant program.

NMFS Staffing.—The Committee encourages NMFS regional offices to locate research staff within their respective research regions to the greatest extent possible.

Aleutian Island Pollock.—When Congress created the 2005 Pollock allocation for the economic improvement of Adak, Alaska, provided in section 803 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004 (division B of Public Law 108–199), it recognized the difficult

task of making a viable community and attempted to provide a revenue stream to offset the burdens of a remote location. Due to the Stellar Sea Lion's Endangered Species Act listing in 1990 and subsequent protective measures put into place, fishery restrictions closed nearly all vital fishing grounds in the Aleutian Islands. Thus, the allocation could not be utilized at any point and the community of Adak has not realized any economic benefits or prosperity from the Pollock fishery. The Committee agrees that the intended beneficiaries should have a right to derive these lost benefits by assigning their Pollock allocation to others for monetary remuneration. Therefore, NMFS is directed to help Adak receive the economic benefits of their originally designated Pollock allocation and shall provide a report to the Committee on such action within 120 days of enactment of this act.

Red Snapper Management Activities.—Within the amount provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, the Committee provides \$5,000,000 to continue the State-led pilot programs for reef fish management in the Gulf of Mexico, which Congress initially funded in fiscal year 2017. These State-led pilot programs should serve as a test-bed for alternative approaches to reef fish management in off-shore zones designated by each Gulf State in consultation with NMFS. In addition, the Committee continues to direct NMFS to incorporate agency-independent and alternative approaches to stock assessments into the agency's own stock assessments used for the management of reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. Furthermore, all stock assessments used by NMFS for Gulf reef fish should include fishery data collected on artificial reefs, off-shore oil platforms, and other offshore fixed energy infrastructure. Not later than 60 days after enactment of this act, NOAA shall report to the Committee on how the State-led pilot programs are progressing.

In addition, if an increase is made to the acceptable biological catch for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico as a result of the direction provided in this report for stock assessments, the Committee urges NOAA to consider allocating not less than 80 percent of any total above 10 million pounds of quota to the recreational sector. While all sectors have faced challenges in the gulf red snapper fishery, the private-boat recreational sector has been especially impacted.

Ecosystem Imbalance.—NOAA shall take into consideration any imbalance in the ecosystem that may be occurring between larger red snapper and other fish species before accepting amendments to existing regulations or implementing new regulations that directly affect red snapper quotas in the Gulf of Mexico.

South Atlantic Reef Fish.—NMFS shall consider employing the independent and alternative stock assessment strategies directed by the Committee for the Gulf of Mexico to NMFS assessments of reef fish in the South Atlantic. The Committee notes deficiencies that have plagued reef fish management in the Gulf of Mexico also affect NMFS management of reef fish in the South Atlantic.

Fishing Gear Selectivity Study.—Within funding provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys and Assessments, NOAA shall consider conducting a multiyear, agency-independent study to evaluate the selectivity and potential bias of different gears used

to assess reef fish populations in the South Atlantic region, which should build on recent work being conducted by state agencies on red snapper. Specifically, the study should address whether the use of certain gear by the South Atlantic Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction survey, such as Chevron traps, fail to adequately sample across age classes of reef fish, including red snapper, due to the different behaviors and habits exhibited by larger and smaller fish within the same or similar species. NOAA is further encouraged to initiate a multiyear, agency-independent study using multiple hooked-gears to sample South Atlantic Red Snapper for age composition, sexual maturity, and egg production.

Epipelagic Apex Predators.—The Committee acknowledges growing evidence that yellowfin tuna and other epipelagic apex predators are aggregating at offshore oil platforms in a similar manner to their more traditional aggregation points. These offshore platforms may alter yellowfin or other epipelagic apex predator movements, diet, diseases, growth, age at maturity, and spawning. However, NOAA lacks fundamental data on how this new association may impact these important species. Within funding provided, NOAA shall continue to examine the impact of offshore oil platforms on the biology of highly migratory species, such as yellowfin tuna, and report to the Committee on such activities within 60 days of enactment of this act.

Fisheries Information Networks.—Within funding provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, \$22,500,000 is provided for Fisheries Information Networks.

Marine Recreational Information Program [MRIP].—The Committee recognizes the ongoing improvements being made to MRIP, but is concerned that these changes will be insufficient to meet management requirements for many offshore recreational fisheries, such as reef fish. Significant advances in technology, such as smartphone apps, allow anglers to electronically record their catch. The recent adoption of mobile electronic records technologies by State fish and wildlife agencies has demonstrated that these programs can provide comparable and compatible data to current MRIP estimates with faster collection and analyses. However, additional studies are needed to fully understand the suitability of angler-provided electronic data as a supplement to MRIP.

Not later than 1 year after enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide a report to the Committee on electronic data collection as an option for the Fishing Effort Survey, including through use of smartphone apps, electronic diaries for prospective data collection, and an online option for anglers. The study should list specific actions the agency has taken to date and identify additional steps to be taken in the future, including pilot studies to explore the suitability of electronic data collection as a supplement to MRIP. Furthermore, NOAA should consider providing technical assistance to States currently employing such electronic data collection systems and expedite approval of these programs as a supplement or replacement to MRIP.

Northeast Groundfish Research.—The Committee is concerned about the decline of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery and the health of fishing stocks in the Gulf of Maine. Within funding provided for Fisheries Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, the

Committee provides \$2,000,000 for groundfish research, with a focus on the effects of changing climatic conditions and warming waters on the fishery, including stock health and natural mortality. NOAA is further encouraged to prioritize research regarding relative gear efficiency and stock boundaries. This funding is intended to support research conducted by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, research conducted separately by or in collaboration with outside partners such as higher education institutions or State agencies, and research conducted in cooperation with the fishing industry.

Cooperative Research.—Depleted fish stocks result in significant economic losses to our Nation. At a time when fishing opportunities are constrained by uncertainty in stock assessments and increased access to healthy stocks depends on better data, the Committee believes that maintenance of ongoing monitoring programs, surveys, and improved research is critical. The Committee encourages the NMFS to continue to prioritize long-time series surveys that are conducted cooperatively with industry and States. NMFS is also encouraged to focus on improved understanding of natural mortality and relative gear efficiency to ensure accurate measures of catchability. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center is directed to work collaboratively with the fishing industry to update and publish the Northeast Cooperative Research Strategic Plan, including: the identification of science priorities; a process for greater involvement of fishermen in data collection; and better communication of how the results of cooperative fisheries research are used.

Baseline Data for Gulf of Mexico.—The Committee directs NOAA to continue supporting baseline research for fisheries health in the Gulf of Mexico, including studies of pelagic species. NOAA is encouraged to increase and continue collaborations in the Gulf to establish an integrated and comprehensive ecosystem-level fisheries monitoring enterprise and sentinel species program.

Charter Vessels.—To help improve the quality and abundance of fishery data used for stock assessments, the Committee continues to encourage NOAA to expand the agency's activities in chartering commercial fishing vessels to serve as research and fishery survey vessels. Other parts of NOAA, including the National Ocean Service and the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research line offices, are also encouraged to charter commercial fishing vessels, when appropriate, to augment ongoing survey and research activities.

Electronic Monitoring and Reporting.—Within Fisheries Ecosystem Science Programs and Services, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount for Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting [EM/ER] to support the development, testing, and installation of EM/ER technologies across the country. The Committee recognizes that advancements in EM/ER have the potential to cut costs and improve data collection for most U.S. fisheries. NMFS is directed to prioritize EM/ER implementation in fiscal year 2018, and expedite to the fullest extent practicable the transition to full EM/ER. Within the funds provided for these activities, not less than \$3,500,000 shall be available, in accordance with 16 U.S.C. 3701, for collaborative partnerships that include non-Federal matching funds to implement cost-shared EM/ER programs that support fisheries conservation and management. Dur-

ing the development and implementation of electronic reporting and monitoring programs, NOAA shall consult directly with industry and work through the Fishery Management Councils (established under sections 1851 and 1852 of title 16) to develop appropriate cost-sharing arrangements that are commensurate with the ex-vessel value of the fishery.

Furthermore, NMFS shall continue to work in fiscal year 2018 with the charter for-hire recreational fishery fleet in the Gulf of Mexico; the Northeast Multispecies/groundfish fishery fleet, including small vessels within that fleet; and any regional fishery fleet interested in implementing EM/ER technologies to better track information that is currently collected through the use of human observers.

Northeast Multispecies Fishery.—The Committee recognizes that the New England groundfish fisheries in particular have struggled to bear monitoring costs in recent years. Section 537 of the bill directs NOAA to prioritize payment of At Sea Monitors prior to payment for standardized bycatch reporting methodology requirements monitors. However, NOAA is directed to submit a plan to the Committee not less than 180 days after enactment of this act that will establish fully operational electronic monitoring and reporting procedures for the Northeast Multispecies Fishery not later than September 30, 2021. The plan should include NOAA’s proposal to cover vessel equipment and installation costs, with daily, half-day, or quarter-day operational costs to be borne by the fishing vessels. The Committee notes that while participation in EM/ER observer coverage will remain voluntary after the September 30, 2021 deadline, vessels not participating in EM/ER coverage will also be required to cover their daily, half-day, or quarter-day observer costs after that date.

EM/ER Central Repository and Cost Estimations.—NOAA shall develop a central repository for EM/ER documentation and information sharing to facilitate regional access to complete, organized, and accurate information. NOAA shall also consider developing an EM/ER cost estimation template, to include all necessary cost components, which shall be shared with regions and Fishery Management Councils and used to determine further deployment of EM/ER technologies.

Market Rate Observer Coverage.—The Committee is concerned by reports that NOAA is paying above-market rates for fisheries observers in certain regions and sectors. NOAA is directed to work with the Councils and the Commissions to negotiate the lowest possible rates, including half-day and quarter-day rates, for the 2018 fishing season, and to report to the Committee on those rates not later than 30 days before the start of any fishing season.

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated [IUU] Fishing.—Under Fisheries Management Programs and Services, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount to combat IUU fishing. NOAA is directed to continue strengthening its efforts to detect and deter illegally harvested and improperly documented seafood, including working with other U.S., international, and foreign agencies to ensure fair competition for our country’s domestic fishermen and safety for American consumers.

The Committee encourages NOAA to work with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to improve and expand efforts to identify high-risk shipments and collect critical import data in order to increase enforcement of import restrictions on IUU seafood products and expand investigations of foreign IUU hotspots.

Additionally, the Committee supports NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement and its efforts to combat IUU fishing. NOAA is directed to consider how innovative remote sensing technology could help fulfill its mission, including satellite imaging and traceability, and shall consider developing a comprehensive IUU enforcement strategy in consultation with the U.S. Coast Guard. NOAA may also confer with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center [FLETC] and may contract with FLETC to assess and provide technical assistance to improve NOAA's current law enforcement strategy.

Bycatch Reduction.—The development and implementation of practical bycatch solutions is a priority for U.S. and international fisheries management and protected species conservation. The Committee supports the requested amount for reducing bycatch, of which NMFS is directed to make no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount available for competitive grants to non-Federal researchers working with U.S. fishermen on the development of improved fishing practices and innovative gear technologies.

Bowhead Whale Health.—Within funding provided for Fisheries Management Programs and Services, up to \$720,000 may be used to document bowhead whale health, as may be required for efficient and humane subsistence harvest of bowhead whales, and to fulfill other U.S. obligations for such activities as regulated by the International Whaling Commission.

Regional Aquaculture Coordinators.—The Committee encourages NMFS to designate a Regional Aquaculture Coordinator [RAC] for each of the six National Marine Fisheries Regions, to be located at each respective regional office. The goal of each RAC should be to liaise with aquaculture stakeholders and industry as well as relevant Federal, State, local, and tribal government entities; assist with Federal grants management and training programs; and foster science collaborations among stakeholders, academics, and governments within their designated fisheries region.

Regional Pilots in Sustainable Aquaculture.—The NMFS Aquaculture Office is directed to continue regional pilot programs for partnerships between the seafood industry and community partners that can develop, validate, and deploy economically and environmentally sustainable aquatic farming techniques and regional business practices to grow domestic seafood production. To maximize the impact of these pilot grants, NMFS is encouraged to give priority consideration to promising but less commercially developed technologies, such as those targeting shellfish, seaweed, and other relative newcomers to the domestic aquaculture industry. The Committee provides \$2,500,000 in the NMFS Aquaculture budget for this purpose. This funding is in addition to the laboratory funding for NOAA's fisheries science centers engaged in aquaculture research, which shall be funded at no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

Aquaculture Activities at Fisheries Science Centers.—The Committee is concerned by reports that NMFS fisheries science centers are cutting resources and staff positions dedicated to aquaculture research. NOAA is expected to maintain viable financial and personnel resources at the Northeast and Northwest Fisheries Science Centers, including refraining from cutting aquaculture funding or staff resources and expeditiously filling open positions.

Oyster Aquaculture, Research, and Restoration.—Within the increased funds provided for NMFS Aquaculture, the Committee provides up to \$5,000,000 to support ongoing research in off-bottom oyster production in coastal areas, particularly those new to this method of production, including the Gulf of Mexico, and encourages NMFS to dedicate resources for further research in oyster genetics, disease, and economic modeling. NMFS is also encouraged to support regional partnerships to classify and preserve natural genetic variation in oysters.

In addition, the Committee recognizes that the shellfish farming industry is composed of thousands of small farmers who are unable to fund critical research in the fields of shellfish disease, food safety, warming waters, and ocean acidification. To improve coordination and consistency, the Committee directs NMFS Aquaculture to engage and partner with industry, academic institutions, and States to conduct collaborative research to address the challenges facing this growing industry.

Salmon Management Activities.—Within the amount provided for Salmon Management activities, the Committee recommends \$14,000,000, an increase of \$2,000,000 above fiscal year 2017, to enable States and tribal communities to implement necessary Pacific Salmon Treaty agreements. The Committee fully supports all other aspects of the budget request for Salmon Management activities that are essential to meeting these treaty obligations. The Committee also provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount for the operation and maintenance of Mitchell Act hatcheries.

In addition, the Committee again notes the number of California Sea Lions in the Columbia River Estuary and their impact on endangered wild salmon survival. NMFS has authorization for the lethal removal of sea lions in accordance with provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, meant to reduce the impacts of sea lion predation on salmon stocks. The Committee directs NMFS to review the current lethal removal program in order to monitor and assess the impacts of removal efforts on adult spring salmon migration survival within the Columbia River Estuary and to report its findings to Congress within 60 days of enactment of this act.

Fishery Councils and Commissions.—No less than \$35,871,000 is provided to support the Regional Fishery Management Councils, Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions, and International Fisheries Commissions, provided any increase above the fiscal year 2017 enacted amounts shall be distributed only among the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions and International Fisheries Commission.

Furthermore, the Committee recognizes the important role that regional management plays in sustaining a balanced ecosystem and healthy fish populations and the advantage that aggregate data can provide in understanding emerging trends across our Nation's

fisheries. The Committee directs the Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions to prioritize research and monitoring of high priority species in the face of changing environmental conditions.

Economics and Social Sciences Research.—The Committee recognizes that saltwater recreational and commercial fisheries are significant contributors to the Nation's economy and is concerned that economic information is not sufficiently taken into account when fisheries management decisions are made that may adversely impact fishing communities. The Committee believes that the Regional Fishery Management Councils may lack sufficient guidance and procedures for how economic impacts should be factored into management decisions, and therefore fail to consider how to mitigate social, cultural, and economic impacts. Within 1 year of enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide the Committee with a description of procedures for how socioeconomic information could be better considered and weighed by the Councils and NMFS in the development and amending of Fishery Management Plans.

Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund.—The Committee directs NOAA to provide, within 90 days of enactment of this act, a complete account of the last 5 years of funding activity of the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund, and any other fund or grant program controlled or managed by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, including the use of such funds to influence administrative processes in any State or Territory. NOAA is further directed to conduct such accountings annually and to publish the reports online.

Horseshoe Crab Survey.—The Committee remains concerned about the inability to estimate the abundance of the mid-Atlantic horseshoe crab population. Adequate data is required to ensure State and interstate managers can effectively manage the stock, which is important to the biomedical and commercial fishing industries, as well as to the ecology of the mid-Atlantic region. The Committee encourages NMFS to continue this important survey to generate the data necessary to ensure the mid-Atlantic horseshoe crab stock remains on a sustainable path.

Seafood Reporting.—The United States leads the world in responsibly managed fisheries and aquaculture, and the Committee supports NOAA's activities to inform consumers about our Nation's sustainable fisheries through the agency's FishWatch program. However, the Committee is concerned that the exclusive use or recognition of third-party certifications for seafood sustainability by the Department could have unintended consequences for various domestic fisheries. The Committee acknowledges that some U.S. fisheries voluntarily utilize third-party seafood sustainability certification schemes, but believes it is not the Department's role to adopt such certification schemes when doing so could result in the Department arbitrarily influencing the U.S. domestic seafood market. The Committee believes support for third-party certifications is best presented in non-governmental forums. Therefore, the Committee directs the Department not to adopt, use, or promote any third-party certification scheme for seafood sustainability but to instead continue providing consumers with independent and accountable information generated from within the Department.

Economic Impact of Turtle Excluder Devices [TEDs].—The Committee understands NMFS is considering a new rule to require all skimmer trawls, pusher-head trawls, and wing nets rigged for fishing to use TEDs. The Committee expects NMFS to ensure that any potential rule on this issue be based on meritorious, evidence-based science. Further, the Committee notes that these potential changes will have a significant negative impact on small fishing businesses, as stated by NOAA in its Draft Economic Impact Statement. Within 45 days of enactment of this act, NOAA shall provide a report to the Committee outlining specific steps NMFS would consider to eliminate the negative economic effects of any newly proposed rule requiring TEDs.

Technical Drafting Assistance.—The Committee understands that several members have requested NOAA to provide assistance in drafting language that would authorize a more streamlined process for fishery buyback implementation and loans, including for refinancing existing buyback loans, but the agency has failed to respond. The Committee directs NOAA to respond to these congressional member requests and supply language appropriate for technical drafting assistance within 45 days of the enactment of this act.

Habitat Conservation and Restoration.—The Committee provides \$53,342,000 for Habitat Conservation and Restoration activities. Within the amount provided, NOAA is encouraged to include funding for the multi-year Habitat Blueprint Focus Area partnership agreements developed under the Habitat Blueprint initiative. The Committee encourages NOAA to include a broader ecosystem-based management philosophy; expand criteria to include recreational species, managed commercial species, and forage species; and prioritize proposals that engage local communities. NOAA should continue to emphasize the value of partnerships when evaluating grant applications.

NOAA OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

The Committee's recommendation provides \$477,725,000 for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research [OAR]. OAR programs provide environmental research and technology needed to improve NOAA weather forecasts, climate predictions, and marine services. To accomplish these goals, OAR supports a network of scientists in its Federal research laboratories, universities, and joint institutes and partnership programs.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH OPERATIONS, RESEARCH AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Climate Research:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	60,000
Regional Climate Data and Information	38,000
Climate Competitive Research	60,000
Total, Climate Research	158,000

OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH OPERATIONS, RESEARCH AND FACILITIES—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Weather and Air Chemistry Research Programs:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	75,000
U.S. Weather Research Program	18,600
Tornado Severe Storm Research/Phased Array Radar	12,622
Joint Technology Transfer Initiative	2,000
Total, Weather and Air Chemistry Research	108,222
Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research:	
Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes	36,000
National Sea Grant College Program	65,000
Marine Aquaculture Research	11,500
Sustained Ocean Observations and Monitoring	42,823
Integrated Ocean Acidification	11,000
Ocean Exploration	30,000
Oceans, Coastal and Great Lakes Joint Technology Transfer Initiative [O-JTTI]	3,000
Total, Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research	199,323
High Performance Computing Initiatives	12,180
GRAND TOTAL OAR	477,725

Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—The Committee provides \$4,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes and expects the administration to fully fund Cooperative Institutes at appropriate levels in future years, including those currently supporting NOAA’s coastal resilience mission.

Additionally, not less than 90 days after enactment of this act, NOAA is directed to update its “Prospectus for Cooperative Institutes in the 21st Century” plan to include the procedures under which a university or other academic institution can apply for Cooperative Institute status. The Committee continues to strongly support well established institutes, including those focused on watershed effects on marine ecosystems, remote sensing, and long-term monitoring of oil spill impacts on marine ecosystem health.

Autonomous Glider Demonstration.—Within increased funding provided for Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research, OAR is directed to demonstrate how an autonomous ocean glider could address critical gaps in NOAA’s physical, chemical, biological, and other observational needs, particularly those observational needs of NOAA’s IOOS program. OAR shall report to the Committee within 180 days of enactment of this act on the progress of achieving the Committee’s directive.

Climate Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted amount for supporting and expanding the National Integrated Drought Information System, including the Regional Drought Early Warning Information System.

Arctic Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted amount for arctic research funded under OAR’s Climate Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes and Regional Climate Data and Information.

Weather & Air Chemistry Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes.—The Committee rejects OAR’s proposed elimination of the Air Resources Laboratory [ARL], as well as OAR’s proposed closing of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems [UAS] Program Office. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted amount for ARL and the UAS Program Office and encourages arctic research activities using UAS assets.

Multi-Function Phased Array Radar [MPAR] Program.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the MPAR program in the development and implementation of the next generation weather and aircraft radar surveillance network. The Committee directs NOAA to maintain its leadership in the MPAR research and development effort as the program transitions to the Spectrum Efficient National Surveillance Radar [SENSR] program, and encourages continued work on a Memorandum of Understanding among NOAA, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security that delineates each agency’s or Department’s needs regarding the function and timeline of a joint multi-use and multi-function radar system.

Vortex-Southeast [Vortex-SE].—The southeast United States commonly experiences devastating tornadoes under variables and conditions that differ considerably from the Midwest, where tornado research has historically been focused. Within funds provided for Weather and Air Chemistry Research Programs, no less than \$5,000,000 is provided for OAR to continue collaborating with the National Science Foundation’s Vortex-SE initiative to better understand how environmental factors that are characteristic of the southeast United States affect the formation, intensity, and storm path of tornadoes for this region.

Remote Sensing for Snowpack and Soil Moisture.—The Committee strongly supports NOAA’s continued development of the National Water Model to improve operational forecasts at NOAA’s National Water Center. Within funding provided for OAR’s U.S. Weather Research Program, no less than \$6,000,000 is for research activities to improve fine and large-scale measurements of snow depth and soil moisture data that can be used to expand and improve the National Water Model and contribute directly to the mission of NOAA’s National Water Center.

Airborne Phased Array Radar [APAR].—Within funding for NOAA’s U.S. Weather Research Program, no less than \$2,600,000 is provided to research and develop aircraft-based hazardous weather observing systems, such as APAR. NOAA shall coordinate these research and development activities with the National Science Foundation.

Infrasonic Weather Monitoring Research.—Within funding provided for the U.S. Weather Research Program, the Committee provides up to \$2,000,000 to support external research opportunities with academic institutions in infrasonic monitoring methods of violent weather. The Committee believes that advanced infrasound signal processing methodologies and studies, deployed through a network of infrasound arrays to detect tornadoes and hurricanes, have the potential to improve forecast accuracy.

National Sea Grant College Program.—The Committee flatly rejects the administration’s proposed elimination of NOAA’s Sea

Grant program. Instead, the Committee provides an increase of \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted amount for Sea Grant and its research, education, extension, and outreach activities, which are critical for coastal communities and benefit the entire nation. This level of funding supports the key focus areas in the program's strategic plan: sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient communities and economies, healthy coastal ecosystems, environmental literacy, and workforce development. In addition, the Committee directs NOAA to continue funding all Sea Grant STEM education and fellowship programs. Further, NOAA is directed to continue its partnership with academic programs that provide legal expertise related to Sea Grant's mission.

Not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, NOAA will provide a report to the Committee detailing how the Sea Grant program aligns with the agency's core missions, the number of jobs created by the Sea Grant program across participating states since its inception, and the role Sea Grant will play in the administration's stated efforts to boost domestic production of seafood to lower the United States' abysmal seafood trade deficit.

Additionally, the Committee understands that the Sea Grant program provides no less than \$1,000,000 in annual base funding, or \$4,000,000 over the course of the 4-year grant cycle, to each Sea Grant program with Institutional or College Program status. NOAA is directed to continue this funding model for Sea Grant programs receiving Institutional or College Program status in fiscal year 2018.

Sea Grant Fellowship Program.—NOAA's Sea Grant is reminded that the Committee's broad support is due to the program's historically objective standards, State-driven goals, and non-partisan priorities. Within NOAA's Sea Grant program, the National Sea Grant Fellowship program serves as a valuable pipeline for our Nation's future ocean science and policy experts. The Fellowship program should remain objective and apolitical, and should increase its efforts to recruit qualified, non-partisan candidates who are committed to working on oceans and coastal issues for any Member of Congress, regardless of political affiliation.

Fisheries-Related Research.—The Committee remains concerned about the negative impacts of the short recreational fishing season for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. While the relief provided by the administration for the 2017 fishing season is welcomed, the Committee notes it is only a short-term solution with the potential to further restrict fishing access in the future. Additional data sources and assessment approaches are needed and should be pursued by entities other than NOAA's regulating line office, NMFS. Therefore, the Committee continues to provide up to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level within Sea Grant to research and develop alternative approaches to data collection and analyses.

American Lobster Research.—In 2015, lobster represented the species of highest landed value in the nation, with over 95 percent of landings coming from the Gulf of Maine American lobster fishery. If current water temperature trends continue, the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank stock could face recruitment failure similar to the Southern New England lobster stock. Therefore, the Committee directs NOAA's Sea Grant to support Gulf of Maine and Georges

Bank American lobster research priorities, including studying the effects of environmental changes on migration, growth, and maturity of the American lobster.

Aquaculture Research.—The Committee provides \$11,500,000 for marine aquaculture research. NOAA is directed to support marine aquaculture research and development in partnership with universities. Similar research efforts have led to beneficial outcomes such as the development and commercialization of new technologies to meet the domestic demand for seafood, including finfish, shrimp, and oysters. As the administration strives to reduce our Nation's significant trade deficit in aquaculture-raised seafood, NOAA shall report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on the important contributions Aquaculture Research grants have made to domestic seafood production.

Ocean Exploration.—The Committee directs NOAA to use a portion of the funding provided for Ocean Exploration to make competitive external awards to academic institutions that have partnered with OAR's Ocean Exploration program in the past. This includes those institutions with ocean-going assets, such as Autonomous Underwater Vehicles [AUV], to support new exploration missions, expeditions, and deep-sea research in the Gulf of Mexico.

NOAA is also encouraged to work with the Department of Defense and other relevant agencies to continue fundamental ocean exploration in which open source data are collected for the oceanographic community and private industries in real-time through telepresence technology. Furthermore, the Committee encourages NOAA to leverage partnerships with universities to increase capacity for deepwater AUVs as a means to sustain utility of AUV assets. The Committee also encourages NOAA to work with the Department of Defense, especially the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, to leverage assets and facilities to support deepwater AUV program development.

Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research Joint Technology Transfer Initiative [O-JTTI].—The Committee provides \$3,000,000 for OAR to identify, prioritize, and fund the transition of the most promising research into operations, applications, and commercialization. However, no funding under this heading shall be used to support "research-to-operations" [R2O] projects that are not directly related to NOAA's core mission areas as funded within Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Research. In addition to funds provided for O-JTTI, OAR shall continue to leverage other NOAA funding to accelerate R2O.

NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

The Committee's recommendation provides \$987,491,000 for the National Weather Service [NWS]. NWS programs provide timely and accurate meteorologic, hydrologic, and oceanographic warnings and forecasts to ensure the safety of the population, mitigate property losses, and improve the economic productivity of the Nation. NWS is also responsible for issuing operational climate forecasts for the United States. The Committee has made saving lives and livelihoods through accurate weather forecasting a priority.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Observations	224,363
Central Processing	92,790
Analyze, Forecast, and Support	487,325
Dissemination	46,013
Science and Technology Integration	137,000
GRAND TOTAL NWS	987,491

Information Technology Officers [ITOs].—The Committee does not approve the NWS proposal to consolidate ITOs in fiscal year 2018. NWS was invited to submit a proposal in its 2018 spending plan for a single pilot Regional Enterprise Application Development and Integration [READI] team comprised of volunteer ITOs. However, the Committee has not yet received such a proposal. Should NWS decide to submit a plan for a single pilot READI team project, its subsequent successes and challenges will assist the Committee in evaluating the larger consolidation proposal if resubmitted in future fiscal years.

NWS Staffing.—The Committee is very concerned with the continued number of NWS employee vacancies. Given the importance of the NWS mission to protect the lives and property of our Nation's citizens, extended vacancies are unacceptable—particularly when the Committee has provided more than adequate resources and direction to fill vacancies expeditiously for the past several fiscal years. Because NWS has failed to respond satisfactorily to the Committee's concerns regarding these vacancies, NOAA is directed to present a separate accounting of all NWS filled and open positions, including the length of time the positions have been unfilled, in its fiscal year 2018 spend plan. The spend plan shall also include the specific funding proposed for all NWS employees and associated expenses that are separate from other program costs.

The Committee also recognizes that some vacant NWS positions may be redundant and invites the Department to submit a justification for eliminating redundant unfunded vacancies in its fiscal year 2019 budget request, to include a full list of positions proposed for elimination, including reasoning for each elimination. Until such time as a plan to eliminate those vacancies is approved, NWS is directed to continue efforts to fill all vacancies as expeditiously as possible.

Operations and Workforce Analysis [OWA].—The Committee approves the requested decrease resulting from reduced testing, evaluation, and implementation of the OWA initiated in fiscal year 2014. Results from the OWA should be used to address the Committee's concerns for staffing and provide guidance for the Department's request for NWS staffing in fiscal year 2019.

Report on NWS Staffing in Alaska.—Within 60 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs NWS to provide a report on staffing cuts in the State of Alaska and how NWS plans to maintain or improve forecasting and communication around the State, especially in the most remote areas.

National Mesonet Program.—The Committee provides \$19,000,000 for the continuation and expansion of the National Mesonet Program. Funds should be made available through a competitive weather data procurement that sustains coverage of areas currently included within the national mesonet, as well as an expansion of coverage in high risk areas. NOAA is also encouraged to add new observations such as total lightning data, regional aircraft observations, and vertical column measurements in tornado-prone areas. Additionally, within funds provided, NOAA is encouraged to incorporate state mesonet data into the national mesonet network. NOAA should require that awardees provide mesonet data in formats that can be integrated by NWS for use in forecasts and severe weather alerts. Of the funds provided, up to \$500,000 may be used for Meteorological Assimilation Data Ingest System activities, and up to \$500,000 may be used for costs associated with the National Mesonet Program Office. The Committee views the national mesonet as an important component of any effort to effectively develop a “Weather-Ready Nation” and expects that future NOAA budget requests will continue to reflect it as a priority.

National Centers for Environmental Prediction [NCEP].—The Committee does not adopt the NWS proposal to consolidate centers under NCEP in fiscal year 2018.

Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services Expansion [AHPS].—The Committee rejects NWS’s proposal to slow the expansion of AHPS, which will enable greater information on the magnitude and likelihood of floods and droughts across certain areas of the nation. No less than the fiscal year 2017 amount is provided for AHPS activities.

National Data Buoy Center [NDBC].—The Committee provides sufficient funding to maintain, at a minimum, NDBC operations at 80 percent data availability. The Committee directs NOAA to provide adequate funding to support maintenance and service of the Tropical Atmosphere/Ocean Array [TAO] and Deep Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis [DART] array across the equatorial Pacific. The Committee further directs NOAA to include a schedule to restore existing data buoy operability and its strategy to minimize outages in the future as part of the agency’s spending plan.

Tsunami Warning Program.—The Committee rejects NWS’s proposed cut to the Tsunami Warning Program. Funding is provided at no less than the fiscal year 2017 amounts, including for the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation program grants, to ensure high-quality tsunami watches, warnings, and advisories are issued to safeguard lives and property.

Integrated Water Prediction [IWP] and the National Water Model.—The Committee does not approve the requested decrease to the IWP program, which is funded across multiple NWS budget lines. Instead, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount for IWP. Similarly, the Committee rejects slowing the development of the National Water Model and provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 level for its continued and expedited development.

National Water Center.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for operations and staffing of the

National Water Center [NWC] to develop and operate IWP. NWS shall leverage this funding with resources provided to NOS for IWP and resources provided to OAR for remote sensing of snowpack and soil moisture measurements.

The Committee is pleased with research-to-operations efforts at the NWC between NWS and the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research. This relationship highlights how separate entities and agencies can work together to transfer research into operational solutions that benefit the nation. The NWC serves as the first ever clearinghouse for research and operational forecasting of all water-related issues facing our Nation, including: severe floods, storm surge, droughts, and water quality, among others. Given the importance of NWC to better protect lives and property of our Nation's citizens, NOAA is directed to expedite staffing and operations at NWC to achieve full operating capability as soon as possible. The Committee directs NOAA to provide a report no less than 45 days after enactment of this act with an updated staffing plan that includes an update on commitments from partner agencies and a timeline for achieving baseline operating capability in the first quarter of fiscal year 2018.

Consumer Option for an Alternative System To Allocate Losses [COASTAL] Act Implementation.—Within funding provided for Science and Technology Integration, the Committee provides not less than \$5,000,000 for the continued development and implementation of the COASTAL Act, which was included in the Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–141). The Committee supports NOAA's work to assist homeowners impacted by destructive winds and storm surges associated with hurricanes and super-storms. The Committee directs NOAA to continue to leverage existing Federal assets, expertise, and partnerships in carrying out COASTAL Act activities. Furthermore, NOAA is directed to provide the Committee with updates every 6 months on progress made and challenges related to implementation, as well as any proposed solutions.

Science and Technology Integration.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 level for Mid-Range Weather Outlooks, including seasonal to subseasonal forecasting, and Investments in Numerical Weather Prediction Modeling, which provides critical support to Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project, among other important forecasting activities. Furthermore, the Committee urges NOAA to expedite the project plan described by the Hurricane Forecast Improvement Act (Public Law 115–25). The Committee encourages NWS to reduce errors in tracking and intensity forecasts of hurricanes by identifying technology and methods available to significantly improve hurricane forecasting.

NWS Radar and Satellite Spectrum Studies.—As NOAA begins its study to evaluate sharing the 1675–1680 MHz GOES band, the Committee directs the agency to consult with private industry about the potential application of spectrum sharing technology for shared commercial use. Furthermore, NOAA is encouraged to study opportunities for early entry and flexible access to the 1300–1350 MHz spectrum band through use of private sector spectrum sharing technologies that protect Federal incumbents while making spectrum available for commercial use. The Committee believes

such a study may provide additional options for the Spectrum Efficient National Surveillance Radar [SENSR] program to both enable commercial use of the 1300–1350 MHz spectrum band and reduce technology risk in the multistakeholder SENSR program.

NOAA NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND
INFORMATION SERVICE

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$234,330,000 for National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service [NESDIS] operations. NESDIS programs operate environmental polar-orbiting and geostationary satellites and collect and archive global environmental data and information for distribution to users in commerce, industry, agriculture, science, and engineering, the general public, and Federal, State, and local agencies.

The Committee’s recommendations are displayed in the following table:

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA AND INFORMATION SERVICE OPERATIONS, RESEARCH,
AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Environmental Satellite Observing Systems:	
Office of Satellite and Product Operations	143,214
Product Development, Readiness & Application	29,426
Commercial Remote Sensing Licensing & Enforcement	1,200
Office of Space Commercialization	800
Group on Earth Observations [GEO]	500
Total, Environmental Satellite Observing Systems	175,140
National Centers for Environmental Information	59,190
GRAND TOTAL NESDIS	234,330

National Centers for Environmental Information [NCEI].—The Committee recommends \$59,190,000 for NCEI, which consolidated several programs previously funded separately. While the Committee supports the current budget structure for NESDIS, it is essential to ensure that key programs continue to receive adequate funding. Specifically, the Committee provides not less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted levels of \$6,000,000 for Regional Climate Services, \$3,650,000 for Regional Climate Centers, and an increase of \$933,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for Coastal Data Development. Within NCEI, the Committee encourages NOAA to fully support critical international partnerships, including the Global Climate Observing System.

NOAA MISSION SUPPORT

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$265,032,000 for NOAA’s mission support activities. These programs provide for overall NOAA management, including staffing of the Under Secretary’s office and services to NOAA field offices. These programs also support NOAA’s Education Office consistent with the recommendations of the Joint Ocean Commission. The facilities sub-

activity provides for repair and maintenance to existing facilities, planning and design, and environmental compliance.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

PROGRAM SUPPORT OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Corporate Services:	
Executive Leadership	27,000
Mission Services and Management	147,982
IT Security	10,050
Payment to DOC Working Capital Fund	53,000
Total, Corporate Services	238,032
NOAA Education Program	27,000
GRAND TOTAL, MISSION SUPPORT	265,032

Corporate Services.—Within the increased funding provided for Corporate Services, NOAA is directed to focus on improving workforce management, particularly expediting the hiring process to fill extended vacancies with highly qualified candidates across the agency's line offices. NOAA shall also focus on improving its management of acquisition and grant services.

Facilities.—NOAA's requested cut for facilities under Mission Services and Management is not approved at this time. While the Committee generally supports NOAA's proposal to have individual line offices account for their respective facilities costs, such proposal should come with a transparent accounting for the necessary increases to line office budgets. NOAA failed to clearly account for the facility cost increases that would result from this proposal in its budget request. Therefore, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for facilities repair and maintenance under Mission Services and Management.

Education.—The Committee rejects the proposal to eliminate NOAA's Office of Education. Within the funds provided for NOAA's Education Program, \$5,000,000 is for competitive educational grants, which includes continued support for Environmental Literacy Grants and for improving geographic literacy; \$14,500,000 is for the Educational Partnership Program with minority-serving institutions; and \$7,500,000 is for Bay-Watershed Education and Training regional programs.

Outstanding Loan Balances.—The Committee encourages NOAA and its respective line offices to work with communities and businesses, on a case-by-case basis, to resolve outstanding balances in a manner that considers the borrower's current financial ability but remains fair to American taxpayers.

NOAA OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS

The Committee's recommendation provides \$213,070,000 for NOAA's marine and aviation operations. The Office of Marine and Aviation Operations provides aircraft and marine data acquisition, repair, and maintenance of the existing fleet; planning of future

modernization; and technical and management support for NOAA-wide activities through the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps.

OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS, RESEARCH, AND FACILITIES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Marine Operations and Maintenance	178,838
Aviation Operations	34,232
GRAND TOTAL, OMAO	213,070

Capital Assets.—Any decisions related to laying up any vessels, grounding any aircraft, or decommissioning any capital asset are subject to the standard reprogramming procedures set forth in section 505 of this act. Any changes from the spending plan shall also be subject to section 505 of this act. NOAA shall continue to provide the Committee with a monthly operational status of the fleet and aircraft.

Aviation Operations.—The Committee provides the full amount requested for NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center [AOC]. The Committee maintains its direction for NOAA to provide a comprehensive plan to find a permanent, cost-effective home in the Gulf Coast region, potentially co-located with a Federal partner that can meet NOAA's operational needs.

Unmanned Surface Vehicles [USVs].—The Committee is concerned about NOAA's ability to meet the demand for at-sea research days with its current combination of an aging fleet and charter vessels, as well as responding to emerging mission requirements. The Committee recognizes that USVs are not a replacement for manned research ships, but are a synergistic complement to manned ships' capabilities, and encourages NOAA to examine competitive acquisition of unmanned surface vehicle data as a cost-effective augmentation for relevant research missions and fisheries data collection. Not later than 1 year after enactment of this act, NOAA shall report to the Committee on USV technology and the best application to NOAA mission requirements and operational considerations, including an assessment of how USVs could lower operational costs across NOAA line offices.

Feasibility of Monitoring Atmospheric Rivers.—Not later than 120 days after enactment of this act, NOAA shall submit a report to the Committee regarding the feasibility and potential benefit of using airborne assets to conduct regular storm monitoring off the West Coast of the United States, particularly with regard to Atmospheric Rivers.

NOAA PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$2,242,610,000
Budget estimate, 2018	1,807,801,000
Committee recommendation	2,111,534,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$2,111,534,000 for NOAA's procurement, acquisition, and construction. The rec-

ommendation is \$131,076,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$303,733,000 above the budget request.

Committee recommendations are displayed in the following table:

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
National Ocean Service:	
National Estuarine Research Reserve Construction	1,900
Marine Sanctuaries Construction/Acquisition	2,000
Total National Ocean Service—PAC	3,900
Ocean and Atmospheric Research:	
Research Super Computing	41,000
National Weather Service:	
Observations	32,755
Central Processing	66,761
Dissemination	34,619
WFO Construction	7,650
Total, National Weather Service—PAC	141,785
National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Services:	
Geostationary Systems [GOES-R]	518,532
Joint Polar Satellite System [JPSS]	775,777
Polar Follow-on	419,000
Cooperative Data and Rescue Services [CDARS]	5,000
Space Weather Follow-on	5,000
COSMIC-2	6,100
Satellite Ground Services	53,000
System Architecture and Advanced Planning	4,929
Projects, Planning, and Analysis	37,185
Satellite CDA Facility	2,450
Commercial Weather Data Pilot	2,000
Total, NESDIS—PAC	1,828,973
Mission Support:	
NOAA Construction	13,498
Total, Mission Support—PAC	13,498
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations:	
Fleet Capital Improvements & Tech Infusion	12,878
New Vessel Construction	75,000
Aircraft Recapitalization	12,000
Total, OMAO—PAC	99,878
Unobligated balances from prior years	– 17,500
GRAND TOTAL, PAC	2,129,034

National Estuarine Research Reserve [NERR] Construction.—The Committee provides an increase of \$200,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted amount for NERR Construction to support the expansion of the NERR system. Furthermore, the Committee remains concerned about the increased costs and lack of transparency associated with certain third-party green building rating systems. The use of certain green building standards can arbitrarily discriminate

against domestic building materials such as wood that could be locally sourced, thereby increasing costs to taxpayers without significant benefits in energy and water savings. The Committee again directs NOAA to use funding provided for NERR Construction subject only to green building rating systems or standards that are voluntary consensus standards; have achieved American National Standard Institute [ANSI] Designation; or were developed by an ANSI Audited Designator, and take into consideration the environmental and economic benefits of building materials through lifecycle analysis. Not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, NOAA shall notify the Committee of any new, existing, or planned construction projects at NERRS sites that receive accreditation for energy savings from a third-party green building rating system.

High Performance Computing.—The Committee recognizes NOAA's high performance computing needs and its current limitations on providing high fidelity results in near real-time. Within funding provided for OAR Research Supercomputing, \$15,000,000 shall be used to continue to develop a dedicated high performance computing facility in collaboration with partners that have existing high performance computing expertise and scientific synergies.

NWS Observations.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for Observations under NWS PAC, which includes the full funding for the Automated Surface Observing System and Next Generation Weather Radar Service Life Extension Programs.

Integrated Water Prediction [IWP].—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for Central Processing under NWS PAC, which includes not less than \$4,500,000 to procure operational high performance computing resources to enable modeling improvements associated with the IWP initiative.

Weather Satellites.—The Committee provides full funding for the continued procurement and acquisition of the Joint Polar Satellite System [JPSS] and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite R-series [GOES-R], NOAA's flagship weather satellite programs. NOAA is directed to prioritize satellite programs directly related to weather forecasting and that result in the greatest reduction of risk to lives and property. Keeping JPSS and GOES-R programs on budget and on schedule is critical, as is maintaining their respective cost controls, particularly when NOAA's satellite missions continue to dominate the agency's annual budget requirements. The Committee reiterates its previous direction to NOAA to find savings from operating expenses and to reduce duplicative Government overhead shared with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA].

Polar Follow-On [PFO].—The Committee strongly rejects the administration's proposed cut to PFO, which would be more than a 45 percent reduction from the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. Funding for PFO is critical for maintaining polar orbiting satellite data, which is already at risk for a potential gap due to program mismanagement and funding shortfalls in PFO's predecessor programs. These satellites provide 85 percent of data required for the National Weather Service's Numerical Weather Prediction models. These data are required for accurate forecasts 3–7 days in advance

of a severe weather event, including hurricanes and superstorms. Accurate forecasts allow emergency managers and communities to make timely decisions to protect lives and property. In light of the critical role that these satellites play in protecting American lives and property, the Committee finds it perplexing that the Department of Commerce and NOAA would propose to cut this program. This cut, and the proposed but unspecified postponement of the JPSS-3 and JPSS-4 satellites, would introduce a weather forecasting risk that this Committee is unwilling to accept. Therefore, the Committee provides \$419,000,000 for PFO, which represents the full amount required in fiscal year 2018 to keep the program on its original schedule as determined in the Department's December 2016 PFO Milestone Decision Memorandum.

Space Weather Follow-On.—The Committee provides \$5,000,000 for space weather follow-on activities. The Federal Government needs an operationalized space weather architecture that allows sufficient warning times to protect our communications and electrical infrastructure from severe space weather events. In architecting the follow-on missions, NOAA should consider using lower cost satellites, following NASA's Explorer class model. The Committee expects a detailed account of how this funding will be spent and accompanying deliverables to be submitted to the Committee with the fiscal year 2018 spend plan and for NOAA to coordinate with NASA on the nation's space weather research needs, as discussed under the NASA Heliophysics section of this report.

Satellite CDA Facility.—The Committee provides NESDIS's full requested increase to accelerate electrical infrastructure renewal at the Fairbanks Command and Data Acquisition Station [FCDA]. Electrical infrastructure failures have plagued the site since early 2015, interrupting and damaging satellite ground systems. NOAA is directed to address these failures at FCDA as soon as possible to ensure its important mission can be conducted without impediments caused by electrical power outages.

Metop-C.—The Committee provides NESDIS's full request for Projects, Planning, and Analysis to support pre-launch testing and Ground Support Equipment of U.S. instruments on Metop-C, which is scheduled for launch in October 2018. These instruments will provide complementary data to the JPSS morning orbit in polar satellite data and are critical for maintaining Numerical Weather Prediction model accuracy for 3–7 day forecasts.

Commercial Weather Data Pilot.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 to support the assessment and potential use of commercial data in NOAA's weather modeling and forecasting through pilot purchases of commercial data.

NOAA Satellite Reporting.—The Committee directs NOAA to provide quarterly programmatic and procurement status reports of all satellites actively orbiting, in space but in standby mode, and under development unless any reprogramming, system failure, construction delay, or other extraordinary circumstance warrants an immediate update. As part of the agency's quarterly satellite briefing, NOAA shall include updates on preparations and enhancements necessary to accommodate an increased volume of satellite data and shall compare initial cost estimates to actual expenditures.

NOAA Fleet Recapitalization.—In November 2016, the Committee approved NOAA’s updated Fleet Recapitalization Plan, which established a foundation for new vessel construction over the next 10 years. The Committee is pleased that NOAA’s fiscal year 2018 budget request includes \$75,000,000 for new vessel construction, which follows the Committee’s direction and tempo for revitalizing the agency’s aging fleet. The Committee commends NOAA’s plan to leverage work done by the U.S. Navy to reduce design risk, ship acquisition cost, and vessel delivery time. The Committee further urges NOAA to continue efforts to find additional ship acquisition efficiencies. Furthermore, in recognition of the economic and national security importance of the domestic shipbuilding industrial base, the Committee urges NOAA to make every effort to acquire, consistent with its schedule and cost competition requirements, only U.S. manufactured components of the following type: auxiliary equipment (including pumps) for shipboard services; propulsion equipment (including engines, reduction gears, and propellers); shipboard cranes; and spreaders for shipboard cranes. NOAA is directed to continue providing the Committee quarterly updates on progress and plans to recapitalize the fleet.

NOAA Aircraft Recapitalization.—NOAA operates nine aircraft, including hurricane hunter observation platforms and several unmanned aerial vehicles that are critical for forecasting severe weather, conducting emergency response, and supporting research missions. Some of these platforms are rapidly approaching their operational life expectancy, including the aging jet prop aircraft that conducts valuable soil moisture, water resources, and gravity-based vertical datum survey missions. The Committee provides \$12,000,000 to replace this asset with a comparable aircraft that provides better uniformity within NOAA’s current inventory. Within 120 days of enactment of this act, NOAA shall submit an updated NOAA Aircraft Recapitalization Business Case and Timeline to the Committee that encompasses the agency’s entire aerial assets and associated mission requirements and shall include any changes in risk related to unscheduled repairs to the Gulfstream IV during the 2016 hurricane season. As part of the report, NOAA is directed to consider options for augmenting its airborne capabilities to conduct primary mission work or to provide secondary backup capacity. In addition to procuring new aircraft, NOAA should evaluate leasing or contracting assets, consistent with the requirements of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–25).

NOAA Marine Operation Facilities.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 under Mission Support PAC to continue the necessary environmental assessments, permitting activities, and design work for new berthing facilities at Newport, Rhode Island, which will permanently accommodate the NOAA Ship *Henry B. Bigelow* and other vessels in future fiscal years. Within 120 days of enactment of this act, NOAA shall submit a comprehensive plan to the Committee outlining the cost, scope, and timeline for constructing and outfitting this facility, which is co-located on United States Navy property. As part of this plan, NOAA shall outline its partnership with the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard

on the associated shared responsibilities for constructing and using this facility.

Mission Support, Facilities Initiative.—Within funding provided under Mission Support PAC for NOAA Construction, \$10,500,000 is for wet lab and syphon system repairs and construction at NOAA's Mukilteo fisheries laboratory, in accordance with funding requested and provided for these activities in fiscal year 2017.

Fishing Community Presence.—NOAA shall consider all viable ports when undertaking capital planning reviews, including those that do not currently have a significant NOAA presence.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY FUND

Appropriations, 2017	\$65,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	
Committee recommendation	65,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$65,000,000 for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$65,000,000 above the budget estimate. Funds are for conservation and restoration of Pacific salmon populations. State and local recipients of this funding will provide matching contributions of at least 33 percent of Federal funds. In addition, funds will be available to tribes without a matching requirement.

FISHERMEN'S CONTINGENCY FUND

Appropriations, 2017	\$350,000
Budget estimate, 2018	349,000
Committee recommendation	349,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$349,000 for the Fishermen's Contingency Fund. The recommendation is \$1,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the President's request.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2017	-\$410,000
Budget estimate, 2018	-3,000,000
Committee recommendation	-3,000,000

The Committee recommends that direct loans administered through this account for individual fishing quotas may not exceed \$24,000,000. Traditional direct loans may not exceed \$100,000,000, which is the same as the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and budget request.

OTHER

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$58,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	63,000,000
Committee recommendation	58,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$58,000,000 for Departmental Management Salaries and Expenses. The recommenda-

tion is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$5,000,000 below the budget request.

Within Departmental Management, the Salaries and Expenses account provides funding for the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and support staff. Responsibilities involve policy development and implementation affecting U.S. and international activities, as well as establishing internal goals for operations of the Department.

Not less than 90 days after enactment of this act, the Department shall submit to the Committee a report detailing actions taken to cut costs and a detailed account of funds saved by such actions across the Department's bureaus.

Working Capital Funds.—For each of the three working capital funds within DOC, the following are to be provided to the Committee and the Office of Inspector General by November 30 of each fiscal year: (1) A comparison of the final budget or spending plan at the project or activity level to the actual year-end data as of September 30 of the prior fiscal year, including detailed narratives for variances greater than 5 percent at the project or activity; (2) the initial budget or spending plan by project or activity for the current fiscal year; and (3) a detailed schedule of fiscal year-end unobligated and carryover balances by source funding category and by expiring budget fiscal year, to include: direct authority, Federal and intragovernmental reimbursable authority by trading partner, non-Federal reimbursable authority, amounts held for future asset replacement, and other categories.

Concrete Masonry Products.—The Committee recognizes that concrete block is a durable product used in the construction of public infrastructure, commercial facilities, and homes. The Committee recognizes the need for legislation to enable concrete masonry manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion of markets for concrete masonry products and that would give the Department legal authority for the program's operation and to maintain oversight.

Small Business Innovation Research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Small Business Innovation Research [SBIR] program and its previous accomplishments in facilitating commercial successes from federally funded research and development projects. The SBIR program encourages small domestic businesses to engage in Federal research and development and creates jobs in the smallest firms. The Committee therefore directs the DOC to place an increased focus on awarding SBIR grants to firms with fewer than 50 people.

Unobligated Balances.—The Committee remains concerned about the amount of unobligated funding within DOC. As directed in section 507 of this act, the Department is directed to continue reporting all unobligated balances to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

Spending Plans.—Under section 533 of this act, the Department is required to submit a spending plan within 45 days of the enactment of this act. That plan should describe the programs, projects, and activities of the Department so that the Committee receives detailed descriptions of how the Department intends to operationalize the funding provided in annual appropriations bills. The Committee expects a detailed accounting of each bureau's spending, including reimbursable, fee-funded, or working capital

fund spending, particularly with regard to specific programs, projects, and activities described in the bill and accompanying report. The Department shall continue to work with the Committee to ensure that its spending plans provide adequate information for continued oversight of the Department.

RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

Appropriations, 2017	\$4,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	1,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,000,000

The Committee recommendation provides \$1,000,000, which is \$3,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget request, for building renovation at the Department. Furthermore, unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated for DOC may be transferred to and merged with this account subject to certain limitations and the procedures set forth in section 505 of this act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2017	\$32,744,000
Budget estimate, 2018	32,000,000
Committee recommendation	32,744,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$32,744,000 for the Office of Inspector General [OIG]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$744,000 above the budget request.

In addition to funds provided under this heading, the Committee has recommended transfers to the OIG: \$2,000,000 from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; \$1,302,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and \$2,580,000 from the Census Bureau for oversight and audits of those activities. The Committee directs the OIG to continue strict oversight activities for satellite procurements, cybersecurity, and the decennial census.

Working Capital Fund Audits.—The Committee continues to direct the OIG to audit all of the working capital funds within the Department to evaluate the Department's budgetary controls over all funds. The OIG shall assess: the controls in place to develop reimbursement formulas; the relationship of reimbursements to client services; the appropriateness of the level of fund balances; and compliance with appropriations law and direction. As part of this assessment, the Inspector General shall pay particular attention to the increasing amounts of funding needed to support the Department's Office of General Counsel, including the justification and metrics for how such funding is being levied against each agency and, reciprocally, how the agencies account for the services they receive from the OIG. If at any point during these audits the OIG encounters problems with accessing any necessary information or data from the Department, the OIG is directed to notify the Committee immediately.

Audits and Investigations.—The Committee believes that robust investigations and audits are essential to rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse, but that limiting inquiries only to individuals in the Department does not necessarily lead to comprehensive findings and recommendations. The Committee directs the OIG to modify its

policies and procedures to ensure that investigations or reports include interviews with all parties to the project or program in question, including, but not limited to, contractors responsible for projects under review. The Committee cautions the OIG against issuing preliminary findings prior to interviewing a majority of the entities involved with the program or project under investigation, unless the OIG believes the findings are time sensitive or additional interviews are immaterial.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Section 101 makes Commerce Department funds available for advanced payments only upon certification of officials designated by the Secretary that such payments are considered to be in the public interest.

Section 102 makes appropriations for salaries and expenses available for the hire of passenger motor vehicles, and for services, uniforms, and allowances as authorized by law.

Section 103 provides the authority to transfer funds between Department of Commerce accounts. The provision makes transfers subject to the Committee's standard reprogramming procedures and requires notification to the Committee prior to capital asset disposal.

Section 104 extends congressional notification requirements for the NOAA satellite programs.

Section 105 provides authority for the Secretary of Commerce to furnish certain services within the Herbert C. Hoover Building.

Section 106 clarifies that grant recipients under the Department of Commerce may continue to deter child pornography, copyright infringement, or any other unlawful activity over their networks.

Section 107 provides NOAA the authority to share resources with entities outside the agency.

Section 108 requires that, before charging for congressional reports, the National Technical Information Service [NTIS] advise the public of free ways to receive or access these reports. For those reports that cannot be found free of charge or when a customer requires a mailed, hard copy, NTIS may only charge a de minimus copying and mailing fee.

Section 109 allows the Secretary of Commerce to waive the bond requirement for research vessel repair and construction contracts that would align Commerce's authorities with those of other Federal agencies and address difficulties NOAA has experienced in obtaining competitive bids for ship repairs.

Prior to exercising waiver authority under section 109 of this act, the Secretary of Commerce shall promulgate regulations specifying criteria under which waiver authority may be used, including the types of contracts eligible for consideration, surety alternatives, and acceptable risk profiles in order to protect the taxpayer and ensure that NOAA maximizes cost-savings. The Department is directed to notify the Committee not less than 15 days prior to any waiver issued under this section. In addition, the Department shall, not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this act, prepare a report including the actual costs of repairing, rehabilitating, and replacing vessels in fiscal years 2014, 2015, 2016,

2017, 2018, and annually thereafter, including an indication of those vessels for which NOAA waived the Miller Act.

Section 110 allows NOAA to be reimbursed by Federal and non-Federal entities for performing certain activities.

The Committee remains concerned that agreements for offsetting collections provided for under this section could result in a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, for the Department. The Department is directed to exercise caution and consider any unintended consequences that could result from such agreements, including, but not limited to, augmentation of appropriations, initiation of new programs not authorized by this act or any other act of Congress, and liabilities extending beyond the period of any such agreement. The Department shall provide to the Committee monthly updates on all offsetting fee collections, including each entity participating in the agreement, as well as the terms of and specific activities funded by the agreement. Additionally, estimates of anticipated fee collections shall be included in the Department's annual spend plans. To further ensure the Committee maintains sufficient oversight for activities carried out under this section, language is included specifying that any offsetting collection would require the consent of each party subject to the agreement and all offsetting collections shall be subject to procedures set forth by section 505 of this act.

Section 111 provides authority for the programs of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census to enter into cooperative agreements in order to assist in improving statistical methodology and research.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Committee recommends a total of \$29,068,210,000 for the Department of Justice [DOJ]. The recommendation is \$120,713,000 above the fiscal year 2017 funding level and \$739,705,000 above the budget request. The Committee's recommendation emphasizes key priorities regarding funding for the Department's critical ongoing missions and activities to protect the safety, security, and rights of our citizens.

Countering the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic.—The Committee continues its commitment to helping States and local communities in the fight against heroin and the illegal use of opioids through comprehensive programs covering law enforcement, prevention, and treatment. A total of \$174,000,000 is provided for these purposes, including \$158,000,000 in DOJ grant funding, to help our State and local partners tackle this epidemic. In addition, the Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] is provided \$2,535,351,000, of which \$12,500,000 is provided to continue the four heroin enforcement teams funded in fiscal year 2017 for interdiction and intervention efforts including the support of DEA's 360 Strategy. The Committee supports the Bureau of Prisons' drug treatment programs, including the Residential Drug Assistance Program, at no less than the fiscal year 2017 level of \$116,000,000. Rather than take critical programming resources from the DEA's Diversion Control Fee Account, the Executive Office of the United States Attorneys [EOUSA] is directed to dedicate Assistant U.S. Attorneys to focus on criminal and civil diversion cases.

Trafficking in Persons.—The fight against human and sex trafficking, including the apprehension of perpetrators who use classified ads on Web sites to facilitate the sexual exploitation of children, crosses many jurisdictions within the Department. The Department shall dedicate no less than the fiscal year 2017 level for the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit [HTPU] and the Committee encourages HTPU and the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams to continue working with victim service providers and non-governmental organizations to ensure victim needs are prioritized as part of the overall strategy to combat human trafficking and forced labor in the United States. Furthermore, the Committee directs the HTPU to provide a report on human trafficking victims, as specified in Senate Report 114–239 and codified by Public Law 115–31, to the Committee no later than 90 days following enactment of this act.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] is directed to provide no less than the fiscal year 2017 level to investigate severe forms of trafficking in persons. As the lead Federal law enforcement agency, the FBI's ability to combat trafficking and forced labor re-

quires resources devoted specifically to the growing problem of trafficking and forced labor. Funding shall be used for investigations into human trafficking and forced labor and providing victim witness coordinators when needed on an emergency basis through the Office of Victim Assistance via the Office of Victims of Crime. The Committee also directs that the FBI designate a lead agent in each field office as a point of contact for slavery and human trafficking investigations.

In addition, the Committee directs the FBI to submit a report for Innocence Lost Operations encompassing the previous 5 years that details the: (1) number of traffickers arrested, (2) the number of adults arrested on charges of prostitution, (3) the number of minor victims identified, (4) the number of minor victims criminally charged, and (5) the placement and social service support secured for each child in each State operation within 180 days of enactment of this act.

The EOUSA and the FBI shall continue to follow direction as outlined by the Committee in Senate Report 114–66 regarding designated points of contact and improved processes for T-visas for EOUSA and support for victims of trafficking through Continued Presence for the FBI.

The Committee is disturbed by recent reporting on the use of labor that may have been subject to human trafficking to harvest fish in international waters. Due to the complex legal and jurisdictional issues involved, the Committee directs the DOJ to lead a multi-agency task force to address this issue. The task force should convene experts from Federal agencies that handle law enforcement, labor law and international issues to develop a coordinated response regarding the proper application of U.S. law and resolution of any jurisdictional issues. The Department is directed to report back to the Committee on the establishment and progress of this multi-disciplinary task force not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this act and issue a final report along with any related funding, policy recommendations and legal decisions within 1 year of enactment of this act.

Intellectual Property Rights [IPR] Enforcement.—The Committee expects the Department to continue to make IPR enforcement an investigative and prosecutorial priority. Sophisticated, often transnational, criminal enterprises engage in a range of illegal activity, including identity theft, connected to the theft of copyrighted content. Given the strong links to other illegal activity, the Department's IP-dedicated personnel should investigate U.S.-based sites and apps that are engaged in such criminal activity. The FBI shall submit a report to the Committee, not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, detailing the activities of its dedicated agents investigating IPR cases, particularly in the area of creative content theft.

The Committee reminds United States Attorneys Offices [USAO] to remain focused on IPR crimes. Based on a new wave of digital copyright piracy involving devices and software that connect televisions directly to copyright-theft sites, the Committee directs the USAOs to place an emphasis on the investigation and prosecution of criminal enterprises distributing such illicit copyright-theft devices.

Cybersecurity.—The Department has several offices with cybersecurity responsibilities, including those within the FBI, the National Security Division, the Criminal Division, and USAO. At a minimum, the Committee directs the Department to maintain its cybersecurity posture at no less than the fiscal year 2017 level to defend and respond to current and emerging attacks that threaten its own infrastructure and activities. In other cases, such as with the USAO, DEA, and the FBI, the Committee has specific direction detailed later in this report to provide increased funding for cyber-related investigations and to prosecute additional cybercrimes. Throughout this title, the Committee directs the Department to provide no less than the fiscal year 2017 level for cybersecurity-related activities.

Strengthening Police-Community Relations.—The Committee continues to recognize and support the important need for lasting collaborative relationships between local police and the public and directs that no less than the fiscal year 2017 funding level be allocated towards these efforts. \$92,500,000 is provided for State and Local and Community Oriented Policing Services [COPS] Office grant programs. Strong partnerships between the police and the communities they protect reduce crime, ensure that citizens' civil rights are protected, and improve officer safety.

The Committee supports the FBI's June 10, 2016, guidance affirming the Criminal Justice Information Services [CJIS] Advisory Policy Board recommendation that all law enforcement agencies be National Incident-Based Reporting System [NIBRS] compliant by January 1, 2021. The FBI's NIBRS captures detailed crime incident data, beyond what the Uniform Crime Reporting System currently tracks, such as arrests and officer-involved shootings, is not only critical in aiding State and local law enforcement agencies as they work to keep our communities safe, but also increases transparency and accountability of law enforcement to the public. To assist in this effort, the Committee again funds the National Crime Statistics Exchange [NCS-X] at \$5,000,000 to help additional law enforcement agencies make the transition into NIBRS and allow the Bureau of Justice Statistics to produce nationally representative estimates of crimes known to the police that can be disaggregated by victim-offender characteristics, the circumstances of the crime, victim-offender relationship, and other important elements of criminal events.

Federal Water Usage Violations.—The Committee is aware that the Department should receive notifications from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] regarding violations of Federal water contracts involving multi-State river basins. The Committee directs the Department to provide a report within 60 days of enactment of this act that includes: an audit of all Federal water contract violations in multi-State water basins since 2005; an audit of any contract violation notifications DOJ has received from USACE regarding all multi-State river basins since 2005; a record of how DOJ has handled these violations and notifications; and a comprehensive plan for how DOJ intends to enforce the law and respond to these contract violations now and in the future. The Committee also directs the Department to enter into an agreement with USACE whereby the Department contemporaneously receives all

water contract violation notifications produced or issued by the USACE, in whatever form. Upon receipt of any contract violations, the Attorney General shall ensure that the information is provided to the appropriate United States Attorney's offices of jurisdiction to determine if civil or criminal prosecution is warranted.

Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act.—The Committee fully supports the goals of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–325) to investigate and prosecute previously unresolved civil rights era “cold case” murders suspected of having been racially motivated, through a partnership among the Civil Rights Division [CRT], the FBI, the Community Relations Service [CRS], State and local law enforcement officials, and other eligible entities. To continue supporting Emmett Till activities, the Committee urges the Department to: use such sums as may be necessary from within the base budget for the CRT's Cold Case Initiative; for the FBI to pursue Emmett Till Act cold cases; and for the CRS to partner with law enforcement agencies and communities to help resolve conflicts resulting from the investigation of unsolved civil rights era cases. Additionally, the Committee directs the National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Office for Victims of Crime to continue providing grants for cold case DNA investigations to aid State and local law enforcement agencies in their investigation and prosecution of unsolved civil rights cold cases.

Working Capital Fund [WCF].—The Committee expects the Department to execute funding to the fullest extent possible without any carryover balances. The Committee directs DOJ to continue to use the WCF only as a repository for reimbursable funds from components and to obligate and execute that funding expeditiously. The DOJ shall provide a report to the Committee within 45 days of enactment of this act regarding balances in the WCF including carryover funds, the intended uses of those funds, and a spending plan. The spending plan shall include: the amount each component contributes to the WCF; a detailed accounting of collections into the WCF from appropriations, reimbursable funds, and alternative sources of funding including the Three Percent Fund; a list of settlements and collections from the Three Percent Fund in excess of \$3,000,000 and a categorical accounting of obligations out of the WCF including a breakdown of services provided from the Department to each component. The Department is further directed to provide quarterly updates on the WCF to the Committee.

Cell-Site Simulator [CSS] Technology.—Funds provided in this act shall be used only to deploy or facilitate the use of CSS technology for criminal investigations if such use complies fully with DOJ's guidance issued on September 3, 2015. The Department shall ensure that this guidance is followed strictly by Federal, State, and local entities that receive funding under this act, to include compliance with requirements of the Fourth Amendment and the Pen Register Act. As directed in the guidance, CSS technology must be configured only as pen registers and may not be used to collect content of any communication or subscriber account information. In addition, the departmental guidance requires comprehensive and consistent training on the appropriate use of CSS technology; adopting rigorous practices for handling and retaining

data acquired through the use of this technology; and scrupulously auditing the use of such technology. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report, within 120 days of enactment of this act, on DOJ's use of CSS technology and its compliance with the guidance.

Crime Victim and Sexual Assault Survivor Rights Implementation.—The Committee strongly supports the Department's continued efforts to promote the rights of crime victims, including new rights for sexual assault survivors enacted as part of the Survivors' Bill of Rights Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–70). Sexual assault remains one of the most underreported crimes in our criminal justice system. Formal recognition of the rights of survivors remains a critical component of the larger effort to increase reporting of these crimes by creating an environment that allows survivors to feel comfortable coming forward. To that end, the Committee directs the Department to report within 90 days of enactment of this act on its efforts to update its prosecution, victim, and witness assistance guidelines, protocols, procedures, and other relevant regulations in order to be consistent with recent changes in the law associated with crime victims and sexual assault survivors rights, including those victim and survivor rights that apply regardless of whether the victim participates in a subsequent investigation or whether or not a report results in a formal charge or indictment.

Travel Scams.—The Committee is aware of rising incidences of online hotel booking scams targeting U.S. citizens. The Committee encourages the Department to collaborate with the Federal Trade Commission to develop a strategy to reduce and prevent incidences of consumers being subjected to booking scams, with a particular focus on deceptive websites and call centers that pose as legitimate hotel or travel companies.

Compliance with Recently Enacted Laws.—The Committee reminds the Department of the recent enactment of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–324) and Title XIV of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255), titled “Mental Health and Safe Communities,” and expects the Department to fully comply with these laws in administering the funding provided under this act.

Spending Plan.—In compliance with section 533 of this act, the Committee directs the Department to submit a spending plan, signed by the Attorney General, within 45 days of enactment of this act.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$114,124,000
Budget estimate, 2018	114,000,000
Committee recommendation	114,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$114,000,000 for General Administration salaries and expenses. The recommendation is \$124,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The General Administration account provides funding for senior policy officials responsible for departmental management and pol-

icy development. The specific offices funded by this account include: the immediate Office of the Attorney General; the immediate Office of the Deputy Attorney General; the immediate Office of the Associate Attorney General; Office of Legal Policy; Office of Public Affairs; Office of Legislative Affairs [OLA]; Office of Professional Responsibility; Office of Intergovernmental and Public Liaison; and the Justice Management Division [JMD].

Wildlife Trafficking.—The Committee notes the dramatic and disconcerting increase of criminal activity involving wildlife that includes the illegal trade in rhinoceros horns and elephant ivory, poaching of wild animals for their parts, illegal capture and transport of endangered animals, and illegally harvested timber, as well as money laundering that comes with these products' sale on the black market. There are indisputable linkages between these activities and the financing of armed insurgencies and transnational organized crime that threaten the stability and development of African countries and pose a serious threat to U.S. security interests.

The Committee directs the Attorney General to continue to report on the specific steps the Department is taking to further address wildlife trafficking and the illegal natural resources trade, as specifically outlined in Senate Report 114–239 and codified in Public Law 115–31. The report should also include the investigative efforts of INTERPOL programs like Operation Worthy II and Operation Paws, as well as the issuance of Red Notices for criminals engaging in these activities, and efforts to carry out the new authorities and penalties under the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–231), which allows the Federal Government to seek stronger penalties under existing money laundering statutes in order to prosecute high-value criminal violations of wildlife trafficking laws.

Office of Legislative Affairs.—While the Committee primarily communicates with the Department through JMD, it reserves the right to call upon any individual or organization within its jurisdiction for requests for information, including the Department's Office of Legislative Affairs [OLA]. The Committee again reminds DOJ that it has both budgetary and oversight capabilities, and requests for additional information from the Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, or Ranking Members or their staffs to OLA should be treated as a priority for the Department and responded to both courteously and expeditiously.

Special Counsel.—The Committee directs the leadership of the Department to adhere faithfully to all of its established processes and regulations regarding the operations of any Special Counsel.

DOJ's Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety and Subcommittee on Forensics.—The Committee directs the Department to provide a report not later than 90 days after enactment of this act with the following: an explanation of the methods and programs by which the DOJ will be assisting the State, local, and tribal forensic science community in tackling the opioid crisis through the work of the Subcommittee on Forensics; a plan as to how the Office of Forensic Investigative Sciences, within the National Institute of Justice, will solicit the input of State, county, local and tribal forensic science service providers, agencies and practitioners re-

garding grant programs; and how the DOJ plans to coordinate with NIST's Organization of Scientific Area Committees.

Native Children's Commission.—The Committee supports the need to address issues affecting Native children and directs DOJ to continue to support the important work of the Commission on Native Children as specified in the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children's Act (Public Law 114–244).

JUSTICE INFORMATION SHARING TECHNOLOGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$31,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	30,941,000
Committee recommendation	30,941,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$30,941,000 for Justice Information Sharing Technology [JIST]. The recommendation is \$59,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$440,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	¹ 500,397,000
Committee recommendation	500,397,000

¹The budget request for the Executive Office for Immigration Review is requested within a separate heading that includes other accounts.

The Committee's recommendation provides \$500,397,000 for the Executive Office for Immigration Review, of which \$4,000,000 is a transfer from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services [USCIS] Immigration Examiners Fee Account. The recommendation is \$60,397,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and is the same as the budget request.

This account funds the Executive Office for Immigration Review [EOIR], including the Board of Immigration Appeals [BIA], immigration judges, and administrative law judges who decide through administrative hearings whether to admit or exclude aliens seeking to enter the country, and whether to deport or adjust the status of aliens whose status has been challenged.

EOIR Backlog of Cases and Immigration Judge Hiring.—The Committee directs EOIR to promptly resume submitting monthly performance and operating reports, which have provided the Committee with clear statistics on the dire situation at EOIR with regard to the backlog of cases and the hiring of new Immigration Judge [IJ] Teams to process them. In fiscal year 2017, these mandatory reports have not been transmitted in a timely manner pursuant to the Committee's direction. EOIR's immigration court caseload continues to escalate as a result of heightened border enforcement efforts, and at the end of June 2017 the backlog of cases pending adjudication had reached a crisis level of 607,755.

For fiscal year 2017, the Committee provided funding to hire 10 new IJ Teams and equipped them with the necessary technology and support to do their jobs efficiently, and the requested increase in funding provided for fiscal year 2018 is for an additional 65 new

IJ teams. The Committee is concerned, however, about the Department's ability to expeditiously fill these and many other vacant positions at EOIR. The Committee directs EOIR to ensure that all newly hired IJs are highly qualified and trained to conduct fair, impartial hearings consistent with due process and are drawn from a diverse pool of candidates that includes a balance of candidates with non-governmental, private bar experience in addition to government experience.

In Senate Report 114-239, the Committee directed the Department to prioritize hiring new immigration judges as a primary means to reverse the alarming growth in the caseload backlog. The Committee was pleased to learn that the Department is developing a revised, expedited hiring process for new IJs, but the Committee is troubled that the key details of this plan have not been shared. Left unanswered are questions regarding the applicant pool for new hires and the means by which candidate vetting will be accelerated while remaining thorough. Furthermore, the Department has announced plans to surge IJs to areas with the largest case backlogs, but the Committee is still awaiting important information regarding this announcement in order to properly perform its oversight responsibilities. Within 30 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs EOIR to submit their streamlined IJ hiring plan, to detail the number of IJs being reassigned to the southwest border and where they are being moved from, and to explain how the caseload of IJs reassigned to the southwest border will be covered.

Immigration Judge Training.—The Committee was alarmed by EOIR's recent cancellation of continued training and education courses for IJs. Given the ever changing landscape of immigration laws, orders, policies and court cases, it is critical that IJs receive continuous training throughout the length of their careers. This training helps to ensure they have the most up-to-date information on not only rules and regulations, but how to best handle cases with vulnerable populations, such as children, as well as ethics courses. Within 90 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs a report detailing the level of training each IJ receives when entering EOIR service, and the annual number of hours of training and courses required for IJs currently on the bench.

Legal Orientation Program [LOP].—The Committee's recommendation maintains the fiscal year 2017 level of no less than \$10,400,000 for LOP. This includes funding for LOP for Custodians [LOPC], including efforts, pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-457), for custodians of unaccompanied, undocumented children to address the custodian's responsibility for the child's appearance at all immigration proceedings, and to protect the child from mistreatment, exploitation, and trafficking. Recognizing that LOP currently serves detained individuals in a limited number of States, the Committee directs that attention be paid to geographic equity as LOP expands the reach of its services to additional detention centers. The Committee notes the particular need for legal services at more remote immigration detention sites that are far from legal service providers in urban centers.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2017	\$95,583,000
Budget estimate, 2018	95,328,000
Committee recommendation	96,500,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$96,500,000 for the Office of Inspector General [OIG]. The recommendation is \$917,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$1,172,000 above the budget request.

This account finances the activities of the OIG, including audits, inspections, investigations, and other reviews of programs and operations of the Department to promote efficiency and effectiveness, and to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse, as well as violations of ethical standards arising from the conduct of Department employees in their numerous and diverse activities.

Oversight of Crime Victims Fund Grants.—Section 510 of this act maintains \$10,000,000 for the OIG to continue its expanded audits of the Crime Victims Fund [CVF] including funding set aside for Indian tribes. The Committee remains concerned that the Department is not doing enough to proportionately adjust its grant monitoring activities to reflect significant changes in CVF spending in order to avoid waste, fraud and abuse. The Committee directs the OIG to continue its audits of CVF awards and assist the Department to ensure these important funds are used appropriately and effectively.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$13,308,000
Budget estimate, 2018	13,283,000
Committee recommendation	13,308,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$13,308,000 for the United States Parole Commission. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$25,000 above the budget request.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2017	\$897,500,000
Budget estimate, 2018	899,000,000
Committee recommendation	897,500,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$897,500,000 for General Legal Activities salaries and expenses. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$1,500,000 below the budget request.

This bill funds the establishment of litigation policy, conduct of litigation, and various other legal responsibilities through the Office of the Solicitor General, the Tax Division, the Criminal Division [CRM], the Civil Division, the Environmental and Natural Resources Division, the Civil Rights Division [CRT], the Office of Legal Counsel, and INTERPOL Washington.

INTERPOL Washington.—From within funds provided for General Legal Activities, the Committee directs the Department to provide no less than the fiscal year 2017 level for INTERPOL Washington. The Committee has provided no-year authority in the amount of \$685,000 to ensure sufficient resources are available for INTERPOL Washington's dues payments and help the Department better manage fluctuations in currency exchange rates. INTERPOL Washington's command center [IOCC] operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, responding to requests for international criminal investigative and humanitarian assistance from more than 18,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies and their counterparts in 189 other INTERPOL-member countries. INTERPOL Washington's responsibility to respond to increasing foreign and domestic requests places additional operational demands on the resources of this organization.

Civil Rights.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level to continue its efforts to enforce civil rights laws; expand its capacity to prosecute and provide litigation support for human trafficking, hate crimes, and unsolved civil rights era crimes; carry out its responsibilities associated with the civil rights of institutionalized persons and the access rights of the disabled; investigate and prosecute police misconduct; and enhance the enforcement of fair housing and fair lending laws.

Civil Rights Violations in State and Local Prisons and Jails.—The Committee continues to be concerned by reports of civil rights violations in State and local prisons and jails, and directs the CRT to increase efforts to investigate and address violations of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act in State and local prisons and jails. The Committee directs the CRT to use such sums as necessary from amounts appropriated in fiscal year 2018 to address such issues in State and local prisons and jails.

Human Rights Crimes.—The Committee remains concerned by the large number of suspected human rights violators from foreign countries who have found safe haven in the United States and directs the CRM to continue its efforts to investigate and prosecute serious human rights crimes, including genocide, torture, use or recruitment of child soldiers, and war crimes. For this purpose, the Committee's recommendation supports continued funding for the CRM to investigate and prosecute individuals who violate Federal laws regarding serious human rights abuses.

Enforcement of Federal Hate Crime Laws.—The Committee is concerned by reports of increased incidents of bias-motivated crimes and directs the Civil Rights Division to aggressively prosecute hate crimes and work with the FBI, U.S. Attorneys, and the Community Relations Service to improve hate crime reporting and prevent hate crimes from taking place in the first instance.

International Training.—The Committee remains concerned about the instability of budget and staffing challenges faced by the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training [OPDAT] and International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program [ICITAP] programs under the current funding structure provided via the Department of State. While the Committee encourages the Departments of Justice and State to maintain open communications regarding programmatic and re-

source needs to truly execute their missions, OPDAT and ICITAP should ideally receive a transfer of funds from State within 90 days of enactment of this act. Should an immediate source of funding be needed ahead of a completed transfer of funds, the Committee suggests that the Department of Justice notify the Committee immediately.

THE NATIONAL CHILDHOOD VACCINE INJURY ACT

Appropriations, 2017	\$10,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	9,340,000
Committee recommendation	10,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides a reimbursement of \$10,000,000 for legal costs. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and is \$660,000 above the budget request.

This account covers the Department's expenses associated with litigating cases under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-660).

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, ANTITRUST DIVISION

Appropriations, 2017	\$164,977,000
Budget estimate, 2018	164,663,000
Committee recommendation	164,977,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$164,977,000 for the Antitrust Division. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and is \$314,000 above the budget request. This appropriation is offset by \$126,000,000 in pre-merger filing fee collections, resulting in a direct appropriation of \$38,977,000.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$2,035,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	2,057,252,000
Committee recommendation	2,057,252,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$2,057,252,000 for the Executive Office for United States Attorneys [EOUSA] and the 94 U.S. Attorneys [USAs] offices. The recommendation is \$22,252,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and is equal to the budget request.

As in past years, the Committee directs the USAs to focus their efforts on those crimes where the unique resources, expertise, or jurisdiction of the Federal Government can be most effective.

Diversion of Opioids.—In order to take steps to eliminate over-prescribing and diversion of opioids, the Committee directs that no less than \$2,500,000 be used for EOUSA to conduct criminal and civil prosecutions into the illegal prescribing and dispensing of opioids. The Committee believes that the existing structure of EOUSA, rather than the creation of a new DEA prosecutorial force using Diversion Control Fee Account funding, is the appropriate way to target these complex cases which often involve Medicare and Medicaid fraud.

Adam Walsh Act Implementation.—The Committee expects the EOUSA to continue to focus on investigations and prosecutions re-

lated to the sexual exploitation of children, as authorized by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248), and as part of Project Safe Childhood. The recommendation fully funds the budget request of \$48,341,000 for this purpose in fiscal year 2018.

Combating Financial and Mortgage Fraud.—The Committee directs the EOUSA to prioritize resources and provide no less than the fiscal year 2017 level to conduct criminal investigations and prosecutions of mortgage and financial fraud, including financial fraud against seniors; predatory lending; and market manipulation matters to ensure that reports of financial fraud are thoroughly addressed and the perpetrators of these crimes are brought to justice.

Civil Rights Prosecutions.—The Committee’s recommendation provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 level for continued civil rights enforcement that will advance both criminal and civil litigations, including the prosecution of sex and labor trafficking.

Cybercrime.—As national and international cyber threats become increasingly sophisticated, our Federal prosecutors must become better versed in digital forensic evidence. The Committee’s recommendation provides no less than \$59,968,000, which is equal to the fiscal year 2017 level and \$4,875,000 above the budget request, for cybercrime activities. The USAO will be able to increase the number of investigations and prosecutions of cyber attacks and cyber intrusions, and provide the high-caliber level of training on cybercrime and digital evidence needed for Assistant U.S. Attorneys to be able to analyze and present digital evidence across all types of criminal cases.

The Committee does not support proposed funding cuts for Intellectual Property and Child Pornography activities, and instead directs USAO to provide no less than the fiscal year 2017 funding level for prosecution of these cyber-related crimes.

Annual Report for the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia.—The Committee is troubled by reports that the USA’s Office for the District of Columbia has failed to provide basic information regarding its investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Lack of transparency regarding the conduct of Federal prosecutors not only creates a culture of mistrust and frustration among local advocates, survivors, and the general public, but it can also frustrate this Committee’s ability to conduct constitutionally mandated oversight. To that end, the Committee directs the Department to review recent data disclosures from the USA’s Office for the District of Columbia to determine whether information provided regarding investigation and prosecution of sexual assaults is consistent with other USAOs. The Committee further directs the Department to ensure that moving forward any criminal justice data in its Annual Report for the USA’s Office for the District of Columbia includes the same information as its other offices, particularly with respect to investigation and prosecution of sexual crimes.

UNITED STATES TRUSTEE SYSTEM FUND

Appropriations, 2017	\$225,908,000
Budget estimate, 2018	225,479,000
Committee recommendation	225,908,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$225,908,000 for the United States Trustee System Fund. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$429,000 above the budget request. The appropriation is offset by \$135,000,000 in fee collections.

The United States Trustee Program, authorized by 28 U.S.C. 581 et seq., is the component of the Department with responsibility for protecting the integrity of the bankruptcy system by overseeing case administration and litigation to enforce the bankruptcy laws.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

Appropriations, 2017	\$2,374,000
Budget estimate, 2018	2,409,000
Committee recommendation	2,409,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$2,409,000 for the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission. The recommendation is \$35,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and is equal to the budget request.

The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission settles claims of American citizens arising from nationalization, expropriation, or other takings of their properties and interests by foreign governments.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF WITNESSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$270,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	270,000,000
Committee recommendation	270,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$270,000,000 for fees and expenses of witnesses. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and the budget request.

This appropriation, which is considered mandatory for scorekeeping purposes, provides for fees and expenses of witnesses who appear on behalf of the Government in cases in which the United States is a party, including fact and expert witnesses. These funds are also used for mental competency examinations and witness and informant protection. The Committee includes bill language prohibiting the Department from transferring funds out of this account.

The Committee expects that no funds will be expended for expert witness services, including the payment of fees and expenses of expert witnesses, from any other DOJ accounts but Fees and Expenses of Witnesses.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$15,500,000
Budget estimate, 2018	14,419,000
Committee recommendation	15,500,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$15,500,000 for the Community Relations Service [CRS]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$1,081,000 above the budget request.

The Community Relations Service, established by title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, provides assistance to communities and persons in the prevention and resolution of disagreements arising from discriminatory practices.

Hate Crimes Prevention.—Within funds provided, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 level to handle the workload and responsibilities stemming from passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act [HCPA] (Public Law 111–84). The HCPA expanded the CRS’s mandate, requiring that it help communities prevent and respond to violent hate crimes committed on the basis of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability, in addition to race, color, and national origin. This funding will maximize the CRS crisis response nationwide and enable CRS to fulfill both its original mandate and expanded mandate under the HCPA.

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

Appropriations, 2017	\$20,514,000
Budget estimate, 2018	21,475,000
Committee recommendation	20,514,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$20,514,000 for the Assets Forfeiture Fund [AFF]. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$961,000 below the budget request.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

Appropriations, 2017	\$2,713,454,000
Budget estimate, 2018	2,802,971,000
Committee recommendation	2,820,971,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides a total of \$2,820,971,000 for the United States Marshals Service [USMS]. The recommendation is \$107,517,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and is \$18,000,000 above the budget request.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$1,249,040,000
Budget estimate, 2018	1,252,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,270,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$1,270,000,000 for USMS salaries and expenses. The recommendation is \$20,960,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$18,000,000 above the budget request. The core missions of USMS include the apprehension of fugitives; protection of the Federal judiciary and witnesses; execution of warrants and court orders; and the custody and transportation of unsentenced prisoners.

In addition to receiving direct appropriations, the Committee is aware that USMS also receives funding from the Department’s Assets Forfeiture Fund [AFF] to augment salaries and expenses that are intended to directly administer AFF-related activities like the management and sale of forfeited assets. In an effort to increase transparency to USMS’s use of AFF funding, the Department is directed to provide the Committee with quarterly reports that include: a detailed list of USMS’s AFF expenditures; the number of

Federal employees and contractor staff, including the assigned division for each, for any personnel expenses using AFF funds; and justifications for each expenditure, including connections with AFF-related operations.

Investigative Operations.—The Committee directs USMS to provide no less than the fiscal year 2017 levels to maintain its missions regarding gang enforcement, International Megan’s Law, and sex offender apprehension. The Committee expects USMS to continue efforts to strengthen support for its aircraft fleet, a key part of the agency’s fugitive apprehension mission. Per Senate Report 114–239, the Committee expects USMS to continue the process to establish an additional Regional Fugitive Task Force.

Judicial Protection.—With increasing threats on the Federal judiciary, the Committee is concerned that USMS’s budget to meet its judicial security mission is stretched thin. Should USMS need additional resources to fully fund this effort, the Committee reminds the Department that it may submit a reprogramming request for use of unobligated balances for this important function.

International Operations.—Given that fugitives know no geographical bounds when it comes to attempting to evade the law, the Committee was disappointed not to see an enhanced request for resources to assist with international operations. Within 90 days of enactment of this act, the Committee requests that USMS provide a report on its extradition program detailing workload to include the number of extraditions and deportations, district cooperation, and extradition requests made by foreign counterparts. The Committee directs the Department to pursue danger pay for deputy U.S. marshals [DUSMs] through the authorization process and to provide requested travel resources to ensure DUSMs can safely travel while tracking fugitives outside of the United States, particularly when traveling through dangerous portions of Mexico.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2017	\$10,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	14,971,000
Committee recommendation	14,971,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$14,971,000 for construction in space controlled, occupied, or utilized by the USMS in Federal courthouses and buildings, including but not limited to the creation, renovation, and expansion of prisoner movement areas, elevators, and other law enforcement and court security support space. The recommendation is \$4,971,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

FEDERAL PRISONER DETENTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$1,454,414,000
Budget estimate, 2018	1,536,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,536,000,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$1,536,000,000 for Federal Prisoner Detention [FPD]. The recommendation is \$81,586,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, including off-

setting funds from other accounts, and is equal to the budget request.

The Committee expects USMS to anticipate the true funding needs for this account in order to avoid funding shortfalls and the need for emergency reprogrammings to avert deficiencies. The Committee directs USMS to report to the Committee on a quarterly basis the current number of individuals in the detention system, the projected number of individuals, and the associated annualized costs.

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$96,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	101,031,000
Committee recommendation	101,031,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$101,031,000 for the National Security Division [NSD]. The recommendation is \$5,031,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget request.

The NSD coordinates the Department's national security and counterterrorism missions through law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, and handles counterespionage cases. The NSD works in coordination with the FBI, the Intelligence Community, and the U.S. Attorneys. Its primary function is to prevent acts of terrorism and espionage from being perpetrated in the United States by foreign powers.

Combating Cyber Threats to National Security.—The Committee's recommendation provides not less than the fiscal year 2017 level for cybersecurity activities within the NSD for investigative, prosecutorial, intelligence collection, and oversight abilities that support the Intelligence Community in identifying and disrupting cyber threats to national security.

Foreign Agents Registration Act.—The Committee acknowledges the Office of the Inspector General's September 2016 audit of the National Security Division's enforcement and administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act [FARA], which included important recommendations for legislative authorities to improve the FARA Office's ability to administer and enforce the act. The Committee supports further consideration of these recommendations, including authorizing civil investigative demand authority for the FARA Office.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY CRIME AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

Appropriations, 2017	\$517,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	526,000,000
Committee recommendation	517,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$517,000,000 for Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement. The recommendation is

equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$9,000,000 below the budget request.

The Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement account funds the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Forces [OCDETF]. The mission of the OCDETF is to ensure a coordinated, multi-agency, intelligence-based, and prosecutor-led approach to identifying, disrupting, and dismantling those drug trafficking and money laundering organizations primarily responsible for the Nation's illicit drug supply and drug-related violence.

International Drug Enforcement.—OCDETF is urged to continue to coordinate with the DEA and other Federal law enforcement partners to play a role in the interception and disruption of foreign drug shipments, including working with international law enforcement agencies on eradication of poppy fields, methamphetamine labs, and fentanyl production facilities before these illicit substances make it to the United States.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$8,767,201,000
Budget estimate, 2018	8,722,582,000
Committee recommendation	8,832,201,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$8,832,201,000 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] salaries and expenses. The recommendation is \$65,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$109,619,000 above the budget request.

Criminal Justice Information Services [CJIS].—The Committee recommends the full funding request for CJIS, including fee collections. The recommendation provides up to \$121,000,000 for the FBI to continue improvements to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System [NICS] to increase the capacity and efficiency of the existing NICS system to perform background checks on prospective firearms buyers. The Committee's recommendation does not support the full request to rescind funds from the CJIS fee collections and instead directs the FBI to invest an appropriate amount of the fee collections into making necessary upgrades to CJIS's systems.

Cybersecurity.—The FBI remains the only agency with the statutory authority, expertise, and ability to combine counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and criminal investigatory resources to neutralize, mitigate, and disrupt illegal domestic computer-supported operations. The Committee supports the requested adjustments-to-base and programmatic increases for cybersecurity activities throughout the FBI.

Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center [TEDAC].—The Committee's recommendation provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 level for full operational funding to TEDAC and the additional operational support associated with the TEDAC campus in fiscal year 2018, which will continue to strengthen the role of TEDAC as the U.S. Government's strategic-level improvised explosive device exploitation center and provide the resources necessary to fully staff the facility.

Hazardous Devices School [HDS].—HDS is the only U.S. Government entity for accrediting and certifying U.S. public safety bomb squads and bomb technicians. The Committee supports the budget request for HDS and the Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate [WMDD], and provides full funding for operations at not less than the fiscal year 2017 level and includes not less than \$10,000,000 to support the Bureau’s ongoing development of a WMDD detector canine operation and technological innovation program.

Human Rights Violations.—The Committee directs the FBI to continue its efforts to investigate and support the DOJ’s criminal prosecution of serious human rights crimes committed by foreign nationals, including genocide, torture, use or recruitment of child soldiers, and war crimes. The Committee’s recommendation continues funding this effort at the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

Innocent Images National Initiative.—The Committee’s recommendation provides the fiscal year 2017 base level of \$87,056,000 for the Innocent Images National Initiative, which is \$5,943,000 above the requested level, allowing the FBI to target and investigate sexual predators on the Internet. The Committee is concerned that the proposed reductions to the base program are insufficient to cover the current Innocent Images caseload that combat child sexual exploitation and child victimization.

Law Enforcement Medical Demonstration.—Within 60 days of enactment of this act, the FBI shall submit a plan to the Committee on formalizing existing external partnerships within the Operational Medicine Program to aid in development of methods, standards and research in public safety operational medical planning for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and medical centers. The plan shall leverage existing technologies and practices, in partnership with a civilian academic medical center, and utilize existing infrastructures, including a statewide medical communications system and Level I trauma center to support contingency planning and improve the delivery of medical care for high risk law enforcement missions.

CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2017	¹ \$420,178,000
Budget estimate, 2018	51,895,000
Committee recommendation	155,000,000

¹The total \$420,178,000 of fiscal year 2017 appropriations for this account included \$239,178,000 in direct appropriations and \$181,000,000 derived by transfer from the Department of Justice’s Working Capital Fund.

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$155,000,000 for FBI construction. The recommendation is \$265,178,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$103,105,000 above the budget request.

FBI Headquarters Consolidation.—The Committee is disappointed with the Administration’s July 11, 2017, decision to cancel the procurement for the new FBI headquarters consolidation project. The Administration cited financial concerns as the underlying reason for the cancellation despite the fact that in fiscal year 2017 Congress committed to moving forward with additional appropriations for the new facility in fiscal year 2018. Congress endorsed the project and was willing to work with the FBI and the General

Services Administration to explore financial solutions to make the project a success, whereas the Administration failed to adapt to the reality that securing \$1,405,000,000 in a single fiscal year in this financial environment was simply unattainable. Rather than adjust, the Administration abandoned a 10-year planning process, and now the FBI is left with no plan for a new procurement and no path forward on how to make its currently deteriorating headquarters facility structurally sustainable.

Within 30 days of enactment of this act, the FBI shall provide the Committee with a report on: the plan for consolidating into a new headquarters facility; the necessary FBI employees that are currently dispersed between the J. Edgar Hoover building and approximately 13 leased offices in the National Capital region; a justification for the project's cancellation; the scope and cost for keeping the current FBI headquarters operational until a move occurs; and a justification for how the fiscal year 2017 funding appropriated for the new headquarters will be spent.

21st Century Facilities.—The Committee continues to support the FBI's long-term vision for improving its operations that complements the eventual transition into a new headquarters and takes into consideration its changing footprint at Quantico. The recent decision to cancel the procurement for the new FBI headquarters consolidation project only exacerbates the need to secure viable space for supporting a variety of missions, workforce, and land requirements. The Committee recommendation provides \$103,000,000 to further support the FBI's 21st Century Facility plans to better leverage current agency investments in the co-location of TEDAC, HDS, and Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate explosives-related training operations. As part of this 21st Century Planning, the FBI should consider public-private partnership opportunities, provided that the annual lease and operating costs are reasonable and the facilities can be securely constructed and maintained at a level that meets the FBI's requirements.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$2,485,638,000
Budget estimate, 2018	2,583,625,000
Committee recommendation	2,535,351,000

The Committee's recommendation provides total resources of \$2,535,351,000 for the Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA], of which \$419,574,000 is derived from the DEA's Diversion Control Fee Account [DCFA]. The recommendation is \$49,713,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$48,274,000 below the budget request. Within the funds provided, \$10,000,000 is for assistance to State and local law enforcement for proper removal and disposal of hazardous materials at clandestine methamphetamine labs, and to initiate container programs.

The DEA's mission is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and bring to the criminal and civil justice system of the United States—or any other competent jurisdiction—those organizations and principal members of organizations involved in the growing, manufacturing, or distribution of

controlled substances appearing in or destined for illicit traffic in the United States; and to support non-enforcement programs aimed at reducing the availability of illicit controlled substances on the domestic and international markets.

DCFA Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys.—While the Committee strongly supports efforts to fight the heroin and illegal opioid epidemic, it does not approve of DEA using DCFA funding for the use of Special U.S. Attorneys. Rather than creating a new prosecutorial force within DEA, a function that is outside of DEA’s mission, the Committee believes the proper prosecutorial channel for cases involving over-prescription and illegal diversion is through EOUSA.

Drug Diversion at Veterans Health Administration Facilities.—The Committee remains alarmed by the rates of prescription drug opioid abuse and related overdoses among veterans, as well as allegations of diversion of prescription opioids from Veterans Health Administration [VHA] facilities into the illicit drug market. According to a February 2017 Government Accountability Office report, the oversight of controlled substances within VHA remains a significant problem. That VHA facilities continue to be a source for the illicit distribution and use of opioids is extremely concerning, and the Committee directs the DEA to ensure that investigations of drug diversion in VHA facilities remain a priority. As stated in Senate Reports 114–66 and 114–239, the Committee continues to expect the DEA to take steps to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated for investigations of drug diversion at VHA facilities.

Pending Applications.—The Committee is concerned with the delay in DEA’s consideration of applications filed pursuant to 21 CFR Part 1301 and directs DEA to move expeditiously to resolve pending applications.

Cooperation with State and Local Forensic Crime Laboratory Community.—The Committee encourages the DEA to collaborate and share any available resources with State and local forensic crime laboratories in their critical efforts to combat the growing use of synthetic drugs.

Cybersecurity.—Within the funding provided, the Committee does not support the proposed funding cuts to cybersecurity activities at DEA and instead provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 level of \$30,750,000.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$1,258,600,000
Budget estimate, 2018	1,273,776,000
Committee recommendation	1,273,776,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$1,273,776,000 for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives [ATF]. The recommendation is \$15,176,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget request. ATF has diverse law enforcement responsibilities, and the funding increase is provided to allow ATF to carry out these duties and to fill existing positions that are currently vacant.

ATF reduces the criminal use of firearms and illegal firearms trafficking, and assists other Federal, State, and local law enforce-

ment agencies in reducing crime and violence. ATF investigates bombing and arson incidents and assists with improving public safety by reducing the criminal misuse of and trafficking in explosives, combating acts of arson and arson-for-profit schemes, and removing safety hazards caused by improper and unsafe storage of explosive materials.

Combating Gun Violence and Enforcing Existing Gun Laws.—The Committee’s recommendation maintains ATF’s ability to enforce existing firearms laws and perform regulatory oversight and training, including through the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network [NIBIN]. This funding will enable ATF to continue to collect, report, and share ballistic intelligence with Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement partners to identify, target, and disrupt violent criminals, including serial shooters. Funds will support work with State and local law enforcement agencies and laboratories to collect ballistic hit information to provide leads to Firearms Intelligence Groups for investigations and document successful prosecutions as a result of NIBIN.

United States-Mexico Firearms Trafficking.—The Committee continues to support the ATF’s efforts to combat weapon trafficking on the border. The ATF shall continue to provide the Committee with annual data on the total number of firearms recovered by the Government of Mexico, and of those, the number for which an ATF trace is attempted, the number successfully traced, and the number determined to have originated in the United States prior to being recovered in Mexico.

National Center for Explosives Training and Research [NCETR].—The Committee supports the enhancements at NCETR, including additional advanced explosives disposal techniques courses for public safety bomb technicians. Given that NCETR serves as the Bureau’s Center of Excellence for arson and explosives training, the Committee supports co-locating the Bureau’s canine training operations for explosives and accelerant detection at NCETR in fiscal year 2018 and directs ATF to provide details on the merger as part of the Department’s spending plan. The Committee also supports NCETR’s research expertise and encourages further investigations into the functions and effects of explosive devices in order to better exploit design weaknesses. Within the increased funds provided for ATF in fiscal year 2018, up to \$2,500,000 may be made available for an advanced counter explosive device research program focusing on hypervelocity impact and hypervelocity flight dynamics.

FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$7,008,800,000
Budget estimate, 2018	7,085,248,000
Committee recommendation	7,080,248,000

The Committee’s recommendation provides \$7,080,248,000 for Bureau of Prisons [BOP] salaries and expenses. The recommendation is \$71,448,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and

\$5,000,000 below the budget request. The Committee supports the Department's request to increase funding for BOP's cybersecurity, including improving network defenses and mitigating insider threats.

BOP Hiring.—The Committee is concerned that the Department has maintained the January 20, 2017, Federal Government hiring freeze for BOP when the Department has since lifted the moratorium for other DOJ agencies. The inmate to correctional officer ratio is currently 8.3 to 1, a level that is unsafe for staff and should immediately be corrected. The Committee urges DOJ to revise this policy to ensure BOP is able to appropriately staff its facilities across the United States, particularly hiring of correctional officers at medium- and high-security facilities without being hindered by an arbitrary staffing level.

Augmentation.—While BOP reports that there is a higher incidence of serious assaults by inmates on staff at high- and medium-security institutions than at the lower security facilities, to meet staffing needs, the BOP still routinely uses a process called “augmentation”, whereby a non-custody employee is assigned custody responsibilities. The Committee directs the BOP to curtail its overreliance on augmentation and instead hire additional full-time correctional staff before continuing to augment existing staff. BOP is further directed to submit quarterly reports to the Committee on the inmate-to-correctional officer ratios at each facility.

Alleviating Overcrowding at High-Security Facilities.—The overcrowding rate at high-security prisons remains high at 25 percent. The Committee supports BOP's efforts to alleviate overcrowding at high-security facilities through the process of activating additional prisons. The Committee expects BOP to adhere to the activation schedule included in BOP's budget submission regarding these prison facilities, including the acceptance of high-security inmates at the United States Penitentiary [USP] in Thomson, Illinois, as BOP estimates overcrowding at high-security facilities to be reduced to 19 percent with the full opening of USP Thomson.

Medication-Assisted Treatment Expansion.—The Committee directs that no less than the fiscal year 2017 level be provided for BOP to continue the medication-assisted treatment program for inmates with heroin and opioid addiction. This voluntary pilot program treats approximately 200 inmates in residential reentry centers. The Department is directed to immediately assist BOP with fully staffing this program for its expansion into the Northeast Region.

Federal Detainers.—In an effort to ensure that criminal aliens are not improperly released into our communities, the Committee directs BOP to offer Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] the first opportunity to take into custody and remove an individual with a Federal detainer instead of BOP and ICE automatically deferring to States and municipalities who are seeking custody of the same individual. ICE's decision to exercise this right of first refusal with BOP will be informed, in part, by the State or municipality's willingness to cooperate with Federal authorities on ICE detainers.

Compassionate Release.—The Committee notes that BOP expanded the grounds for and streamlined the process of considering requests for compassionate release in 2013. The Committee is also

aware that the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General [OIG] recommended additional reforms to the compassionate release program in a 2013 review of the program. In 2016, the U.S. Sentencing Commission [USSC] amended the criteria for compassionate release and encouraged BOP to file a motion for those prisoners who meet the criteria the Commission identified.

Within 60 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs BOP to submit to the Committee the following: (1) any steps taken by BOP to implement the OIG and USSC's recommendations; (2) for those recommendations not met, BOP's plan for meeting them or reasons why they cannot be implemented; (3) the number of prisoners granted and denied compassionate release during each of the last 5 years; (4) for each year, the number of requests initiated by or on behalf of prisoners, categorized by the criteria relied on as grounds for a reduction in sentence; (5) for each year, the number of requests approved by the Director of the BOP, categorized by the criteria relied on as grounds for a reduction in sentence; (6) for each year, the number of denials by the Director of the BOP, categorized by the criteria relied on as grounds for a reduction in sentence and the reason given for the denial; (7) for each year, the time elapsed between the date the request was received by the warden and the final decision, categorized by the criteria relied on as grounds for a reduction in sentence; and (8) for each year, the number of prisoners who died while their compassionate release requests were pending and, for each, the amount of time that had elapsed between the date the request was received by the warden.

BOP Contract Prisons.—In August 2016, the OIG issued “Review of the Federal Bureau of Prisons Monitoring of Contract Prisons.” The report found, “that in a majority of the categories we examined, contract prisons incurred more safety and security incidents per capita than comparable BOP institutions” and “that the BOP needs to improve the way it monitors contract prisons.” For example, none of BOP's procedures for monitoring contract compliance with regard to health services measured whether inmates actually received basic medical care. The OIG cited numerous incidents and made four recommendations to improve monitoring and oversight of contract prisons.

Within 90 days of enactment of this act, BOP is directed to provide a report to the Committee describing BOP's use of contract facilities for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. The report shall include the number of contract facilities utilized by BOP, to include the companies providing these services, the status of these contracts explaining any terminations or renewals during the periods under review, and compliance status of any remedial or corrective actions recommended by BOP or OIG for each company and contract; details of inspections, evaluations, or incident reports, including the number of safety and security incidents at each facility, whether these incidents resulted in injury or death, and any evaluations of incidents conducted in response to the OIG recommendation, issued by BOP or OIG regarding any of these facilities during the period under review, including a current analysis of the condition of each facility under contract and whether BOP believes that such facilities remain suitable for use; the percentage of both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals housed in each facility; verification of wheth-

er each facility is providing basic medical services such as medical exams and immunizations; verification of actual correctional officer staffing levels as compared to contracted levels; a detailed accounting of the progress made in addressing the OIG's recommendations; and any information regarding announced changes in contract specifications for current or future contracts for each facility, including bed capacity limits, and the justification for and budgetary impact of such changes.

Residential Reentry Centers.—The Committee is concerned with recent actions by the Bureau of Prisons [BOP] to cancel and modify contracts for Residential Reentry Centers [RRCs] without consultation with the Committee or BOP contractors. A recent Department of Justice Inspector General report found that between October 2013 and April 2016, 74,100 inmates were placed in RRCs or home confinement. The Committee recognizes that RRCs play a vital role in transitioning individuals back to the community after incarceration by employing evidence-based practices that reduce recidivism. The Committee expects BOP to maintain its support for RRCs and requires BOP to alert the Committee before adopting any significant change in policy or practice involving RRCs or other recidivism-reduction measures.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2017	\$130,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	113,000,000
Committee recommendation	60,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$60,000,000 for the construction, modernization, maintenance, and repair of prison and detention facilities housing Federal prisoners. The recommendation is \$70,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$53,000,000 below the budget request. The Committee notes that BOP has a high level of unexpended balances in this account.

The Committee includes bill language in Title V—General Provisions stipulating that no BOP resources may be used for facilities to house detainees from the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Reporting.—The Committee believes that the consideration of any new facility or facility expansion should be based upon a long-term strategic plan which incorporates a robust capital planning process including leading capital planning practices as outlined in OMB and GAO guidance. The Committee directs the BOP to continue providing quarterly reports to the Committee on the progress of its efforts, including funding for new prison construction if merited in future requests.

The Committee also directs the BOP to continue providing the Committee with the most recent monthly status of construction report, and to notify the Committee of any deviations from the construction and activation schedule identified in that report, including detailed explanations of the causes of delays and actions proposed to address them.

FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INCORPORATED
(LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES)

Appropriations, 2017	\$2,700,000
Budget estimate, 2018	2,695,000
Committee recommendation	2,700,000

The Committee's recommendation provides a limitation on the administrative expenses of \$2,700,000 for the Federal Prison Industries, Inc. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and is \$5,000 above the budget request.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

In total, the Committee recommends \$2,334,300,000 for State and local law enforcement and crime prevention grant programs, including: \$1,955,300,000 in discretionary appropriations and in mandatory appropriations, and \$379,000,000 from funds provided under section 510 of this act. The total is \$59,500,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$247,000,000 above the budget estimate.

Management and Administration Expenses.—The Department shall, in preparing its fiscal year 2018 spending plan, assess management and administration [M&A] expenses compared to program funding. The Committee directs the Department to ensure that its assessment methodology is equitable and, for programs funded through the Crime Victims Fund, that the assessment reflects a fair representation of the share of each program devoted to common M&A costs. The Committee also directs grant offices to minimize administrative spending in order to maximize the amount of funding that can be used for grants or training and technical assistance. The Committee reiterates the direction provided in Public Law 113–76 that the Department shall detail, as part of its budget submission for fiscal year 2019 and future years, the actual costs for each grant office with respect to training, technical assistance, research and statistics, and peer review for the prior fiscal year, along with estimates of planned expenditures by each grant office in each of these categories for the current year and the budget year.

Compliance with Federal Laws.—The Committee directs the Department to ensure that all applicants for Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants [Byrne JAG], Community Oriented Policing Services [COPS] grants, and State Criminal Alien Assistance Program [SCAAP] funds are required to attest and certify that the potential grant recipients are in compliance with all applicable Federal laws, and shall be required to continue to remain compliant throughout the duration of their grant award period.

Duplication of DOJ Grant Programs.—The Committee believes that, as the Federal budget continues to experience fiscal constraints, there is an ever-increasing need to ensure that governmental resources, including those awarded through grants and subgrants, are appropriately targeted and that unnecessary duplication is mitigated. Recent GAO reports have found that, as established in statute, some of the grant programs administered by the Office of Justice Programs [OJP], Office on Violence Against

Women [OVW], and the COPS Office are similar in scope and grant applicants can apply for and receive grant awards from more than one program. Moreover, grant recipients may choose to award a portion of their grant to subgrantees. These subgrantees may also apply directly to Justice for funding through other grant programs for the same or similar purposes.

Yet, the Department's ability to characterize the landscape of potential duplicative programs and overlapping award opportunities remains unsatisfactory. Therefore, the Attorney General shall continue to submit a report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act that includes the parameters and direction prescribed in Senate Report 114–239, which was codified in Public Law 115–31.

Grant Funding Set-Asides.—The Committee notes the significant number of reductions in grant funding allowable for various purposes, including training, technical assistance, research, evaluation and statistics activities with set-asides ranging anywhere from 2 percent to 10 percent of total grant funding provided. To that end, the Committee directs the Department to continue providing a comprehensive report concurrently with the spending plan that details the total amount provided for each grant program in this act, the specific reductions taken, the purpose for those reductions and the final use of those resources, including any transfers that may occur among OJP, OVW, and COPS. The Committee expects that the report will provide a complete analysis of the final amounts externally awarded and the amounts retained internally for other purposes.

Grant Funds for Rural, High Poverty Areas.—The Committee is concerned about the needs of rural, high poverty areas, especially those communities with high crime rates. The Committee wants to ensure that the challenges encountered by the residents of these areas are being addressed through the equitable use of grant funding. The Committee reminds the Department to consider the unique needs of rural, high poverty communities when making grant awards through the numerous programs funded under this act.

Flexible Tribal Assistance.—The Committee recommends funding tribal grant programs by permitting 7 percent of discretionary grant and reimbursement program funds, a total of \$110,705,000 made available to the OJP and COPS, to be used for tribal criminal justice assistance, and continues to strongly support efforts to help tribes improve the capacity of their criminal justice systems. The OJP is expected to consult closely with tribal stakeholders in determining how tribal assistance funds will be awarded for detention facilities, including outdated detention facilities that are unfit for detention purposes and beyond rehabilitation, courts, alcohol and substance abuse programs, civil and criminal legal assistance, and other priorities. The Committee directs the OJP to submit, as part of the Department's spending plan for fiscal year 2018, a plan for the use of these funds that has been informed by such consultation. The Committee notes that the bill includes additional grant funding for tribal victim assistance programs through OVW, and a 5 percent set aside within the CVF.

Submission of Officer Training Information.—The Committee directs the Department to continue following direction provided in fiscal year 2017 regarding the submission of officer training data as part of the Byrne-JAG and COPS hiring grant process.

Financial Exploitation.—The Committee commends the work of the Office for Victims of Crime [OVC] to address the issue of financial exploitation of older Americans by guardians, conservators, and other fiduciaries. The Committee encourages OVC to continue working with stakeholders to develop mechanisms to preserve, recoup, or minimize loss of the assets of individuals subject to conservatorship. In addition, OVC shall work to improve access to the legal system by victims of conservatorship exploitation, and develop a list of best practices to help train victim advocates.

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2017	¹ \$481,500,000
Budget estimate, 2018	² 480,000,000
Committee recommendation	³ 483,500,000

¹ Of the \$481,500,000 provided in this heading, \$326,000,000 is derived by transfer from funding available under section 510 of this act.

² Of the \$480,000,000 provided in this heading, \$445,000,000 is requested to be derived from funding available under section 510 of this act.

³ Of the \$483,500,000 provided in this heading, \$379,000,000 is derived by transfer from funding available under section 510 of this act.

The Committee's recommendation provides \$483,500,000 for OVW grants. The recommendation is \$2,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, and \$3,500,000 above the budget request. Resources are provided to the OVW to respond to the needs of all victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, including, but not limited to, Native women, immigrants, LGBT victims, college students, youths, and public housing residents.

The table below displays the Committee's recommendations for the programs under this office.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee recommendation
STOP Grants	215,000
Transitional Housing Assistance	31,000
National Institute of Justice Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women	3,000
Consolidated Youth Oriented Program	11,000
Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies	53,000
Homicide Reduction Initiative	[4,000]
Sexual Assault Victims Services	35,000
Rural Domestic Violence Assistance Grants	36,000
Violence on College Campuses	20,000
Civil Legal Assistance	45,000
Elder Abuse Grant Program	5,000
Family Civil Justice	16,000
Education and Training for Disabled Female Victims	6,000
National Center on Workplace Responses	500
Research—Violence Against Indian Women	1,000
Sex Assault in Indian Country Clearinghouse	500

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee recommendation
Tribal Special Domestic Violence Criminal Jurisdiction	4,000
Rape Survivor Child Custody Act	1,500
Total	483,500

STOP Grants.—Within the discretionary budget authority appropriated, \$215,000,000 is for formula grants to the States. This is equal to the budget request and equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level. The recommendation supports increasing access to comprehensive legal services for victims, providing short-term housing assistance and support services for domestic violence victims, and education and training to end violence against and abuse of women with disabilities.

Sexual Assault Services Act [SASA].—The Committee's recommendation provides \$35,000,000, which is equal to the budget request and the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, to directly fund the needs of sexual assault victims.

As part of VAWA 2005 and reauthorized by VAWA 2013, the Sexual Assault Services Program addresses considerable gaps in services to sexual assault victims. The Committee supports a dedicated stream of funding to provide a broad range of services to male, female, and child sexual assault victims and their families through the well-established and well-regarded system of community-based rape crisis centers throughout the United States, and maintains its strong commitment to ensuring that these rape crisis centers have access to technical assistance, training, and support.

Campus Sexual Assault.—The Committee supports the Department's continued development and testing of a pilot campus climate survey. The pilot's results suggest the majority of campus sexual assaults are not reported to authorities, do not come to the attention of university officials and, therefore, are not represented in official Federal statistics. The Committee encourages the Department to examine expanding this survey, possibly through the assistance of the research set-aside provided in section 212 of this bill, and developing a cost-effective, standardized, and methodologically rigorous nationwide research program on campus sexual assault.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

The Office of Justice Programs [OJP] is responsible for providing leadership, coordination, and assistance to its Federal, State, local, and tribal partners to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the U.S. justice system in preventing, controlling, and responding to crime. As most of the responsibility for crime control and prevention falls to law enforcement officers in States, cities, and other localities, the Federal Government is effective in these areas only to the extent that it can enter into successful partnerships with these jurisdictions. Therefore, OJP is tasked with administering grants; collecting statistical data and conducting analyses; identifying emerging criminal justice issues; developing and testing promising and innovative approaches to address these issues; evaluating pro-

gram results; and disseminating these findings and other information to State, local, and tribal governments. The Committee directs the OJP to submit a quarterly report on grant programs that have not received a sufficient number of qualified applicants.

Gang Prevention Grants and Crime Rates.—The Committee remains concerned about gang activity and violent crime throughout the country, noting that Federal partnership with law enforcement is essential not only in our largest cities, but also in suburban and rural jurisdictions, where gang activity and violent crime rates can exceed national averages. To strengthen Federal partnerships across all jurisdictions, the Committee directs OJP to review the criteria by which OJP awards discretionary grants relating to gang violence and prevention under the State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance and Juvenile Justice Programs on a per capita basis of applicant cities and jurisdictions where gang activity and violent crime rates exceed national averages.

The Committee recognizes the threat posed by foreign-influenced gangs in small, rural communities and the need for greater coordination among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to address this problem. Such gang activity has the potential to overwhelm local law enforcement resources in rural areas, particularly in communities with populations under 25,000. The Committee urges OJP to find ways to assist these communities within existing State and local assistance programs for reducing criminal gang activity in small, rural communities.

Combating Online Crime, Hate, and Terror Groups.—The Committee encourages OJP to provide funding within existing grant opportunities targeted at expanding the ability of academic forensic technology programs to assist in identifying and profiling online crime, hate, and terror groups.

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$89,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	111,000,000
Committee recommendation	85,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$85,000,000 for the Research, Evaluation and Statistics account. The recommendation is \$4,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$26,000,000 below the budget request.

Funding in this account provides assistance in the areas of research, evaluation, statistics, hate crimes, DNA and forensics, criminal background checks, and gun safety technology, among others.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee recommendation
Bureau of Justice Statistics	45,500
NCS-X Implementation Program	[5,000]

RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND STATISTICS—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee recommendation
National Institute of Justice	39,500
Domestic Radicalization Research	[4,000]
TOTAL, Research, Evaluation and Statistics	85,000

Spending Plans.—The Department shall submit to the Committee as part of its spending plan for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities a plan for the use of all funding administered by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics, respectively, for approval by the Committee prior to the obligation of any such funds.

Bureau of Justice Statistics [BJS].—The Committee's recommendation provides \$45,500,000 for the BJS. Within the funds provided, \$5,000,000 is provided for the National Crime Statistics Exchange [NCS-X]. NCS-X will improve the collection and reporting into the National Incident-Based Reporting System [NIBRS], which provides more detailed criminal data such as officer-related shooting incidents.

National Institute of Justice [NIJ].—The Committee's recommendation provides \$39,500,000 for the NIJ, in addition to \$4,000,000 transferred from the OVW for research and evaluation on violence against women and Indian women. Within the funds provided for NIJ, \$4,000,000 is provided for domestic radicalization research. The NIJ's mission is to advance scientific research, development, and evaluation to advance the administration of justice and public safety.

Justice Reform.—From within funds available for the NIJ, the Committee directs NIJ to provide a program, ideally partnering with an institution of higher learning, to educate and train the next generation of justice leaders. The program shall engage post-secondary students as well as criminal justice professionals and academics wishing to broaden their understanding of justice systems and restorative approaches either through a degree program, a summer institute, short courses, or other means.

Forensic Initiative.—Due to the sunset of DOJ's National Commission on Forensic Science on April 23, 2017, direct funding for Scientific Working Groups is provided in Title I under the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$1,258,500,000
Budget estimate, 2018	¹ 940,500,000
Committee recommendation	1,171,000,000

¹The request includes \$73,000,000 to be derived by transfer from funds provided under section 510 of this act.

The Committee's recommendation provides \$1,171,000,000 for State and local law enforcement assistance. The recommendation is

\$87,500,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, and \$230,500,000 above the budget request.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE
[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee recommendation
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants	404,500
Officer Robert Wilson III VALOR Initiative	[7,500]
Smart Policing	[5,000]
Smart Prosecution	[2,500]
NamUS	[2,400]
National Training Center to improve Police-Based Responses to People with Mental Illness	[2,500]
Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction	[6,500]
John R. Justice Grant Program	[2,000]
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	100,000
Victims of Trafficking Grants	45,000
Capital Litigation and Wrongful Conviction Review	2,500
Economic, High-tech, White Collar and Cybercrime Prevention	14,000
Intellectual Property Enforcement Program	[2,500]
Cybercrime Prosecutor Pilot Program	[1,000]
Digital Investigation Education Program	[1,000]
Adam Walsh Act Implementation	20,000
Bulletproof Vests Partnerships	22,500
Transfer to NIST/OLES	[1,500]
National Sex Offender Public Website	1,000
National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Initiative	73,000
NICS Act Record Improvement Program	[25,000]
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science	13,500
DNA Initiative	125,000
Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grants	[117,000]
Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grants	[4,000]
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Grants	[4,000]
Community Teams to Reduce the Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) Backlog	45,000
CASA—Special Advocates	9,000
Second Chance Act/Offender Reentry	70,000
Smart Probation	[6,000]
Children of Incarcerated Parents Demo Grants	[5,000]
Pay for Success	[7,500]
Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement	[4,000]
Comprehensive School Safety Initiative	50,000
Community Trust Initiative	65,000
Body Worn Camera Partnership Program	[22,500]
Justice Reinvestment Initiative	[25,000]
Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program	[17,500]
Opioid Initiative	111,000
Drug Courts	[43,000]
Veterans Treatment Courts	[7,000]
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	[14,000]
Prescription Drug Monitoring	[14,000]
Mentally Ill Offender Act	[12,000]
Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP)	[21,000]
TOTAL, State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance	1,171,000

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.—The Committee recommends \$404,500,000 for Byrne-JAG. Funding is not available for luxury items, real estate, or construction projects. The Department should expect State, local, and tribal governments to target funding to programs and activities that conform with evidence-based strategic plans developed through broad stakeholder

involvement. The Committee directs the Department to make technical assistance available to State, local, and tribal governments for the development or update of such plans. Funding is authorized for law enforcement programs including those that promote data interoperability between disparate law enforcement entities; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections programs; drug treatment and enforcement programs; planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs; and crime victim and witness programs, other than compensation.

In order to meet challenges faced by prosecutors, the Committee provides \$2,500,000 within the Byrne-JAG program for the Smart Prosecution program, which supports partnerships between prosecutors and researchers focused on developing and implementing innovative prosecution-based criminal justice programs and strategies that are effective, efficient, and economical. The Committee encourages OJP to remind awardees that many prosecutorial technology and case management modernization needs may be addressed through the Byrne-JAG program.

Training for Forensic Services.—The Committee is interested in solution-based approaches to train local law enforcement officers and utilize available technology to reduce court backlogs and prosecutions. To the extent appropriate, OJP should explore ways to provide resources for multi-jurisdictional forensic service providers, in collaboration with universities and nonprofits, to provide access to forensic expertise, assistance, and continuing education to law enforcement agencies. The Committee encourages OJP to remind awardees that these objectives could also be met through the Byrne-JAG program.

VALOR Initiative.—The Committee's recommendation provides \$7,500,000 within Byrne-JAG for the Officer Robert Wilson III Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officer Resilience and Survivability Initiative [VALOR]. The Committee expects Federal law enforcement agencies to continue and expand on efforts to provide local police with information as to whether or not a suspect has a violent history, to the extent that transfer of such information is allowable and available via Federal law enforcement databases, in an effort to prevent officer deaths. The Committee notes that an additional \$7,500,000 is provided under the COPS heading for Protecting Our Lives by Initiating COPS Expansion [POLICE] Act (Public Law 114–199) programs which help to provide active shooter training programs for State and local law enforcement officers.

National Instant Criminal Background Check System [NICS] Initiative Grants.—The Committee funds the program at \$73,000,000, which is \$5,000,000 above the budget request, to continue to improve the submission of State criminal and mental health records to NICS. This investment will strengthen the national background check system by assisting States in finding ways to make more records available in the NICS system, especially mental health records, thereby addressing gaps in Federal and State records currently available in NICS. Those gaps significantly hinder the ability of NICS to quickly confirm whether a prospective purchaser is prohibited from acquiring a firearm. The Committee expects OJP

to track whether grant recipients are submitting data in a timely manner into the NICS system.

Grants to Combat Human Trafficking.—Trafficking victims are subjected to physical, mental, and sexual abuse and need various types of assistance to begin healing and recovery, including counseling, housing, medical care, support groups, and legal assistance. The Committee's recommendation provides \$45,000,000 for services and task force activities for U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and foreign nationals who are victims of trafficking. The OJP shall consult with stakeholder groups in determining the overall allocation of Victims of Trafficking funding and shall provide to the Committee a plan for the use of these funds as part of the Department's fiscal year 2018 spending plan.

The Committee notes that funding provided in this program may be used for victims of sex and labor trafficking who are minors, as authorized under VAWA 2013. Child trafficking victims require specialized care, and these resources can be used for items like residential care, emergency social services, mental health counseling, and legal services.

Funding to assist State and local law enforcement in strengthening and expanding the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking and training law enforcement personnel on the identification of trafficking victims was authorized under VAWA 2013. The Committee recommends that funds be made available for human trafficking task forces, particularly those that combat the sex trafficking of minors in High Intensity Child Prostitution areas identified by the FBI. Trafficking task forces can also use funding for innovative technological instruments to assist in the rescue of trafficking victims.

Bulletproof Vests.—Within the \$22,500,000 provided for bulletproof vests, \$1,500,000 is to be transferred directly to the NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards [OLEs] to continue supporting ballistic- and stab-resistant material compliance testing programs. The Committee expects the BJA to continue strengthening internal controls to manage the Bulletproof Vest Partnership program. Improving grantee accountability in the timely use of Federal funds to purchase body armor will help every police officer who needs a vest to get one, thus saving officers' lives.

Second Chance Act Grants and Drug Treatment.—The recommendation provides \$70,000,000 for Second Chance Act [SCA] grants. The Committee expects that SCA funding will support grants that foster the implementation of strategies that have been proven to reduce recidivism and ensure safe and successful reentry back to their communities of adults released from prisons and jails. The SCA supports activities such as employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, local transportation, mentoring, family programming, and victim support. SCA grants will also support demonstration projects designed to test the impact of new strategies and frameworks.

The Committee continues to support the Office of Management and Budget's scoring mechanism for SCA grant funding as it relates to opioid abuse and the heroin epidemic. In addition, when awarding SCA grants the Committee directs the OJP to consider the impact of reentry of prisoners on communities in which a dis-

proportionate number of individuals reside upon release from incarceration. The OJP shall assess the reentry burdens borne by local communities and local law enforcement agencies; review the resources available in such communities to support successful reentry and the extent to which those resources are used effectively; and make recommendations to strengthen the resources in such communities which are available to support successful reentry and to lessen the burden placed on such communities by the need to support reentry.

DNA Backlog and Crime Lab Improvements.—The Committee is once again extremely disappointed that the Department's budget request slashes funding by \$20,000,000 for critical grant programs to help State and local agencies address their backlogs and test forensic evidence. The Committee continues its strong support for DNA backlog and crime lab improvements by recommending \$125,000,000 to strengthen and improve Federal and State DNA collection and analysis systems that can be used to accelerate the prosecution of the guilty while simultaneously protecting the innocent from wrongful prosecution. Within funds provided, \$117,000,000 is for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction grants, \$4,000,000 is for Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing grants, and \$4,000,000 is for Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners grants.

From within the funding provided for Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Reduction grants, the Committee expects the Department to prioritize reducing rape kit backlogs, given that it is the primary reason why the Committee continues to provide robust funding for these grants. As clarified in the Justice For All Reauthorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-324), the Committee directs the Department to provide not less than 75 percent of the total grant amounts for direct testing activities to reduce the backlog. The Committee further directs DOJ to provide at least 5 percent of funds to law enforcement agencies to conduct audits of their backlogged rape kits and to prioritize testing in those cases in which the statute of limitations will soon expire, as authorized by the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Reporting Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4).

The Committee expects that the OJP will make funding for DNA analysis and capacity enhancement a priority in order to meet the purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. The Committee directs the Department to submit to the Committee as part of its spending plan for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities a plan with respect to funds appropriated for DNA-related and forensic programs, including the alignment of appropriated funds with the authorized purposes of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

Reducing the Rape Kit Backlog.—The Committee's recommendation includes \$45,000,000 to continue a competitive grant program started in fiscal year 2015 as part of the initiative to reduce the backlog of rape kits at law enforcement agencies. The NIJ shall provide competitively awarded grants with a comprehensive community-based approach to addressing the resolution of cases in the backlog. The Committee directs the NIJ to provide a report not later than 90 days after enactment of this act on its progress in developing a strategy and model to serve as best practices for discov-

ering and testing kits, training law enforcement, and supporting victims throughout the process as required by Public Law 113–235.

Comprehensive School Safety.—The Committee’s recommendation includes \$50,000,000 to continue a competitive grant program as part of the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative [CSSI] started in fiscal year 2014. The NIJ shall provide competitively awarded grants with strong research and evaluation components to local school districts and State educational agencies to support the implementation of school safety interventions under the existing construct. The Committee urges NIJ that schools participating in grants funded through CSSI shall employ an evidence-based school threat assessment and intervention program. The Committee directs the NIJ to provide a report not later than 90 days after enactment of this act, on the continued development of a strategy and model for comprehensive school safety.

Economic, High-Tech, White Collar, and Cybercrime Prevention.—The Committee recommends \$14,000,000 to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of economic, high-tech, and Internet crimes. Given the importance of protecting our Nation’s new technologies, ideas, and products, the Committee includes the request of \$2,500,000 for competitive grants that help State and local law enforcement tackle intellectual property [IP] thefts, such as counterfeiting and piracy.

With the growing prevalence of cybercrimes and the ubiquitous nature of the existence of digital evidence in nearly every crime committed, the Committee is concerned that insufficient training and support of law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges could hinder the investigation and prosecution of cyber and traditional crimes. Within the funds provided, \$1,000,000 is for the continuation of a Cybercrime and Digital Evidence Resource Prosecutor Pilot Program to provide State and local prosecutors with training and trial experience in cybercrimes and digital evidence.

Additionally, the Committee recognizes the need to expand opportunities for computer and digital forensics education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in order to prepare for these challenges. Within the funds provided, \$1,000,000 shall be dedicated to establish a partnership with an institution for higher learning for the purposes of furthering educational opportunities for students training in computer forensics and digital investigation.

Community Trust Initiative.—The Committee’s recommendation provides \$65,000,000 for the Community Trust Initiative programs aimed at building cooperation and trust between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Funding is provided for three programs within this Initiative at levels of (1) \$22,500,000 for the Body-Worn Camera Partnership Program, to be used for matching grants to equip law enforcement officers with body-worn cameras, and jurisdictions must illustrate that training has been provided in the proper use of body-worn cameras and have privacy and data retention policies already in place; (2) \$25,000,000 for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, a data driven approach to improving public safety; and (3) \$17,500,000 for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program, which provides demonstration grants in communities to support innovative, evidence-based approaches to

fighting crime and improving public safety, as well as addressing underlying problems.

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act [CARA] Programs.—The Committee provides a total of \$111,000,000 for CARA programs, including \$43,000,000 for drug courts; \$7,000,000 for veterans treatment courts; \$14,000,000 for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment; \$14,000,000 for prescription drug monitoring; \$12,000,000 for the Mentally Ill Offender Act; and \$21,000,000 for the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program [COAP] comprised of other programs authorized by CARA.

While OJP is in the process of finalizing awards made under COAP for fiscal year 2017, OJP believes the demand for grants in this area far exceeds the availability of funding, resulting in only 14 to 19 percent of COAP applicants receiving funding. In order to meet this demand, the Committee provides an increase of \$8,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 level. Of the \$21,000,000 for COAP no less than \$2,500,000 shall be made available for additional replication sites employing the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion [LEAD] model, with applicants demonstrating a plan for sustainability of LEAD-model diversion programs.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2017	\$247,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	¹ 229,500,000
Committee recommendation	260,000,000

¹The request includes \$92,000,000 to be derived by transfer from funds provided under section 510 of this act.

The Committee's recommendation provides \$260,000,000 for juvenile justice programs. The recommendation is \$13,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$30,500,000 above the budget request.

The Committee strongly supports a comprehensive approach of substantial funding for a robust portfolio of programs that work to improve the lives of the youth in our communities. Title II State Formula and title V juvenile delinquency prevention grants are the backbone of programs assisting State and local agencies to prevent juvenile delinquency and ensure that youth who are in contact with the juvenile justice system are treated fairly. Combined with other critical programs like youth mentoring, the Committee believes that a balanced level of programming is the way to best help at-risk and vulnerable youth and their families.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee recommendation
Part B—State Formula Grants	60,000
Emergency Planning-Juvenile Detention Facilities	[500]
Youth Mentoring Grants	80,000
Title V—Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants	19,000
Gang and Youth Violence Education and Prevention	[4,000]
Children of Incarcerated Parents Web Portal	[500]
Girls in the Justice System	[2,000]

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee recommendation
Community-Based Violence Prevention Initiatives	[8,000]
Victims of Child Abuse Programs	21,000
Missing and Exploited Children Programs	76,000
Training for Judicial Personnel	2,000
Improving Juvenile Indigent Defense	2,000
 TOTAL, Juvenile Justice	 260,000

Any deviation from the above plan is subject to the reprogramming requirements of section 505 of this act.

Part B: State Formula Grants.—The Committee provides \$60,000,000 for grants to implement comprehensive State juvenile justice plans, including community-based prevention and intervention programs and activities for juvenile offenders. This amount is \$5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$2,000,000 above the budget request.

Within the amount provided, the Committee recommends \$500,000 for competitive demonstration grants for State, local, and tribal juvenile justice detention facilities and systems to meet the needs of children and adolescents housed in detention facilities in preparation for, during, and after a disaster, as detailed in the 2011 emergency planning guidance issued by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [OJJDP].

The Committee directs the OJP to submit as part of its spending plan for State and Local Law Enforcement Activities a plan for the administration of Part B State Formula Grants. The Committee expects this plan to include details pertaining to the formulas utilized in awarding grants under this heading.

The Committee urges DOJ to encourage title II grant recipients to coordinate with their State education agencies to support continuity of education opportunities for adjudicated youth.

The Committee notes that nearly two-thirds of children in the U.S. have been exposed to violence, which can impact development, health, and educational outcomes and perpetuate the cycle of violence. The Committee supports efforts to provide services and training, increase awareness, and conduct research on State collaboration to identify and support children exposed to violence and encourages the Department to continue to give grant consideration to organizations performing such activities.

Youth Mentoring Grants.—To support the critical work of national, regional, and local organizations in nurturing and mentoring at-risk children and youth, the Committee recommends \$80,000,000 for competitive, peer-reviewed youth mentoring grants. Within 45 days of enactment of this act, the OJP is directed to provide a report and spend plan to the Committee detailing the criteria and methodology that will be used to award these grants, as well as an explanation of any deviations from the criteria and Committee directions used in fiscal year 2017. The Committee expects that the OJJDP will take all steps necessary to ensure fairness and objectivity in the award of these and future competitive grants.

The Committee expects OJP to explore how OJJDP may expand eligibility for local mentoring programs, particularly in rural areas, that are unaffiliated with national mentoring organizations. The Committee also expects OJP and OJJDP to collaborate with mentoring stakeholders to expand youth mentoring services in rural areas inordinately effected by substance abuse, particularly heroin and opioids, and that are considered at-risk.

Preventing Trafficking of Girls and Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System.—Girls in the United States with a history of sexual and physical abuse, school failure, substance dependency, and involvement in the welfare system, and who live in impoverished communities or are homeless, are at an increased risk of becoming victims of domestic human trafficking. The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for the “Girls in the Justice System” grant program, which will enable organizations, including nonprofit entities, with a successful track record of administering prevention and early intervention programs for girls vulnerable to trafficking and who are most likely to end up in the juvenile justice system, at a local or state-level, to replicate these programs at a national level. Funding for this program will further support prevention and early intervention strategies and curricula throughout the country, and place vulnerable girls on a path toward success, stability, and long-term contribution to society.

Victims of Child Abuse Act.—The Committee’s recommendation provides \$21,000,000 for the various programs authorized under the Victims of Child Abuse Act (Public Law 101–647) and directs the OJJDP to ensure that not less than 90 percent of the grants awarded are for the purposes of developing and maintaining child advocacy centers, including training and accreditation. Within the funds provided, \$5,000,000 shall be for Regional Children’s Advocacy Centers [RCACs] Programs. The RCACs were established to provide information, consultation, training, and technical assistance to communities, and to help establish child-focused programs that facilitate and support coordination among agencies responding to child abuse.

The Committee recognizes the excellent work of Children’s Advocacy Centers [CAC] in coordinating State and local agencies’ intervention in cases of child abuse, and the valuable collaboration that has arisen between CACs and military installations through memoranda of understanding. The Committee encourages CACs to continue to explore ways in which their unique model and expertise can be leveraged to help military installations address cases of child abuse, and provides \$1,000,000 from within the funds provided to continue to support a pilot project to identify, develop, and operationalize best practices.

Missing and Exploited Children Programs.—The Committee recommends \$76,000,000 for Missing and Exploited Children Programs and expects the Department to allocate no less than the current funding level for task force grants, training and technical assistance, research and statistics, and administrative costs for the Internet Crimes Against Children [ICAC] program. The Committee directs the OJP to provide a spending plan for the use of these funds as part of the Department’s spending plan for fiscal year 2018, which shall include only investments in authorized national

programs that serve as a resource center and clearinghouse on missing and exploited children.

The DOJ's National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, published in April 2016, identified key investigative objectives for continuing the fight against child exploitation. Within funds provided, the Committee directs up to \$3,000,000 for a competitive grant program to increase the technological investigative capacity and associated training of law enforcement to support the development, refinement, and advancement of widely used investigative tools, methods and technologies that address child pornography, exploitation and sex trafficking. The Committee directs the OJJDP to continue providing training and technical assistance to improve forensic interview training for investigation and prosecution professionals, evidence-based community prevention programs for child protection professionals, and undergraduate and graduate curricula on the maltreatment and exploitation of children.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS BENEFITS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2017	\$89,300,000
Budget estimate, 2018	108,300,000
Committee recommendation	108,300,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$108,300,000 for public safety officers benefits. The recommendation is \$19,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget estimate. This program provides a one-time death benefit payment to eligible survivors of Federal, State, and local public safety officers whose death was the direct and proximate result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty or certain eligible heart attacks or strokes. Within funds provided, \$92,000,000 is for death benefits for survivors, an amount estimated by the Congressional Budget Office and considered mandatory for scorekeeping purposes.

The Committee also recommends \$16,300,000, as requested, for disability benefits for injured officers and education benefits for the families of officers who have been permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2017	\$221,500,000
Budget estimate, 2018	218,000,000
Committee recommendation	226,500,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$226,500,000 for community oriented policing services. The recommendation is \$5,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$8,500,000 above the budget request.

Local law enforcement is not only essential to ensuring the safety of the public, but also plays a critical role in preventing and responding to terrorist threats. Since its creation, the Community Oriented Policing Services [COPS] Office has assisted State and local law enforcement agencies by providing grants, training, and

technical assistance that not only ensure public safety from traditional crime, but also better enable law enforcement officers to address the growing threat from terrorist organizations.

The Committee's recommendations are displayed in the following table:

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

[In thousands of dollars]

Program	Committee recommendation
COPS Hiring Grants	207,500
Community Policing Development/Training and Technical Assistance	[5,000]
Collaborative Reform Model	[10,000]
Regional Information Sharing Activities	[36,000]
POLICE Act	[7,500]
Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces	7,000
Anti-Heroin Task Forces	12,000
TOTAL, Community Oriented Policing Services	226,500

Any deviations from the above plan are subject to the reprogramming requirements of section 505.

COPS Hiring Program.—The Committee recommends \$207,500,000 for COPS Hiring grants to help State, local, or tribal law enforcement agencies to create and preserve police officer positions and to increase community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. As in the request, the grants will have an award cap of \$125,000 and require grantees to provide a 25 percent local match. The Committee encourages the COPS Office to focus on efforts to train and increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies, executives and managers serving rural communities to enhance the use of community policing practices and innovations in policing to expand the effectiveness of limited resources.

Regional Information Sharing Activities.—The Committee recommends \$36,000,000, an increase of \$6,000,000 above the budget request and \$1,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level, to support activities that enable the sharing of nationwide criminal intelligence and other resources with State, local, and other law enforcement agencies and organizations. Such activities should address critical and chronic criminal threats, including gangs, terrorism, narcotics, weapons and officer safety or “event deconfliction,” and should reflect regional as well as national threat priorities. In addition, funds shall be available to support local-to-local law enforcement data and information sharing efforts focused on solving routine crimes by sharing law enforcement information not categorized as criminal intelligence. All activities shall be consistent with national information-sharing standards and requirements as determined by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces.—The Committee's recommendation provides \$7,000,000 for the COPS Office to make competitive grants to law enforcement agencies in States with high seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures. These funds shall be utilized for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activi-

ties such as precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers.

Anti-Heroin Task Forces.—The Committee reiterates concerns over the dramatic rise of heroin abuse, deaths, and related crime in the United States. The need for additional resources and training to address these challenges is apparent, and the Committee created the anti-heroin program within the COPS Office in fiscal year 2015, continually providing funding in succeeding fiscal years. Despite the plea for additional resources from law enforcement as well as the interest of the Committee, the Department eliminated this program as part of the fiscal year 2018 budget request. The Committee provides \$12,000,000 for the COPS Office to make competitive grants to law enforcement agencies in States with high per capita levels of primary treatment admissions for both heroin and other opioids. These funds shall be utilized for drug enforcement, including investigations and activities related to the distribution of heroin or unlawful diversion and distribution of prescription opioids. Priority shall be given to those drug task forces, managed and operated by the State, serving a majority of counties in the State.

Policing Practices and Accountability Initiative.—The Committee supports the COPS Office's efforts to integrate the Task Force on 21st Century Policing recommendations and urges the Policing Practices and Accountability Initiative to continue its work across Department of Justice programs and agencies to provide support and best practices for law enforcement agencies working to address issues of public trust.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends the following general provisions:

Section 201 limits the amount of funding the Attorney General can use for official reception and representation.

Section 202 prohibits the use of funds in this title to pay for an abortion except where the life of the mother would be in danger, or in the case of rape or incest.

Section 203 prohibits the use of funds in this title to require a person to perform or facilitate an abortion.

Section 204 requires female prisoners to be escorted when off prison grounds.

Section 205 allows the Department of Justice, subject to the Committee's reprogramming procedures, to transfer up to 5 percent between appropriations, but limits to 10 percent the amount that can be transferred into any one appropriation.

Section 206 limits the placement of maximum or high security prisoners to appropriately secure facilities.

Section 207 restricts Federal prisoner access to certain amenities.

Section 208 requires review by the Deputy Attorney General and the Department's Investigative Review Board prior to the obligation or expenditure of funds for major technology projects.

Section 209 requires the Department to follow reprogramming procedures prior to any deviation from the program amounts speci-

fied in this title or the reuse of specified deobligated funds provided in previous years.

Section 210 prohibits the use of funds for OMB Circular A-76 competitions for work performed by employees of the Bureau of Prisons or of the Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated.

Section 211 prohibits U.S. Attorneys from simultaneously holding multiple jobs outside of the scope of a U.S. Attorney's professional duties.

Section 212 permits up to 3 percent of grant and reimbursement program funds made available to the Office of Justice Programs to be used for training and technical assistance, and permits up to 2 percent of grant and reimbursement program funds made available to that office to be transferred to the National Institute of Justice or the Bureau of Justice Statistics for criminal justice research and statistics.

Section 213 permits up to 7 percent of discretionary grant and reimbursement program funds made available to OJP and COPS to be used for tribal criminal justice assistance. The Committee continues to strongly support efforts to help tribes improve the capacity of their criminal justice systems.

Section 214 gives the Attorney General the authority to waive matching requirements for Second Chance Act adult and juvenile reentry demonstration projects; State, tribal and local reentry courts; and drug treatment programs. If a waiver is granted, the Attorney General shall document any factors and material presented by a grantee upon determining that a fiscal hardship exists prior to making an award.

Section 215 waives the requirement that the Attorney General reserve certain funds from amounts provided for offender incarceration.

Section 216 prohibits funds, other than funds for the national instant criminal background check system established under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, from being used to facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to a known or suspected agent of a drug cartel where law enforcement personnel do not continuously monitor or control such firearm.

Section 217 permits the Department of Justice to participate in Performance Partnership Pilot collaboration programs.

TITLE III

SCIENCE

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Appropriations, 2017	\$5,555,000
Budget estimate, 2018	5,544,000
Committee recommendation	5,544,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$5,544,000 for the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The recommendation is \$11,000 less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and the same as the budget request.

The Office of Science and Technology Policy [OSTP] was created by the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–282) and coordinates science and technology policy for the White House. OSTP provides scientific and technological information, analyses, and advice for the President and the executive branch; participates in the formulation, coordination, and implementation of national and international policies and programs that involve science and technology; maintains and promotes the health and vitality of U.S. science and technology infrastructure; reviews and analyzes, with the Office of Management and Budget, the research and development budgets for all Federal agencies; and coordinates research and development efforts of the Federal Government to maximize the return on the public's investment in science and technology and to ensure Federal resources are used efficiently and appropriately.

Scientific Review.—The Committee maintains a firm belief that a long-standing investments in basic research have resulted in transformational discoveries and dramatic improvements in the economy, healthcare, infrastructure, communications, national security, and many other sectors. Much of this success can be attributed to the process of peer review for the allocation of research funding and publication, and on community prioritization, such as through utilizing decadal surveys, which provide clear priorities for Federal investment and valuable oversight benchmarks. The Committee directs OSTP to ensure Federal science agencies continue to rely on peer review and prioritization efforts from the scientific community.

Open Access to Federal Research.—The Committee has received reports by OSTP on the progress of all Federal agencies in developing and implementing policies to increase public access to federally funded scientific research. The Committee is pleased by the progress, but previously instructed OSTP to have all relevant departments' and agencies' plans approved by the end of calendar year 2014 with implementation occurring by early calendar year 2017. OSTP is directed to continue providing quarterly reports to

the Committee in order to keep Congress apprised of the remaining progress needed to make federally funded research accessible to the public as expeditiously as possible.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education.—The Committee continues to support effective mission-oriented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics [STEM] education programs at NASA, NOAA, NSF, and NIST within this bill, and encourages OSTP to work with non-Federal education and outreach communities.

Emerging Contaminants.—Emerging contaminants are increasingly being detected at low levels in drinking water systems across the country. Prolonged exposure to unregulated drinking water contaminants may pose human health risks, and the lack of research on potential health effects has hindered Federal and State efforts to develop and strengthen the effectiveness of drinking water advisories or standards for these materials. The OSTP Director shall identify current research gaps in addressing these issues and submit to the Committee, within 180 days of enactment of this act, a coordinated cross-agency plan for addressing critical research gaps related to emerging contaminants.

National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee.—The Committee understands the importance of engaging and recruiting a diverse talent pool to work in STEM fields. The Committee also believes that limited Federal budgets require innovative approaches that are collaborative and build upon existing training to promote a diverse Federal workforce and make the most efficient use of limited resources. The Committee directs the OSTP to continue its work with the Office of Personnel Management, the NSF, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] to create a NIST Council Subcommittee to build on existing efforts and develop and implement STEM inclusion training for use in both the Federal Government and academe. The training should address advancement barriers for underrepresented groups in STEM careers, including implicit bias, stereotype threat, and work/life balance and caregiving issues so as to foster more inclusive workplace environments. Related legal requirements, including those under title IX, should also be addressed.

National Space Council.—The bill provides for the funding of the National Space Council [NSC] which was reinstated through Executive Order 13803, signed on June 30, 2017. The Committee understands that the newly reconstituted NSC is in the early phases of standing up its staffing and operations, and expects that further information on the appropriate funding levels will be presented to the Committee before the end of the current fiscal year. In the absence of that information, the Committee has chosen to initially fund the NSC in fiscal year 2018 through OSTP and will consider separate funding as further information is presented in the coming months.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2017	\$19,653,300,000
Budget estimate, 2018	19,092,200,000
Committee recommendation	19,529,300,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$19,529,300,000 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA]. The recommendation is \$124,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$437,100,000 above the budget request.

NASA was established by the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (Public Law 85-568) to conduct space and aeronautical research and development and to conduct flight activities for peaceful purposes. NASA's unique mission of exploration, discovery, and innovation is intended to preserve the United States' role as both a leader in world aviation and as the pre-eminent space-faring nation. It is NASA's mission to: advance human and robotic exploration, use, and development of space; advance and communicate scientific knowledge and understanding of the Earth, the solar system, and the universe; and research, develop, verify, and transfer advanced aeronautics and space technologies.

For Science, the Committee's recommendation strives to keep NASA's near-term launches on track to continue progress in exploring our solar system and the universe, understanding the sun, and observing our planet. The Committee expects NASA to continue making progress on the recommendations of the National Academies' decadal surveys, now and in the future.

The Committee believes this bill represents a solid path forward for human spaceflight that reaches beyond low-Earth orbit with NASA developed crew and launch vehicles; invests in the burgeoning domestic launch industry that is bringing cargo, and eventually crew, to the International Space Station; and supports NASA's science and technology programs. These elements should be viewed as complementary pieces of a balanced whole.

NASA utilizes a broad variety of launch vehicles, from suborbital to heavy configurations, in order to successfully execute its missions. The Committee encourages NASA to choose those launch vehicles that prioritize their manifests such that NASA has a high confidence level that missions can be reliably launched on schedule. NASA is directed to continue providing the Committee with a quarterly launch schedule, by mission, that describes risks associated with launch delays due to problems with the launch vehicle; impacts of launch delays to other missions in the launch queue, and a budget estimate of the anticipated carrying costs for missed launch windows.

The Committee is supportive of NASA's STEM education efforts that provide hands-on learning experiences at NASA centers for middle, high school, and college students, including space launch activities, and therefore rejects the proposed cancellation of education programs. These types of programs allow students to experience the full range of STEM-related skills involved in designing, testing, and launching vehicles and payloads to deepen their interest in science and engineering fields.

The Committee is counting on NASA to maintain focus on improving oversight and accountability throughout the agency. NASA's acquisition management continues to be on the GAO "high risk" list. The Committee notes that NASA is making progress in strengthening its financial management. GAO's most recent assessment of NASA's large-scale projects found the agency's cost and schedule performance on major projects has improved since GAO's

first assessment in 2009. NASA is directed to cooperate fully and to provide timely program analysis, evaluation data, and relevant information to the GAO so that GAO can report to Congress shortly after the annual budget submission of the President and semiannually thereafter on the status of large-scale NASA programs, projects, and activities based on its review of this information.

In addition, NASA is directed to provide the Committee, with its budget justification, the reserves assumed by NASA to be necessary within the amount proposed for each directorate, theme, program, project, and activity, or, if the proposed funding level for a directorate, theme, program, project, or activity is based on confidence level budgeting, the confidence level and reserves assumed in the proposed funding level.

The Committee understands that NASA projects undergo major reviews in addition to regular oversight throughout the year. When one of these reviews results in changing the cost profile of a project in the current or budget request year, the Committee expects to be informed in a timely fashion so that its actions can reflect the most recent NASA analysis and expectation. Keeping the Committee up to date should reduce NASA's propensity to submit spending plans that disregard Congressional direction.

The Federal funding priorities for NASA set forth in this bill and report should not be interpreted as a suggestion from the Committee. Rather they should be interpreted like any other statutory requirement levied upon NASA. The Committee objects to NASA's efforts in recent fiscal years to redirect funding away from priorities clearly set by the Congress in law. NASA's continued use of section 505 of this bill in this manner will result in limited funding flexibility in the future.

The Committee has chosen to articulate the funding levels of programs, where appropriate, in the form of tables and, if necessary, supplemented with explanatory report language.

SCIENCE

Appropriations, 2017	\$5,764,900,000
Budget estimate, 2018	5,711,800,000
Committee recommendation	5,571,800,000

The Committee provides \$5,571,800,000 for Science, which is \$193,100,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$140,000,000 below the budget request. The Science account encompasses: Earth Science, Planetary Science, Astrophysics, the James Webb Space Telescope, Heliophysics, and Education. This funding supports NASA programs that seek to answer fundamental questions concerning the ways in which Earth is changing; the comparison of Earth with other planets in the solar system and around other stars; the connections between the Sun and Earth; and the origin and evolution of planetary systems, the galaxy, and the universe, including the origin and distribution of life in the universe. These objectives are assisted by input from the scientific community through decadal surveys and are achieved through robotic flight missions, ground-based scientific research and data analysis, and the development of new technologies for future missions. NASA shall continue its progress toward implementing the

recommendations of decadal surveys in Earth Science, Heliophysics, Planetary Science, and Astrophysics.

SCIENCE

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Earth Science	1,921,000
Planetary Science	1,611,900
Astrophysics	816,700
James Webb Space Telescope	533,700
Heliophysics	688,500
Education	[44,000]
Total, Science	5,571,800

Earth Science.—Within the amount for Earth Science, the Committee recommendation includes \$198,000,000 for Landsat 9 to maintain a 2020 launch profile, \$147,000,000 for the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud ocean Ecosystem [PACE] mission to maintain a 2022 launch date, \$28,000,000 for CLARREO Pathfinder to continue progress on a Tier-1 decadal survey recommendation, \$9,500,000 for OCO-3, and \$1,900,000 for NASA instruments on the Deep Space Climate Observatory. The amount provided for PACE reflects the project's successful passage of Key Decision Point B in July 2017. The recommendation fully supports Earth Venture and NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar at no less than the request level.

Radiation Budget Instrument.—The Committee is aware of challenges reported by GAO on NASA's Radiation Budget Instrument [RBI] program, to include problems controlling scope of requirements against desired costs and maintaining schedule to meet the JPSS-2 need date with sufficient time for integration on the satellite and testing prior to the JPSS-2 launch. NASA shall report in writing to the Committee within 14 days of the date of enactment whether RBI can meet the launch date under the development parameters that the Committee had already established for this instrument in previous appropriations bills, and does not meet the programmatic cost overruns outlined in section 521 of this act. If such conditions are favorably met, then NASA shall continue the RBI program in fiscal year 2018 with appropriated funds within Earth Science subject to section 505 reprogramming guidelines. NASA shall update the Committee on RBI cost and schedule immediately after the completion of the Critical Design Review in September 2017.

The Committee is also supportive of efforts for the development of aircraft instrumentation and arrays that can conduct remote sensing for scientific and operational research, and directs the agency to continue partnering with non-Federal researchers to test new technologies for analyzing snow, ice and soil moisture.

Planetary Science.—The Committee recommendation includes \$660,000,000 for Mars Exploration and \$66,000,000 for Near Earth Object Observations, including no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount for Double Asteroid Redirection Test [DART]. The Near Earth Object Observations program supports a network of search

and characterization observatories and the data processing and analysis required to understand the near-Earth population of small bodies. The Committee urges NASA to meet the congressionally mandated goal of detecting and characterizing at least 90 percent of the potentially hazardous Near Earth Objects [NEO] 140 meters or larger by 2020. NASA shall develop a plan for its planetary defense activities, including DART and subsequent activities, which will support successive space-based surveys/surveillance missions and/or technology demonstration and rapidly advance the Nation's planetary defense capabilities.

Green Bank Observatory.—The Committee recognizes the significant investment the NSF has made to develop the world-class scientific facility at the Green Bank Telescope Observatory [GBO]. NASA is encouraged to continue its use of GBO to support its Planetary Science Research program, including orbital debris monitoring activities, and to coordinate with NSF and other government agencies to develop potential multi-agency management plans for GBO. NASA shall include in its fiscal year 2019 budget request any planned support for the subsequent 5 fiscal years.

Astrophysics.—The Committee recommendation includes no less than \$98,300,000 for the Hubble Space Telescope, no less than \$10,000,000 for search for life technology development, and \$150,000,000 for the Wide-Field InfraRed Survey Telescope [W-FIRST]. The Committee supports the independent analysis of W-FIRST and other large projects to ensure sustainable cost and schedule and encourages NASA to establish a cost cap for W-FIRST based on that analysis. The Committee reiterates its expectation that NASA will streamline W-FIRST science operations to take advantage of scientific and operational experience and synergies with Hubble and the James Webb Space Telescope, including linking science operations and the science archive.

James Webb Space Telescope.—The Committee maintains its strong support for the completion of the James Webb Space Telescope [JWST], and provides \$533,700,000, the same as the budget request. The bill maintains an overall development cost ceiling for JWST at \$8,000,000,000, and the Committee intends to hold NASA and its contractors to that commitment. The Committee expects to be kept fully informed on issues relating to program and risk management, achievement of cost and schedule goals, and the program's technical status. The Committee appreciates GAO's continuing work to monitor JWST progress, costs, and schedule.

Heliophysics.—The Committee recognizes that a greater understanding of our Sun and the accompanying technologies developed for that purpose will help to mitigate the hazards that solar activity poses to the ground- and space-based platforms that strengthen our national security, economic competitiveness, and scientific prowess. As recommended by the National Research Council Decadal Survey, the Committee directs NASA to implement a 2-year cadence of alternating Small Explorer [SMEX] and Mid-sized Explorer [MIDEX] missions, and enable a regular selection of Missions of Opportunity [MOs] to allow heliophysics researchers to rapidly respond to and participate in missions both inside and outside of NASA. The Committee also supports implementation of the Diversify, Realize, Integrate, Venture, Educate [DRIVE] initiative,

a top priority of the National Research Council Decadal Survey, which would increase the competitive Heliophysics research program from 10 percent to 15 percent of the budget request to enable the development of new technologies, and establish competitively-awarded Heliophysics Science Centers. The Committee recognizes the increasingly multidisciplinary nature of Heliophysics, and so seeks to provide researchers with the necessary tools to enable continued scientific progress in this field.

Space Weather Research.—In response to the Space Weather Action Plan and the recommendations of the Decadal Survey, the Committee recommendation provides \$10,000,000 for establishing a space weather research program. NASA should coordinate with NOAA and the Department of Defense to ensure that NASA is focused on research and technology that enables other agencies to dramatically improve their operational space weather assets and the forecasts they generate using data from those assets including current and future ground-based telescopes and instruments that are expected to come on line, such as the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope.

Science Mission Directorate, Education.—The Committee provides no less than \$44,000,000 for education as reflected in a more transparent single line within the SMD funding chart. The Committee supports the recommendation that the Astrophysics program administer this SMD-wide education funding. The Committee encourages SMD-funded investigators to be directly involved in outreach and education efforts. NASA should continue to prioritize funding for on-going education efforts linked directly to its science missions.

AERONAUTICS

Appropriations, 2017	\$660,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	624,000,000
Committee recommendation	650,000,000

The Committee provides \$650,000,000 for Aeronautics, which is \$10,000,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$26,000,000 above the budget request. The Aeronautics account funds research in key areas related to the development of advanced aircraft technologies and systems, including those related to aircraft safety, ultra-efficient vehicles and fuel efficiency, and research that supports the Next Generation Air Transportation System in partnership with the Joint Planning and Development Office.

The Committee is encouraged by NASA's proposal for a Low Boom Flight Demonstrator X-plane, referred to as the Low Boom Flight Demonstrator [LBFD], with an anticipated first flight in fiscal year 2021. NASA's work to demonstrate quiet supersonic flight over land should assist in eliminating the technical barriers to practical, commercial supersonic flight. The Committee also believes that additional subsonic flight demonstrations can contribute to continued U.S. leadership in the global aerospace industry and directs NASA to provide a report within 180 days of enactment on the plan, including resources needed, for additional X-plane demonstrations beyond LBFD.

Advanced Materials Research.—The Committee recognizes the role NASA and university research institutions play in developing

advanced materials platforms for next generation air and space vehicles. NASA is encouraged to partner with academic institutions that have strong capabilities in aviation, aerospace structures, and materials testing and evaluation to advance aeronautics materials research.

Unmanned Aerial Systems [UAS] Research.—NASA conducts research to reduce technical barriers associated with integrating UAS into the National Airspace System [NAS]. This research remains a national priority with the potential to increase public safety and bring economic benefits to a wide range of industries. The Committee provides \$5,000,000 for NASA to conduct further research in a broad range of public safety applications over land and maritime environments at the Federal Aviation Administration’s Unmanned Aircraft Systems Centers of Excellence on UAS use.

Advanced Composites.—To address the ongoing need for improved methods, tools, and protocols to reduce the development and certification timeline for composite materials and structures, the Committee funds advanced composites at the fiscal year 2018 request level.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Appropriations, 2017	\$686,500,000
Budget estimate, 2018	678,600,000
Committee recommendation	700,000,000

The Committee provides \$700,000,000 for Space Technology, which is \$13,500,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$21,400,000 above the budget request. The Space Technology Program funds basic research that can advance multi-purpose technologies to enable new approaches to NASA’s current missions. It includes NASA’s Small Business Innovative Research [SBIR] and Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

The Committee is supportive of many of the technologies being developed within Space Technology, which will have wide ranging benefits for NASA missions and throughout the agency. Of particular note are the enabling technologies of Solar Electric Propulsion, the laser communications relay demonstration, and composite tanks and structural materials. These key supporting technologies will provide enabling capabilities for multiple robotic and human exploration missions.

Satellite Servicing/RESTORE-L.—The Committee recommends \$130,000,000 for continued formulation activities and acquisition of the mission’s bus module to maintain a schedule that targets a launch in calendar year 2019 allowing Landsat-7 to be refueled before its original fuel supply is depleted. This project is built upon three decades of on-orbit satellite rendezvous, capture and servicing experience and involves substantially more robust technological maturity and capability. By focusing on low-Earth orbiting satellites, it avoids competing against industry and holds the potential to save money by allowing government satellites longer operational life. The Committee believes this work is complementary to Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency [DARPA] work in geostationary orbit and encourages NASA to share expertise and lessons learned with DARPA and to accept any financial contributions from DARPA to its work.

Nuclear Propulsion.—NASA is continuing its work to develop the foundational technologies and advance low-enriched uranium nuclear thermal propulsion systems that can provide significantly faster trip times for crewed missions than non-nuclear options. The Committee provides \$75,000,000 for ongoing nuclear thermal propulsion technologies for space transportation and exploration. This funding is provided for NASA to work towards the goal of being able to conduct a propulsion subscale ground test by 2020.

Laser Communications.—The Committee recognizes the potential technological breakthroughs enabled by laser communications that provide much higher data rates for connections between spacecraft and Earth. The Committee directs NASA to continue its investments in optical communication research, development, and testing to support NASA missions and potentially to create spin off technologies that advance American leadership in communications technologies and support rural broadband deployment.

Flight Opportunities Program.—The recommendation includes up to \$20,000,000 for the Flight Opportunities Program.

Advanced Propulsion Research.—The Committee notes that NASA has funded preliminary fusion energy research that could eventually assist in shortening transit time for interplanetary missions. The Committee strongly encourages NASA to pursue academic led research opportunities as continued early technology development is advanced.

Small Business Innovation Research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the SBIR program and its previous success in commercialization of results from federally funded research and development projects. The SBIR program encourages domestic small businesses to engage in Federal research and development, and creates jobs. The Committee therefore directs NASA to place an increased focus on awarding SBIR awards to firms with fewer than 50 employees.

EXPLORATION

Appropriations, 2017	\$4,324,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	3,934,097,000
Committee recommendation	4,395,000,000

The Committee provides \$4,395,000,000 for Exploration, which is \$71,000,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$460,903,000 above the budget request. The Exploration account funds the capabilities required to develop, demonstrate, and deploy the transportation, life support, and surface systems that will enable sustained human presence beyond low-Earth orbit and throughout the solar system. The Committee believes the Nation deserves a safe and robust human spaceflight program to explore beyond low-Earth orbit.

EXPLORATION [In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Space Launch System	2,150,000
Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle	1,350,000
Exploration Ground Systems	545,000

EXPLORATION—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
Exploration Research and Development	350,000
TOTAL	4,395,000

The Space Launch System [SLS], Orion multi-purpose crew vehicle [Orion], and Exploration ground systems are all critical infrastructure for the development and sustainment of the Nation's human exploration goals. These investments will enable the human exploration of space beyond low Earth orbit, and provide flexibility for a variety of mission destinations.

NASA's human exploration program is made up of three distinct, but equally important pieces: SLS heavy-lift launch vehicle, Orion, and the supporting ground systems that process and launch these vehicles. If any of these activities are delayed, then the entire exploration enterprise of launching humans beyond low Earth orbit by NASA is also hindered. Therefore, it is important to view these programs as part of a complete system and to budget accordingly so that the Nation can advance its exploration goals.

The Committee provides: \$2,150,000,000 for SLS, of which no less than \$300,000,000 is for development of the Exploration Upper Stage [EUS] engine; \$1,350,000,000 for Orion; and \$545,000,000 for Exploration Ground Systems. In addition to this funding, \$95,900,000 is further provided under Construction of Facilities for Exploration related construction, bringing the total for ground systems to \$640,900,000. The Committee notes that the fiscal year 2018 request for SLS includes \$59,000,000 planned for RS-25 and SLS core stage green run testing as part of a longer-term testing plan leading to EUS testing and qualification activities to be conducted in fiscal year 2019 and beyond. Of the funds provided for EUS, \$20,000,000 is for advance planning and preliminary test stand engineering for associated follow-on testing and engine qualification for the EUS. NASA is directed, within 60 days of enactment, to provide the Committee its preliminary plan for EUS testing and qualification that incorporates the funding provided within this Act. These funding levels reflect consistent programmatic funding to ensure the earliest possible crewed launch, as well as prepare for future crewed launches.

It is important to note that the funding levels provided by the Committee support the development of multiple iterations of launch and crew test articles and flight vehicles that are being developed and produced during fiscal year 2018. Together these comprise a complete system that includes work needed for future launches beyond Exploration Missions 1 and 2.

The Committee understands that NASA will determine the initial launch date for Exploration Mission 1 after a review of the program currently being conducted and expects NASA to provide the Committee with details of this analysis at the conclusion of the review.

To allow for NASA to transition SLS, Orion, and their associated ground infrastructure from a developmental program to an oper-

ating launch system, the Committee has included bill language permitting NASA to continue to acquire crew vehicles, launch vehicles, ground systems and their associated components under incremental funding within appropriation limits for the duration of these programs.

Advanced Exploration Systems.—The amount provided for Advanced Exploration Systems enables NASA to continue current activities within NASA and with industry related to VASIMR propulsion technology, In Situ Resource Utilization, and Lunar CATALYST. The Committee also encourages NASA to continue to study and quantify potential exposure to cosmic rays through initiatives such as the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer. The Committee further includes the request level of \$119,700,000 for habitat systems research and development. The Committee expects NASA to establish in fiscal year 2018 a habitat development program office at a center that holds proficiency and heritage in habitation, life support systems development, and science operations to oversee and support NASA's current and future in-space habitat development activities.

SPACE OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 2017	\$4,950,700,000
Budget estimate, 2018	4,740,803,000
Committee recommendation	4,751,500,000

The Committee provides \$4,751,500,000 for Space Operations, which is \$199,200,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$10,697,000 above the budget request. The Space Operations account funds the International Space Station [ISS] and the supporting functions required to conduct operations in space. The ISS is a complex of research laboratories in low-Earth orbit in which American, Russian, and international partner astronauts conduct unique scientific and technological investigations in a microgravity environment.

Space Transportation.—The Committee provides the requested amounts of \$1,683,200,000 for the delivery of cargo and payments for current and future crew services to the ISS, and up to \$731,900,000 for payment of successfully completed crew development milestones.

The Committee notes that the GAO has reported in “NASA: Assessments of Major Projects” that an analysis by the Commercial Crew Program indicates the certification of both contractors will likely be delayed until 2019 and that despite a fixed price contract, payments to contractors have increased by a combined \$138,000,000 through the use of reserve funds. The Committee encourages NASA to regain the ability to launch astronauts to ISS from the United States in a safe and timely manner but is concerned that further delays to the crew program will lead to additional unanticipated crew transportation costs beyond the current payments to other crew transportation providers in the future. NASA shall inform the Committee of the causes of any delays to certification dates and any additional associated costs, including additional payments for alternative transportation services, at the time they are determined by NASA, and not wait to disclose them as part of the regular quarterly reporting requirement.

Rocket Propulsion Test Program.—The Committee recommends the fiscal year 2018 requested amount for the NASA Rocket Propulsion Test program to ensure test infrastructure remains adequate to support the Space Launch System and other propulsion development programs.

Testing Infrastructure.—The Committee encourages NASA to develop plans to fully utilize NASA-owned rocket testing infrastructure for commercially developed launch vehicles to ensure that these vehicles are not only tested in the same manner as Government-developed launch vehicles, but also at the same facilities, to ensure consistency in testing across all potential vehicles.

Space and Flight Support Launch Services.—The Committee believes that the small launch vehicle development will lead to a capability that will maximize benefits to the government, the private sector, and universities while promoting increased participation in the small launch market. The recommendation includes \$30,000,000 for NASA to continue activities through the appropriate program office to advance technologies for launch vehicles of small payloads to increase opportunities for improved access to suborbital and orbital launch opportunities once the current round is completed.

Solid Rocket Motor Materials.—Within 60 days of enactment of this bill, NASA shall provide a briefing to the Committee regarding NASA's strategy to procure large solid rocket motors at the best value to U.S. taxpayers. The briefing will include a description of their present supply chain, as well as future costs and availability of solid rocket motor input materials including ammonium perchlorate and spherical aluminum powder as well as anticipated impacts of existing, pending and planned contracts by NASA and other government entities.

21st Century Launch Complex program.— The Committee notes that the 21st Century Launch Complex program ended in fiscal year 2017. The program helped to maintain multiple launch sites contribute to assured access to the ISS in case of natural disaster, national security event, or launch accident. With the end of this program, future funding requests for construction, maintenance, and revitalization of multiple launch facilities to maintain this capability are expected to be funded through the Construction account where capital improvements to NASA's infrastructure are located.

EDUCATION

Appropriations, 2017	\$100,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	37,300,000
Committee recommendation	100,000,000

The Committee provides \$100,000,000 for Education, which is the same as the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$62,700,000 above the budget request. The Education account funds science, technology, engineering, and mathematics [STEM] education activities to educate and inspire our next generation of explorers and innovators.

The Committee does not agree with the proposed cancellation of the activities within Education and has provided funding for the programs for the upcoming fiscal year. However, if NASA deter-

mines that the programs would be better managed, executed, and evaluated in other places within NASA, the Committee is not averse to considering funding these activities either within a revised Education directorate or other alternative locations. The Committee directs NASA to use fiscal year 2018 to review the Education Mission Directorate, along with its other education-related activities, in order to inform the appropriate location and activities NASA should undertake in future years. As part of this activity, NASA is directed to consider maintaining administrative costs at no more than five percent and provide the Committee a report on the results of this comprehensive review not less than 90 days from enactment of this Act.

The funds provided are to ensure continuity in the ongoing programs as NASA evaluates its role in STEM education and development of students in science and engineering fields.

EDUCATION

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee recommendation
NASA Space Grant	40,000
Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research [EPSCOR]	18,000
Minority University Research and Education Project	32,000
STEM Education and Accountability Projects	10,000
TOTAL	100,000

Space Grant.—The Committee provides \$40,000,000 for Space Grant and directs NASA to support an extension of the current Space Grant program, and to allocate the entire funding amount for consortia-led institutions in all 52 participating jurisdictions according to the percentage allocation provided to States in the current 5-year grant award.

Competitive Program.—The Committee provides up to \$10,000,000 for the Competitive Program for Science, Museums, Planetariums, and NASA Visitors Centers within the STEM Education and Accountability Projects. This competitive grant program creates interactive exhibits, professional development activities, and community-based programs to engage students, teachers, and the public in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Space Law.—As the civilian space market continues to grow and national policies are developed for remote sensing and commercial space launches for cargo and crew, there is an increasing need for education on the legal aspects of human use of aerospace technologies. To encourage legal research in this area, the Committee provides up to \$1,000,000 for space law education and outreach. NASA shall provide a spending plan to the Committee within 45 days of enactment of this act on how NASA will implement this direction.

SAFETY, SECURITY, AND MISSION SERVICES

Appropriations, 2017	\$2,768,600,000
Budget estimate, 2018	2,830,200,000
Committee recommendation	2,826,900,000

The Committee provides \$2,826,900,000 for Safety, Security, and Mission Services, which is \$58,300,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$3,300,000 below the budget request. The Safety, Security, and Mission Services account funds agency management, including headquarters and each of the nine NASA field centers, as well as the design and execution of non-programmatic Construction of Facilities and Environmental Compliance and Restoration activities.

Independent Verification and Validation [IV&V] Program.—Within the amounts provided for cross-agency support, the Committee recommends \$39,100,000 for NASA’s IV&V Program.

Cybersecurity.—The Committee’s recommendation includes the full request for Agency Information Technology [IT] Services to support shifting NASA’s IT model to one that enhances cybersecurity with strong governance and strong information security practices.

National Center for Critical Information Processing and Storage.—The National Center for Critical Information Processing and Storage [NCCIPS], managed by NASA, was established to consolidate efforts across Federal agencies to store and secure data. The Committee encourages NASA to make agencies aware of NCCIPS capabilities in order to help the Federal Government reduce IT costs and more rapidly achieve IT modernization. The Committee urges NASA to offer NCCIPS to other agencies in order to take full financial advantage of this secure data facility, to help the Federal Government reduce IT costs, and to more rapidly achieve IT modernization.

NASA Shared Services Center.—The Committee is aware that NASA is considering a divestment of the NASA Shared Services Center [NSSC] and transitioning it to another Federal shared services provider or designating it as an independent performance based organization. The Committee supports these efforts only if the final proposal adheres to ongoing government-wide data consolidation efforts, reduces hardware, software, and operating costs for its Federal customers, and aids in its ability to attract new Federal agencies. If NASA chooses to divest the NSSC, NASA shall provide the Committee its justification for divestment and the plan for implementation.

CONSTRUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION

Appropriations, 2017	\$360,700,000
Budget estimate, 2018	496,100,000
Committee recommendation	496,100,000

The Committee provides \$496,100,000 for Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration, which is \$135,400,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and the same as the budget request. The Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration account provides for design and execution of programmatic, discrete and minor revitalization, construction of facilities projects, facility demolition projects, and environmental compliance and restoration activities.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2017	\$37,900,000
Budget estimate, 2018	39,300,000
Committee recommendation	38,000,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$38,000,000 for the Office of Inspector General [OIG], which is \$100,000 above the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$1,300,000 below the budget request. The Office is responsible for promoting efficiency and preventing and detecting crime, fraud, waste, and mismanagement.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Committee includes bill language regarding the availability of funds for certain prizes.

The Committee also includes bill language regarding transfers of funds between accounts and the NASA spending plan for fiscal year 2018.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Appropriations, 2017	\$7,472,215,000
Budget estimate, 2018	6,652,888,000
Committee recommendation	7,311,083,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$7,311,083,000 for the National Science Foundation [NSF]. The recommendation is \$161,132,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$658,195,000 above the budget request.

The National Science Foundation was established as an independent agency by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (Public Law 81-507) and is authorized to support research and education programs that promote the progress of science and engineering in the United States. The Foundation supports research and education in all major scientific and engineering disciplines through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and other forms of assistance in all parts of the United States. The Foundation also supports unique domestic and international large-scale research facilities.

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2017	\$6,033,645,000
Budget estimate, 2018	5,361,650,000
Committee recommendation	5,917,803,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$5,917,803,000. The recommendation is \$115,842,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$556,153,000 above the budget request.

The Research and Related Activities [R&RA] appropriation funds scientific discovery, trains a dynamic workforce, and supports broadly accessible state-of-the-art tools and facilities. Research activities will contribute to the achievement of these outcomes through expansion of the knowledge base; integration of research and education; stimulation of knowledge transfer between academia and the public and private sectors; and international activities, and will bring the perspectives of many scientific disciplines to bear on complex problems important to the Nation. The Foundation's discipline-oriented R&RA account includes: Biological

Sciences; Computer and Information Science and Engineering; Engineering; Geosciences; Mathematical and Physical Sciences; Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences; Office of Cyberinfrastructure; Office of International Science and Engineering; Office of Polar Programs; Integrative Activities; and the U.S. Arctic Research Commission.

The Committee's fiscal year 2018 recommendation supports Federal long-term basic research that has the potential to transform our economy and our way of life in the context of a constrained Federal budget.

Scientific Facilities and Instrumentation.—A critical component of the Nation's scientific enterprise is the infrastructure that supports researchers in discovery science. Investments to advance the frontiers of research and education in science and engineering are critical to the Nation's innovation enterprise. The Committee encourages the NSF to fully fund its U.S. scientific research facilities and instruments to adequately support scientists and students engaged in sustained, cutting-edge research.

Astronomy.—U.S.-based astronomy researchers and facilities funded through NSF continue to make groundbreaking discoveries utilizing world-class scientific research instruments and facilities. NSF funding enables research in the U.S., at facilities across the globe, and at observatories operated by universities, including the National Optical Astronomy Observatories, the National Radio Astronomy Observatories, and the National Solar Observatory. As NSF determines the appropriate levels of support for astronomy research grants by scientists and students engaged in ground-breaking research and investments, the Committee expects the NSF to continue its support of world-class scientific research facilities and instrumentation to maximize its investments in research. In addition to this support, partnerships should be explored when feasible to maximize research capabilities at such facilities.

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research [EPSCoR].—The Committee underscores the importance of the EPSCoR program in spurring innovation and strengthening the research capabilities of institutions that are historically underserved by Federal research and development [R&D] funding. The EPSCoR program is funded at no less than \$160,000,000, the same amount as fiscal year 2017. NSF shall make every effort to achieve efficiencies to ensure that no more than 5 percent of the amounts provided for the program are used for administration and other overhead costs.

Study of Woodland and Alpine Ecosystems and Ecoregions.—The Committee encourages NSF to support research on unique mountain and woodland ecosystems, and to advance research in this area in order to better understand and sustain the health and vitality of mountain ecosystems.

Mathematical Sciences Institutes.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the NSF Mathematical Sciences Institutes across the country, which provide important basic research in multiple fields.

VORTEX-SE.—NSF has been working in conjunction with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] to build up to a full research campaign to study the unique characteristics of tornadoes in the southeast. The VORTEX-SE field campaigns in

calendar years 2016 and 2017 have provided important new insights into the observing strategy for the large VORTEX–SE field campaign expected to take place in spring of 2020. NSF currently plans on conducting additional workshops ahead of the full campaign to fully incorporate lessons learned from the initial field work that has recently been completed. In preparation for the 2020 field campaign, the Committee expects that future budget requests for VORTEX–SE will include adequate budgetary resources for associated research and instrumentation. The Committee directs NSF to include a coordinated funding plan and timeline for conducting VORTEX–SE as part of future budget requests.

As part of VORTEX–SE, the Committee directs NSF to look beyond the traditional research disciplines and programs utilized in previous Vortex programs and to include and utilize the collaborative opportunities of the Prediction of and Resilience against Extreme Events program for co-funding grants that enhance understanding of the fundamental natural processes and hazards of tornadoes in the southeast and to improve models of these seasonal extreme events.

Ice Sheet Instability.—Within Office of Polar Programs, the Committee encourages NSF to prioritize research into the current stability of Antarctic ice sheets, including the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, and any impacts of future instability.

High-Performance Computing.—The Committee commends NSF on its continuing commitment to its high-performance computing and data analysis capabilities and urges NSF to make timely and significant investments in high-performance computing. NSF should remain committed to developing and supporting systems that facilitate tremendous leaps in computational simulation and data analyses that enable a broad range of scientific research and encourages NSF to release a public roadmap outlining the scope and timing of these investments.

Domestic Manufacturing.—The Committee encourages NSF to continue to support meritorious research on the U.S. steel industry.

Cybersecurity.—The Committee’s recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level for cybersecurity research.

Innovation Corps.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2017 amount for the Innovation Corps [I–Corps] program to build on the successes of its innovative public-private partnership model. Technology transfer is an important contributor to American innovation, and NSF plays a critical role in enabling our Nation’s brightest academic minds to bring their ideas and ingenuity to the marketplace. Scientists are trained in discovery but need help turning their research into real-world products and profits. Programs like I–Corps create jobs in our laboratories today and jobs in American industries tomorrow. The Committee encourages NSF to facilitate greater participation in the program from academic institutions in States that have not previously received awards.

HBCUs Excellence in Research.—The Committee continues to believe in the importance of additional Federal research opportunities at Historically Black Colleges and Universities [HBCUs]. Because NSF’s primary research directorates continue to have a troubling

track record of funding HBCUs, the Committee provides \$10,000,000 for the competitive HBCUs Excellence in Research program, to be separate and distinct from awards made to HBCUs under grant opportunities made available to all colleges and universities, and separate and distinct from programs to support HBCUs under the Education and Human Resources directorate. The goal of this program is to provide opportunities for both public and private HBCUs, particularly for those who have not been successful in larger NSF R&RA competitions, in order to stimulate sustainable improvement in their research and development capacity. NSF is further encouraged to use research infrastructure improvement grants, co-funding programs, and other innovative mechanisms to achieve these goals. NSF shall provide a detailed outline of the proposed execution of the HBCUs Excellence in Research program as part of its fiscal year 2018 spending plan.

Engineering of Biomedical Systems [EBMS].—EBMS provides research opportunities to develop novel ideas into discovery-level and transformative projects that integrate engineering and life sciences in solving biomedical problems that serve humanity in the long-term. The Committee encourages NSF to find opportunities for minority serving institutions, such as HBCUs, to broaden participation in EBMS.

Fire Research.—The Committee recognizes the significant impact that fire has on numerous industries in the United States, including the aerospace, manufacturing, and agriculture sectors. Improving the scientific understanding of fire will support key industries as well as improve communities' ability to safeguard property and lives. The Committee encourages NSF to examine its current portfolio of fire research to ensure that it is adequately addressing this area and appropriately coordinating with academic, industry, and government experts in this field.

Sustainable Chemistry Research.—The Committee continues to urge NSF to support sustainable chemistry, including developing a long-term vision for sustainable chemistry research and development, as authorized by Public Law 111–358, Section 509, and endorsed in Public Law 114–329, Section 114.

Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers [ADVANCE].—The Committee is supportive of the ADVANCE program, which funds efforts to address the systemic barriers to women's STEM careers. To maintain these efforts, the Committee provides \$18,000,000, the same as the fiscal year 2017 funding level.

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

Appropriations, 2017	\$209,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	182,800,000
Committee recommendation	182,800,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$182,800,000 for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction [MREFC]. The recommendation is \$26,200,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and the same as the budget request.

The MREFC appropriation supports the acquisition, procurement, construction, and commissioning of unique national research platforms and facilities as well as major research equipment.

Projects supported by this appropriation push the boundaries of technology and offer expanded opportunities for the science and engineering community. Preliminary design and development activities, ongoing operations, and maintenance costs of the facilities are provided through the R&RA appropriation account.

The Committee's recommendation includes funding at the requested level for the continued construction of the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope and the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope, as well as the requested funding for planning and construction of three regional class research vessels.

The Committee encourages GAO to continue its annual review of programs funded within MREFC so that GAO can report to Congress shortly after each annual budget submission of the President and semiannually thereafter on the status of large-scale NSF projects and activities based on its review of this information. The Committee notes that MREFC has a 'no cost overrun' policy and expects GAO's analysis to address any NSF adjustments to proposed activities and scope.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Appropriations, 2017	\$880,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	760,550,000
Committee recommendation	862,400,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$862,400,000 for this account. The recommendation is \$17,600,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$101,850,000 above the budget request.

The Education and Human Resources appropriation supports a comprehensive set of programs across all levels of education in STEM. The appropriation supports activities that unite school districts with institutions of higher learning to improve precollege education. Other precollege activities include the development of the next generation of STEM education leaders, instructional materials, and the STEM instructional workforce. Undergraduate activities support curriculum, laboratory, and instructional improvement; expand the STEM talent pool; attract STEM participants to teaching; augment advanced technological education at 2-year colleges; and develop dissemination tools. Graduate support is directed to research and teaching fellowships, internships, and instructional workforce improvement by linking precollege education systems with higher education. Programs also seek to broaden the participation of groups underrepresented in the STEM enterprise and promote informal science education.

Advanced Technological Education.—The Committee provides funding for Advanced Technological Education at not less than the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

Fellowships and Scholarships.—The Committee does not adopt the proposed funding reductions for the NSF Scholarships in STEM, Robert Noyce Scholarship Program, or the Graduate Research Fellowship and instead provides the fiscal year 2017 funding level for these programs.

CyberCorps: Scholarships for Service.—The CyberCorps program has awarded more than 3,000 scholarships to train Federal cybersecurity professionals. Nearly half of the program's graduates are placed in national security and defense agencies. The Com-

mittee provides no less than \$55,000,000 for the CyberCorps: Scholarships for Service program, of which not less than \$7,500,000 should be used to continue work with community colleges that have been designated as a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance 2-Year Education [CAE2Y] by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, including through providing scholarships to students at CAE2Y's who will not transfer into a 4-year program, such as career-changers who possess 4-year degrees and veterans of the Armed Forces. Additionally, the Committee urges NSF to collaborate with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education at NIST on their efforts to develop cybersecurity skills in the workforce, especially in support of non-traditional or technical degree qualifications.

Informal Science Education.—The Committee maintains its strong support for NSF's informal science education program and provides no less than \$62,500,000 for Advancing Informal STEM Learning and \$51,880,000 for STEM+C Partnerships. The Committee encourages NSF to coordinate and provide necessary support for investments in both in- and out-of-school time STEM education programs across Federal agencies, including support for extracurricular STEM programs. The Education and Human Resources directorate is further encouraged to continue its NSF-wide efforts to support informal STEM education programs, including leveraging the research directorates to support activities that match their respective content areas.

Division of Research on Learning [DRL] in Formal and Informal Settings.—As part of the research funded through the DRL, the Committee recognizes the importance of out-of-school time STEM mentor-led engagement programs, including STEM networks, festivals, and competitions. Such programs are highly effective in filling the higher education STEM pipeline. The Committee urges NSF to focus on populations underrepresented in the STEM fields and encourages NSF to fund out-of-school time STEM engagement program activities.

Division on Human Resource Development.—The Committee recommends \$35,000,000 for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities [HBCUs] Undergraduate Program, \$8,000,000 for the Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate, \$46,000,000 for the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation, \$14,000,000 for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program, and \$24,000,000 for Centers for Research Excellence in Science and Technology.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions [HSI] Program.—Hispanic Americans continue to be underrepresented in science and engineering disciplines. The Committee provides \$15,000,000 as authorized under 42 U.S.C. 1862o–12 for NSF to implement an HSI Program that is designed to increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Hispanic students pursuing associate or baccalaureate degrees in STEM fields.

AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT

Appropriations, 2017	\$330,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	328,510,000
Committee recommendation	328,510,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$328,510,000 for Agency Operations and Award Management. The recommendation is \$1,490,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and the same as the budget request.

The appropriation provides salaries and expenses, including: staff salaries, benefits, travel, training, rent, advisory and assistance services, communications and utilities expenses, supplies, equipment, and other operating expenses necessary for management of NSF's research and education activities.

The Committee continues to believe that NSF should include criteria that evaluates how a proposal will advance our Nation's national security and economic interests, as well as promote the progress of science and innovation in the United States.

The Committee reiterates its long-standing requirement that NSF submit reprogrammings when initiating new programs or activities of more than \$500,000 or when reorganizing components. The Committee expects to be notified of reprogramming actions which involve less than the above-mentioned amount if such actions would have the effect of changing the agency's funding requirements in future years, or if programs or projects specifically cited in the Committee's reports are affected.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

Appropriations, 2017	\$4,370,000
Budget estimate, 2018	4,370,000
Committee recommendation	4,370,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$4,370,000 for the Office of the National Science Board. The recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and the same as the budget request.

The National Science Board is the governing body of NSF and is charged with serving as an independent adviser to the President and Congress on policy matters related to science and engineering research and education.

Operations and Maintenance Costs.—The Committee is concerned that operations and maintenance costs for NSF-funded research facilities require an increasingly large percentage of the funding for Research and Related Activities, especially in a budget environment where overall domestic spending is restrained and annual operations and maintenance costs increase faster than overall NSF spending. The Committee is waiting for the Board's report, directed in fiscal year 2017, on whether this issue merits a change in NSF's funding principles or budgetary formulation processes.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2017	\$15,200,000
Budget estimate, 2018	15,008,000
Committee recommendation	15,200,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$15,200,000 for the Office of Inspector General [OIG]. The recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$192,000 above the budget request.

The OIG appropriation provides audit and investigation functions to identify and correct deficiencies that could lead to instances of fraud, waste, or mismanagement.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

The bill includes one administrative provision to allow limited transfers of funds among accounts.

TITLE IV
RELATED AGENCIES
COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$9,200,000
Budget estimate, 2018	9,183,000
Committee recommendation	9,200,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$9,200,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Commission on Civil Rights, the same as the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$17,000 above the request.

State Advisory Committees [SAC].—The SACs represent the eyes and ears of the Commission in their respective States, and the significant proportion of unchartered SACs inhibits the Commission in carrying out its mission across the Nation. The Committee is pleased with the Commission's progress in extending all existing SAC charters from 2 years to 4 years and looks forward to the improvements in work quality that can be attributed to this change. The Commission is directed to update its report to the Committee not later than 90 days after enactment of this act detailing the number of SAC charters covering 4 years remaining to be approved by the Commission, any SAC charters that were submitted but not approved by the Commission, and the criteria used by the Commission to approve or deny any charter submitted for approval.

Donations.—The bill includes authority for the Commission to accept donations to carry out its mission, similar to authority provided to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The Commission shall provide to the Committee quarterly updates on all gifts and donations, as well as the terms of and specific activities funded by the gift or donation. Additionally, anticipated funding from gifts or donations shall be included in the Commission's annual spend plan.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$364,500,000
Budget estimate, 2018	363,807,000
Committee recommendation	364,500,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$364,500,000 for Equal Employment Opportunity Commission [EEOC] salaries and expenses. This recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$693,000 above the request.

The EEOC is the leading Federal agency dedicated to eradicating employment discrimination in both the public and private sectors

on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, pregnancy, age, disability, and family medical history or genetic information. The EEOC serves both U.S. public and private workplaces by helping provide a fair and inclusive workplace, which engenders employee satisfaction and commitment, and enhances employee retention, productivity, and profitability.

Inventory Backlog Reduction.—At the end of fiscal year 2016 the EEOC had a private sector inventory of nearly 76,000 cases and a substantial Federal sector hearing inventory. Using appropriated funds for activities that do not directly resolve this backlog of existing and incoming claims denies cases with complainants the opportunity of a timely resolution. EEOC's own budget submission states that justice delayed is justice denied. Therefore, the Committee directs the EEOC to prioritize its staffing and resources toward reducing the number of current and outstanding unresolved private sector pending charges and public sector hearings.

Public Comment on EEOC Guidance.—The Committee is concerned that as the EEOC conducts its business in protecting against employment discrimination, its guidance proposals can be adopted without the opportunity of public input prior to implementation and enforcement. Therefore, if requested by at least two Commissioners, the EEOC shall make any new guidance available for public comment in the Federal Register for not less than 30 days prior to taking any potential action on proposed guidance.

State and Local Enforcement Assistance.—The Committee recommends up to \$29,500,000 to assist State and local enforcement agencies. This will help ensure that EEOC provides adequate resources to its State partners.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$91,500,000
Budget estimate, 2018	87,615,000
Committee recommendation	91,500,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$91,500,000. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and is \$3,885,000 above the budget request.

The International Trade Commission [ITC] is an independent, quasi-judicial agency responsible for conducting trade-related investigations and providing Congress and the President with independent technical advice related to U.S. international trade policy. The Committee reminds the administration and the Office of Management and Budget that Congress granted ITC specific bypass authority for submitting its budget estimate to the Legislative Branch, pursuant to section 175 of the Trade Act of 1974. Therefore, all future budget estimates for ITC should be transmitted to Congress without revision by the President, pursuant to such act.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Appropriations, 2017	\$385,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	33,000,000
Committee recommendation	385,000,000

The Committee's recommendation rejects the proposal to terminate the payment to the Legal Services Corporation [LSC] and provides \$385,000,000 for payment to the LSC. The recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$352,000,000 above the President's budget request.

The Committee's recommendation provides \$352,000,000 for basic field programs, to be used for competitively awarded grants and contracts; \$19,000,000 for management and administration; \$4,000,000 for client self-help and information technology; \$5,000,000 for the Office of the Inspector General [OIG]; \$1,000,000 for loan repayment assistance; and \$4,000,000 for the LSC's Pro Bono Innovation Fund.

Governance and Management.—The LSC must continue to improve its governance and management in order to further restore the transparency of the organization and direct additional funds into legal aid, where resources are desperately needed. The Committee expects the Inspector General of the LSC to continue conducting annual audits of LSC grantees to ensure that funds are not being used in contravention of the restrictions by which LSC grantees are required to abide.

Pro Bono Innovation Fund.—The Committee's recommendation provides no less than \$4,000,000 to continue the Pro Bono Innovation Fund. This fund will support innovative projects that promote and enhance pro bono initiatives throughout the Nation, as well as leverage Federal dollars to increase free legal aid for low-income Americans by engaging private attorneys.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

The Committee's recommendation continues the administrative provisions contained in the fiscal year 1998 appropriations act (Public Law 105–119) regarding operation of this program to provide basic legal services to disadvantaged individuals and the restrictions on the use of LSC funds.

LSC funds cannot be used to engage in litigation and related activities with respect to a variety of matters including: (1) redistricting; (2) class action suits; (3) representation of illegal aliens; (4) political activities; (5) abortion; (6) prisoner litigation; (7) welfare reform; (8) representation of charged drug dealers during eviction proceedings; and (9) solicitation of clients. The exception to the restrictions occurs in a case where there is imminent threat of physical harm to the client or prospective client.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$3,431,000
Budget estimate, 2018	2,449,000
Committee recommendation	3,431,000

The Committee rejects the proposed elimination of the Marine Mammal Commission and instead provides \$3,431,000. The recommendation is equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$982,000 above the budget request.

The Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals provide oversight and recommend actions on domestic and international topics to advance policies and provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Commission provides precise, up-to-date scientific information to Congress on issues related to the safety of marine mammals.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$62,000,000
Budget estimate, 2018	57,600,000
Committee recommendation	57,600,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$57,600,000 for the Office of the United States Trade Representative [USTR]. The recommendation is \$4,400,000 below the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and equal to the budget request. The agreement provides up to \$10,000,000 in funding for enforcement of trade agreements and other activities outlined in the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (19 U.S.C. 4405), subject to reprogramming requirements. USTR is responsible for developing and leading international negotiations for the United States on policies regarding international trade, direct investment, and commodities. Its areas of responsibility include all matters relating to the World Trade Organization; trade, commodity, and direct investment matters dealt with by certain international institutions; industrial, agricultural, and services trade policy; and trade-related protection of intellectual property and the environment.

Within funds provided, the Committee continues to support USTR's accepting full financial responsibilities of the Interagency Center on Trade Implementation, Monitoring, and Enforcement (formerly named the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center) in fiscal year 2018.

De minimis thresholds.—The Committee recognizes that the current disparity in *de minimis* thresholds have a disproportionate impact on small businesses, who often take advantage of e-commerce to send low-value shipments to customers in foreign countries. USTR is encouraged to consider these impacts when negotiating with trading partners to address excessively low *de minimis* thresholds.

Economy Act Transfers.—USTR is directed to continue isolating Economy Act payments as individual transfers and to submit documentation of and justification for all Economy Act transfers, regardless of amount, to and from other Federal agencies, to the Committees not less than 15 days before such transfers of sums are made.

Travel.—USTR is directed to provide monthly travel reports detailing all trips outside of the United States, including the purposes and costs of such trips. Additionally, USTR shall continue to provide the Committee with quarterly reports outlining the status of

ongoing trade negotiations, enforcement activities, and objectives achieved for existing trade agreements.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2017	\$5,121,000
Budget estimate, 2018	5,111,000
Committee recommendation	5,121,000

The Committee's recommendation provides \$5,121,000 for the State Justice Institute. The recommendation is the same as the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and \$10,000 above the budget request.

The Institute was created in 1984 to further the development and adoption of improved judicial administration in State courts.

TITLE V
GENERAL PROVISIONS
(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends the following general provisions for the departments, agencies and commissions funded in the accompanying act. Similar provisions were included in the fiscal year 2017 act.

Section 501 prohibits the use of appropriations for certain publicity and propaganda purposes.

Section 502 prohibits any appropriations contained in this act from remaining available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly provided.

Section 503 limits funds for certain consulting purposes.

Section 504 provides that, should any provision of the act be held to be invalid, the remainder of the act would not be affected.

Section 505 stipulates the policy and procedures by which funding available to the agencies funded under this act may be reprogrammed for other purposes.

Section 506 provides for a penalty for persons found to have falsely mislabeled products.

Section 507 requires agencies to provide quarterly reports to the Appropriations Committees regarding unobligated balances.

Section 508 requires agencies and departments funded in this act to absorb any necessary costs related to downsizing or consolidation within the amounts provided to the agency or department.

Section 509 limits funds for the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products.

Section 510 stipulates obligation of receipts and the use of certain funds for victim services available under the Crime Victims Fund.

Of the funds set aside for Indian tribes, the Committee expects that the Office for Victims of Crime [OVC] will award such funds to Indian tribes that have not been designated high-risk grantees by the Department of Justice and that comply with grant application requirements. OVC is expected to provide instructional model grant applications and other guidance to aid tribes in preparing grant applications. Grant-receiving tribes will need to certify that grant funds will not be used to supplant funds otherwise available for tribal victim assistance so that OVC can ensure grant accountability and that grants are being used effectively to improve services for tribal victims of crime.

Section 511 prohibits the use of Department of Justice funds for programs that discriminate against, denigrate, or otherwise under-

mine the religious beliefs of students participating in such programs.

Section 512 limits transfers of funds between agencies.

Section 513 expedites a program for monitoring imported seafood.

Section 514 requires the Inspectors General of the Departments of Commerce and Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the Legal Services Corporation to conduct reviews of activities funded in this act and requires certifications regarding conflicts of interest.

Section 515 prohibits funds for information technology acquisitions unless the acquiring department or agency has assessed the supply chain risk of the technology, including risks from technology originating in China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

Section 516 prohibits the use of funds to support or justify the use of torture.

Section 517 limits funds pertaining to certain activities related to the export of firearms.

Section 518 limits funds that would deny permits to import certain products.

Section 519 prohibits funds for activities that seek to include certain language in new trade agreements.

Section 520 prohibits funds to authorize a national security letter in contravention of the statutes authorizing the FBI to issue national security letters.

Section 521 requires notification to the Committees in the event of cost overruns.

Section 522 authorizes funds appropriated for intelligence activities for the Department of Justice during fiscal year 2018 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018.

Section 523 prohibits contracts or grant awards in excess of \$5,000,000 unless the prospective contractor or grantee has certified in writing that he or she has filed all Federal tax returns, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the IRS Code of 1986, and has no unpaid Federal tax assessment.

Section 524 specifies rescissions of prior appropriations.

Section 525 prohibits the use of funds to purchase first class or premium airline travel in contravention of current regulations and improves reporting.

Section 526 prohibits the use of funds to pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees at any single conference outside the United States and limits the cost of any such conference incurred by an agency.

Section 527 prohibits the use of funds in this act for the transfer or release of certain individuals detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to or within the United States, its territories or possessions.

Section 528 prohibits the use of funds in this act to construct, acquire, or modify any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house certain individuals who, as of June 24, 2009, were located at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or control of the Department of Defense.

Section 529 requires agencies funded in this act to report on undisbursed balances.

Section 530 prohibits the use of funds by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA] or the Office of Science and Technology Policy [OSTP] to engage in bilateral activities with China or a Chinese-owned company or effectuate the hosting of official Chinese visitors at certain facilities unless the activities are authorized by subsequent legislation or NASA or OSTP have made a certification pursuant to subsections (c) and (d) of this section.

Section 531 prohibits funds made available by this act from being used to deny the importation of certain shotgun models.

Section 532 prohibits the use of funds to establish or maintain a computer network that does not block pornography, except for law enforcement purposes.

Section 533 requires departments and agencies funded in this bill to submit spending plans to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees within 45 days of enactment of this act.

Section 534 prohibits the use of funds to implement the Arms Trade Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty.

Section 535 prohibits funds to pay for award or incentive fees for contractors with below satisfactory performance or performance that fails to meet the basic requirements of the contract. The Committee directs any head of any executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this act to require that all contracts within their purview that provide award fees to link such fees to successful acquisition outcomes, specifying the terms of cost, schedule, and performance.

Section 536 prohibits the use of funds by the Department of Justice to prevent States from implementing laws related to a certain section of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

Section 537 prioritizes the obligation of funds within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7, RULE XVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Rule XVI, paragraph 7 requires that every report on a general appropriation bill filed by the Committee must identify items of appropriation not made to carry out the provisions of an existing law, a treaty stipulation, or an act or resolution previously passed by the Senate during that session.

The Committee recommends funding for the following programs or activities that currently lack an authorization for fiscal year 2018, either in whole or in part, and therefore fall under this rule:

APPROPRIATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW—FISCAL YEAR 2018

Agency/program	Last year of authorization
Department of Commerce:	
International Trade Administration:	
Export Promotion	1996
Bureau of Industry and Security:	
Export Administration	2001
Economic Development Administration:	
Salaries and Expenses	2008
Economic Development Assistance Programs:	
Public Works and Economic Development	2008
Bureau of the Census:	
Salaries and Expenses	2015
National Telecommunications and Information Administration:	
Salaries and Expenses	1993
National Institute of Standards and Technology:	
Scientific and Technical Research and Services	2013
Industrial Technology Services	2013
Construction of Research Facilities	2013
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:	
Operations, Research, and Facilities:	
National Ocean Service:	
Coral Reef Conservation	2004
Hydrographic Services	2007
Coastal Zone Management	1999
Marine Protection, Research, Preservation & Sanctuaries	2005
National Marine Fisheries Service:	
Endangered Species Act Amendment	1992
Marine Mammal Protection	1999
NOAA Marine Fisheries Program	2000
Interjurisdictional Fisheries	2012
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management	2013
Estuary Restoration	2012
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research:	
National Sea Grant College Program	2008
Procurement, Acquisition and Construction:	
National Ocean Service:	
Marine Protection, Research, Preservation & Sanctuaries	2005
Department of Justice:	
General Administration:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Justice Information Sharing Technology	2009

APPROPRIATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW—FISCAL YEAR 2018—Continued

Agency/program	Last year of authorization
Administrative Review & Appeals:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Office of Inspector General:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
U.S. Parole Commission:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Legal Activities:	
General Legal Activities:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Antitrust Division:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
U.S. Attorneys:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Foreign Claims Settlement Commission:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Fees and Expenses of Witnesses	2009
Community Relations Service:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Assets Forfeiture Fund Current Budget Authority	2009
U.S. Marshals Service	2009
Salaries and Expenses	N/A
Federal Prison Detention	N/A
Construction	N/A
National Security Division:	
Salaries and Expenses	N/A
Interagency Law Enforcement:	
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement	2009
Federal Bureau of Investigation	2009
Salaries and Expenses	N/A
Construction	N/A
Drug Enforcement Administration:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives:	
Salaries and Expenses	2009
Federal Prison System	2009
Salaries and Expenses	N/A
Buildings and Facilities	N/A
Office on Violence Against Women Programs:	
National Institute of Justice Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women	N/A
Consolidated Youth Oriented Program	N/A
Homicide Reduction Initiative	N/A
Research—Violence Against Indian Women	2015
Sexual Assault in Indian Country Clearinghouse	N/A
Office of Justice Programs:	
Research, Evaluation, and Statistics:	
National Institute of Justice	1995
Bureau of Justice Statistics	1995
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance:	
Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants	2012
Body-Worn Camera Partnership	N/A
VALOR Initiative	N/A
Smart Policing	N/A
Smart Prosecution	N/A
John R. Justice Grant Program	2014
Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program	N/A
Adam Walsh Act	2009
State Criminal Alien Assistance Program	2011
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment	2000
Drug Courts	2008
Economic, High Tech, White Collar and Cybercrime Prevention	N/A
Second Chance Act/Offender Reentry	2010
Smart Probation	N/A
Children of Incarcerated Parents Demo Grants	N/A

APPROPRIATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW—FISCAL YEAR 2018—Continued

Agency/program	Last year of authorization
Pay for Success (Discretionary)	N/A
Pay for Success (Permanent Supportive Housing Model)	N/A
Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction	N/A
National Sex Offender Website	N/A
National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)	2013
Criminal Records Upgrade (NCHIP)	2007
Veterans Treatment Courts Program	N/A
Rape Kit Backlog	N/A
Justice Reinvestment Initiative	N/A
Project HOPE Opportunity Probation with Enforcement	N/A
Comprehensive School Safety Initiative	N/A
Juvenile Justice Programs:	
Part B—State Formula	2007
Emergency Planning in Juvenile Justice Facilities	N/A
Title V—Local Delinquency Prevention Incentive Grants	2008
Gang/Youth Violence Education and Prevention	N/A; 2007
Community-Based Violence Prevention Initiatives	N/A; 2007
Missing and Exploited Children Programs	2004; 2018; 2018
Competitive Grants for Girls in the Justice System	N/A; 2007
Children of Incarcerated Parents Web Portal	N/A
COPS Programs:	
COPS Hiring Program	2009
Regional Information Sharing Activities	2003
Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces	N/A
Anti-Heroin Task Forces	N/A
National Aeronautics and Space Administration:	
Science	2017
Aeronautics	2017
Exploration	2017
Space Operations	2017
Education	2017
Safety, Security and Mission Services	2017
Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration	2017
Office of the Inspector General	2017
National Science Foundation	2013
Related Agencies:	
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:	
Salaries and Expenses	2000
Commission on Civil Rights:	
Salaries and Expenses	1995
International Trade Commission:	
Salaries and Expenses	2004
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation:	
Salaries and Expenses	1980
Marine Mammal Commission:	
Salaries and Expenses	1999
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative:	
Salaries and Expenses	2004
State Justice Institute:	
Salaries and Expenses	2008

¹ NOAA authorizations are spread across over 60 separate statutory authorities. In many cases, the authorizations do not match exactly to specific programs.

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7(c), RULE XXVI OF THE
STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Pursuant to paragraph 7(c) of rule XXVI, on July 27, 2017, the Committee ordered favorably reported a bill (S. 1662) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, provided, that the bill be subject to amendment and that the bill be consistent with the subcommittee funding guidance, and provided that the Chairman of the Committee or his designee be authorized to offer the substance of the original bill as a Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute to the House companion measure, by a recorded vote of 30–1, a quorum being present. The vote was as follows:

Yeas	Nays
Chairman Cochran	Mr. Lankford
Mr. McConnell	
Mr. Shelby	
Mr. Alexander	
Ms. Collins	
Ms. Murkowski	
Mr. Graham	
Mr. Blunt	
Mr. Moran	
Mr. Hoeven	
Mr. Boozman	
Mrs. Capito	
Mr. Daines	
Mr. Kennedy	
Mr. Rubio	
Mr. Leahy	
Mrs. Murray	
Mrs. Feinstein	
Mr. Durbin	
Mr. Reed	
Mr. Tester	
Mr. Udall	
Mrs. Shaheen	
Mr. Merkley	
Mr. Coons	
Mr. Schatz	
Ms. Baldwin	
Mr. Murphy	
Mr. Manchin	
Mr. Van Hollen	

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 12, RULE XXVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 12 of the rule XXVI requires that Committee reports on a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part of any statute include “(a) the text of the statute or part thereof which is proposed to be repealed; and (b) a comparative print of that part of the bill or joint resolution making the amendment and of the statute or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by stricken-through type and italics, parallel columns, or other appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions which would be made by the bill or joint resolution if enacted in the form recommended by the Committee.”

In compliance with this rule, no changes to existing law are displayed because this bill proposes no changes.

BUDGETARY IMPACT OF BILL

PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PURSUANT TO SEC.
308(a), PUBLIC LAW 93–344, AS AMENDED

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority		Outlays	
	Committee guidance ¹	Amount in bill	Committee guidance ¹	Amount in bill
Comparison of amounts in the bill with Committee guidance to its subcommittees of amounts for 2018: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies:				
Mandatory	339	339	350	² 350
Discretionary	53,366	53,366	64,701	² 64,701
Security	5,266	5,266	NA	NA
Nonsecurity	48,100	48,100	NA	NA
Projection of outlays associated with the recommendation:				
2018				³ 42,284
2019				13,399
2020				3,484
2021				1,407
2022 and future years				4,383
Financial assistance to State and local governments for 2018	NA	–9,015	NA	³ –291

¹ There is no section 302(a) allocation to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2018.

² Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

³ Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

NA: Not applicable.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2017 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2017 appropriation	Budget estimate
TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE					
International Trade Administration					
Operations and administration	495,000	455,500	495,000	.....	+ 39,500
Offsetting fee collections	— 12,000	— 13,000	— 13,000	— 1,000	.....
Direct appropriation	483,000	442,500	482,000	— 1,000	+ 39,500
Bureau of Industry and Security					
Operations and administration	76,500	75,500	74,500	— 2,000	— 1,000
Defense function	36,000	38,000	38,000	+ 2,000	.....
Total, Bureau of Industry and Security	112,500	113,500	112,500	.....	— 1,000
Economic Development Administration					
Economic development assistance programs	237,000	.....	215,000	— 22,000	+ 215,000
Salaries and expenses	39,000	30,000	39,000	.....	+ 9,000
Total, Economic Development Administration	276,000	30,000	254,000	— 22,000	+ 224,000
Minority Business Development Agency					
Minority business development	34,000	6,000	34,000	.....	+ 28,000
Bureau of Economic Analysis					
Salaries and expenses	107,300	97,000	99,000	— 8,300	+ 2,000
Bureau of the Census					
Current surveys and programs	270,000	246,000	270,000	.....	+ 24,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2017 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2017 appropriation	Budget estimate
Periodic censuses and programs	1,200,000	1,251,000	1,251,000	+ 51,000	.....
Total, Bureau of the Census	1,470,000	1,497,000	1,521,000	+ 51,000	+ 24,000
National Telecommunications and Information Administration					
Salaries and expenses	32,000	36,000	32,000	.....	- 4,000
United States Patent and Trademark Office					
Salaries and expenses, current year fee funding	3,230,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	+ 270,000	.....
Offsetting fee collections	- 3,230,000	- 3,500,000	- 3,500,000	- 270,000	.....
Total, United States Patent and Trademark Office .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
National Institute of Standards and Technology					
Scientific and technical research and services	690,000	600,000	695,000	+ 5,000	+ 95,000
Industrial technology services	153,000	21,000	145,000	- 8,000	+ 124,000
Adjustment for prior year recoveries	(- 2,000)	.....	.....	(+ 2,000)	.....
Manufacturing extension partnerships	(130,000)	(6,000)	(130,000)	.....	(+ 124,000)
National network for manufacturing innovation	(25,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(- 10,000)	.....
Construction of research facilities	109,000	104,000	104,000	- 5,000	.....
Working Capital Fund (by transfer)	(9,000)	(9,000)	(9,000)	.....	.....
Total, National Institute of Standards and Technology	952,000	725,000	944,000	- 8,000	+ 219,000
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration					
Operations, research, and facilities	3,367,875	2,965,549	3,416,401	+ 48,526	+ 450,852
(By transfer)	(130,164)	(144,000)	(144,000)	(+ 13,836)	.....

Subtotal	3,367,875	2,965,549	3,416,401	+ 48,526	+ 450,852
Procurement, acquisition and construction	2,242,610	1,807,801	2,111,534	- 131,076	+ 303,733
Pacific coastal salmon recovery	65,000	.....	65,000	.....	+ 65,000
Fishermen's Contingency Fund	350	349	349	- 1	.....
Fisheries Finance Program Account	- 410	- 3,000	- 3,000	- 2,590	.....
Total, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	5,675,425	4,770,699	5,590,284	- 85,141	+ 819,585
Departmental Management					
Salaries and expenses	58,000	63,000	58,000	.....	- 5,000
Renovation and modernization	4,000	1,000	1,000	- 3,000	.....
Office of Inspector General	32,744	32,000	32,744	.....	+ 744
Total, Departmental Management	94,744	96,000	91,744	- 3,000	- 4,256
Total, title I, Department of Commerce	9,236,969	7,813,699	9,160,528	- 76,441	+ 1,346,829
(By transfer)	139,164	153,000	153,000	+ 13,836	.....
TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE					
General Administration					
Salaries and expenses	114,124	114,000	114,000	- 124	.....
Justice information sharing technology	31,000	30,941	30,941	- 59	.....
Total, General Administration	145,124	144,941	144,941	- 183	.....
Administrative review and appeals .....	.....	505,367	.....	.....	- 505,367
Executive Office for Immigration Review	440,000	.....	500,397	+ 60,397	+ 500,397
Transfer from immigration examinations fee account	- 4,000	- 4,000	- 4,000	.....	.....
Direct appropriation	436,000	501,367	496,397	+ 60,397	- 4,970
Office of Inspector General	95,583	95,328	96,500	+ 917	+ 1,172
United States Parole Commission					
Salaries and expenses	13,308	13,283	13,308	.....	+ 25
Legal Activities					
Salaries and expenses, general legal activities	897,500	899,000	897,500	.....	- 1,500
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund	10,000	9,340	10,000	.....	+ 660

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2017 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2017 appropriation	Budget estimate
Salaries and expenses, Antitrust Division	164,977	164,663	164,977	.....	+ 314
Offsetting fee collections—current year	- 125,000	- 126,000	- 126,000	- 1,000	.....
Direct appropriation	39,977	38,663	38,977	- 1,000	+ 314
Salaries and expenses, United States Attorneys	2,035,000	2,057,252	2,057,252	+ 22,252	.....
United States Trustee System Fund	225,908	225,479	225,908	.....	+ 429
Offsetting fee collections	- 163,000	- 135,000	- 135,000	+ 28,000	.....
New fees (Sec. 218) (legislative proposal) .....	.....	- 150,000	.....	.....	+ 150,000
Direct appropriation	62,908	- 59,521	90,908	+ 28,000	+ 150,429
Salaries and expenses, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission	2,374	2,409	2,409	+ 35	.....
Fees and expenses of witnesses	270,000	270,000	270,000	.....	.....
Salaries and expenses, Community Relations Service	15,500	14,419	15,500	.....	+ 1,081
Assets Forfeiture Fund	20,514	21,475	20,514	.....	- 961
Total, Legal Activities	3,353,773	3,253,037	3,403,060	+ 49,287	+ 150,023
United States Marshals Service					
Salaries and expenses	1,249,040	1,252,000	1,270,000	+ 20,960	+ 18,000
Construction	10,000	14,971	14,971	+ 4,971	.....
Federal Prisoner Detention	1,454,414	1,536,000	1,536,000	+ 81,586	.....
Total, United States Marshals Service	2,713,454	2,802,971	2,820,971	+ 107,517	+ 18,000
National Security Division					
Salaries and expenses	96,000	101,031	101,031	+ 5,031	.....
Interagency Law Enforcement .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement	517,000	526,000	517,000	.....	- 9,000

Federal Bureau of Investigation					
Salaries and expenses	3,556,853	3,538,751	3,582,853	+ 26,000	+ 44,102
Counterintelligence and national security	5,210,348	5,183,831	5,249,348	+ 39,000	+ 65,517
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses	8,767,201	8,722,582	8,832,201	+ 65,000	+ 109,619
Construction	420,178	51,895	155,000	-265,178	+ 103,105
Transfer from available balances of Working Capital Fund	-181,000	.....	.....	+ 181,000	.....
Subtotal, Construction	239,178	51,895	155,000	-84,178	+ 103,105
Total, Federal Bureau of Investigation	9,006,379	8,774,477	8,987,201	-19,178	+ 212,724
Drug Enforcement Administration					
Salaries and expenses	2,485,638	2,583,625	2,535,351	+ 49,713	- 48,274
Diversion control fund	-382,662	-419,574	-419,574	-36,912	.....
Total, Drug Enforcement Administration	2,102,976	2,164,051	2,115,777	+ 12,801	- 48,274
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives					
Salaries and expenses	1,258,600	1,273,776	1,273,776	+ 15,176	.....
Federal Prison System					
Salaries and expenses	7,008,800	7,085,248	7,080,248	+ 71,448	-5,000
Buildings and facilities	130,000	113,000	60,000	-70,000	-53,000
Limitation on administrative expenses, Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated	2,700	2,695	2,700	.....	+ 5
Total, Federal Prison System	7,141,500	7,200,943	7,142,948	+ 1,448	-57,995
State and Local Law Enforcement Activities					
Office on Violence Against Women:	155,500	35,000	104,500	-51,000	+ 69,500
Prevention and prosecution programs	(326,000)	(445,000)	(379,000)	(+ 53,000)	(- 66,000)
(By transfer) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Office of Justice Programs:	89,000	111,000	85,000	-4,000	-26,000
Research, evaluation and statistics	1,258,500	867,500	1,171,000	-87,500	+ 303,500
State and local law enforcement assistance	7,000	.....	.....	-7,000	.....
Edward Byrne Memorial Grants (Public Law 114-254, Div A, Sec. 154) .....	.....	(73,000)	.....	.....	(- 73,000)
(By transfer) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2017 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2017 appropriation	Budget estimate
Juvenile justice programs	247,000	137,500	260,000	+ 13,000	+ 122,500
(By transfer) .....	.....	(92,000)	.....	.....	(— 92,000)
Public safety officer benefits:					
Death benefits	73,000	92,000	92,000	+ 19,000	.....
Disability and education benefits	16,300	16,300	16,300	.....	.....
Subtotal	89,300	108,300	108,300	+ 19,000	.....
Total, Office of Justice Programs	1,690,800	1,224,300	1,624,300	— 66,500	+ 400,000
Community Oriented Policing Services:					
COPS programs	221,500	218,000	226,500	+ 5,000	+ 8,500
Total, State and Local Law Enforcement Activities	2,067,800	1,477,300	1,955,300	— 112,500	+ 478,000
Total, title II, Department of Justice	28,947,497	28,328,505	29,068,210	+ 120,713	+ 739,705
TITLE III—SCIENCE					
Office of Science and Technology Policy	5,555	5,544	5,544	— 11	.....
National Aeronautics and Space Administration					
Science	5,764,900	5,711,800	5,571,800	— 193,100	— 140,000
Aeronautics	660,000	624,000	650,000	— 10,000	+ 26,000
Space technology	686,500	678,600	700,000	+ 13,500	+ 21,400
Exploration	4,324,000	3,934,097	4,395,000	+ 71,000	+ 460,903
Space operations	4,950,700	4,740,803	4,751,500	— 199,200	+ 10,697
Education	100,000	37,300	100,000	.....	+ 62,700
Safety, security and mission services	2,768,600	2,830,200	2,826,900	+ 58,300	— 3,300

Construction and environmental compliance and restoration	360,700	496,100	496,100	+135,400	.....
Office of Inspector General	37,900	39,300	38,000	+100	-1,300
Total, National Aeronautics and Space Administration	19,653,300	19,092,200	19,529,300	-124,000	+437,100
National Science Foundation					
Research and related activities	5,966,125	5,290,650	5,846,803	-119,322	+556,153
Defense function	67,520	71,000	71,000	+3,480	.....
Subtotal	6,033,645	5,361,650	5,917,803	-115,842	+556,153
Major research equipment and facilities construction	209,000	182,800	182,800	-26,200	.....
Education and human resources	880,000	760,550	862,400	-17,600	+101,850
Agency operations and award management	330,000	328,510	328,510	-1,490	.....
Office of the National Science Board	4,370	4,370	4,370	.....	.....
Office of Inspector General	15,200	15,008	15,200	.....	+192
Total, National Science Foundation	7,472,215	6,652,888	7,311,083	-161,132	+658,195
Total, title III, Science	27,131,070	25,750,632	26,845,927	-285,143	+1,095,295
TITLE IV—RELATED AGENCIES					
Commission on Civil Rights					
Salaries and expenses	9,200	9,183	9,200	.....	+17
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission					
Salaries and expenses	364,500	363,807	364,500	.....	+693
International Trade Commission					
Salaries and expenses	91,500	87,615	91,500	.....	+3,885
Legal Services Corporation					
Payment to the Legal Services Corporation	385,000	33,000	385,000	.....	+352,000
Marine Mammal Commission					
Salaries and expenses	3,431	2,449	3,431	.....	+982
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative					
Salaries and expenses	62,000	57,600	57,600	-4,400	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2017 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2017 appropriation	Budget estimate
Trade Enforcement Trust Fund (non-add)	(15,000)	.....	(10,000)	(- 5,000)	(+ 10,000)
State Justice Institute	5,121	5,111	5,121	.....	+ 10
Salaries and expenses .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, title IV, Related Agencies	920,752	558,765	916,352	- 4,400	+ 357,587
TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS					
DOC National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Operations, Research and Facilities (rescission)	- 18,000	.....	- 20,000	- 2,000	- 20,000
DOC National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Procurement Acquisition and Construction (rescission)	- 5,000	.....	.....	+ 5,000	.....
Economic development assistance programs (rescission)	- 10,000	- 47,000	- 15,000	- 5,000	+ 32,000
DOJ, Working Capital Fund (rescission)	- 300,000	- 144,768	- 399,627	- 99,627	- 254,859
DOJ, Assets Forfeiture Fund (rescission, temporary)	- 302,000	.....	- 152,000	+ 150,000	- 152,000
DOJ, Assets Forfeiture Fund (rescission, permanent)	- 201,196	- 304,000	- 152,000	+ 49,196	+ 152,000
FBI, Salaries and expenses:	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(Fees) nondeserve (rescission)	- 56,798	- 79,111	.....	+ 56,798	+ 79,111
(Fees) defense (rescission)	- 83,202	- 115,889	.....	+ 83,202	+ 115,889
Nondeserve (rescission)	- 20,934	.....	- 63,042	- 42,108	- 63,042
Defense (rescission)	- 30,666	.....	- 92,348	- 61,682	- 92,348
Federal Prisoner Detention (rescission)	- 24,000	.....	.....	+ 24,000	.....
DOJ, Drug Enforcement Administration (rescission)	- 12,092	.....	.....	+ 12,092	.....
DOJ, Federal Prison System, Buildings and Facilities (rescission)	- 3,400	- 444,000	.....	+ 3,400	+ 444,000
Violence against women prevention and prosecution programs (rescission)	- 10,000	- 15,000	- 15,000	- 5,000	.....
Office of Justice programs (rescission)	- 50,000	- 40,000	- 50,000	.....	- 10,000
Crime Victims Fund (rescission) .....	.....	- 1,310,000	.....	.....	+ 1,310,000
COPS (rescission)	- 15,000	- 10,000	- 10,000	+ 5,000	.....
NASA Emergency Repairs (emergency)	109,000	.....	.....	- 109,000	.....

Emergency Law Enforcement Assistance	15,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
	— 1,018,288	— 2,509,768	— 969,017	+ 49,271	+ 1,540,751
Total, title V, General Provisions					
Grand total	65,218,000	59,941,833	65,022,000	— 196,000	+ 5,080,167
Appropriations	(66,251,288)	(62,451,601)	(65,991,017)	(— 260,271)	(+ 3,539,416)
Rescissions	(— 1,142,288)	(— 2,509,768)	(— 969,017)	(+ 173,271)	(+ 1,540,751)
Emergency appropriations	(109,000)			(— 109,000)	
(By transfer)	(465,164)	(763,000)	(532,000)	(+ 66,836)	(— 231,000)

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