

Chairman Rodney Alexander
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
House Committee on Appropriations
Fiscal Year 2014 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill
July 9, 2013
Opening Statement As Prepared

The recommendation for FY 2014 provides \$3.2 billion, excluding Senate items, which are traditionally left to the Senate to determine. This is a decrease of \$113 million, or 3.4% from the FY 2013 level and a decrease of \$310 million, or 8.8% from the requested level.

The economic situation we find ourselves in today is both unique and difficult, but it did not happen overnight. Now, we must recognize the fiscal constraints we are under and find opportunities to stretch the dollar further. Over the course of meetings and hearings with agency heads since the start of the year, the Subcommittee has listened to all who presented their respective concerns and budget requests. Still, we have to make critical decisions and prioritize programs. We have been able to do this by maintaining current operations for our agencies, and in a few instances providing slight increases.

Details of the bill and report have been shared with the Member's. I will provide a quick summary of the highlights of the recommendations before us today.

The bill includes \$1.17 billion for the operations of the House. This is \$54 million below the FY 2013 enacted level and \$61.6 million below the request. It is worthy to note that the funding provided for Member's Representational Allowances and Committees provides for current operations, and I do not anticipate further reductions in the coming year. A slight increase above sequestration is provided to ensure government contributions continue to be funded at an appropriate level.

With this bill, total funding for the House of Representatives is 14.4% below FY2010.

The bill includes \$329.7 million for the Capitol Police. This is \$9.4 million below the FY 2013 enacted level and \$33.6 million below the requested level. This will support 1,734 sworn officers and 353 civilian positions. A slight increase above sequestration is provided to ensure the Capitol Police maintain current operations, restore essential training, and begin the first year of operations and maintenance of the new radio system.

The bill includes \$41.5 million for the Congressional Budget Office. This is \$2.3 million below the FY 2013 enacted level and \$4.2 below the requested level. This amount is the same as the post sequestration level.

The bill includes \$507.9 million for the Architect of the Capitol, excluding Senate items. This is an increase of \$15.6 million above the FY 2013 enacted level and \$97 million below the requested level.

The Subcommittee recognizes the continuing challenge of preserving and maintaining our infrastructure and prioritizing critical projects in the current budgetary environment. It is

important to note, \$16 million is recommended for the Interior Phase of the Dome Restoration, a very high priority of this Committee. In addition, we are continuing the four year practice of including funds for the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund. A fund established by Ms. Wasserman Shultz when she was Chair of this Subcommittee in anticipation of the renovation of the historic Cannon House Office Building.

Also included is \$16.5 million for the first year lease cost of a portion of the Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Office Building in preparation of the Cannon Renewal Project.

The bill includes \$557.9 million for the Library of Congress. This is a decrease of \$30.7 million below the FY 2013 enacted level and \$50.8 million below the requested level. This amount is equivalent to the post sequestration level and will allow the Library to continue at current operations.

The bill includes \$115 million for the Government Printing Office. This is a decrease of \$4 million below the FY 2013 enacted level and \$13 million below the requested level. This amount is below the post sequestration level and is a result of decreases in Congressional Printing and Binding.

The bill includes \$486 million for the Government Accountability Office. This is a decrease of \$20 million below the FY2013 enacted level and \$38 million below the requested level. A slight increase above sequestration is recommended to ensure the GAO can meet the ever increasing demands from Congress.

This bill includes \$1.0 million for the Open World Leadership Trust Fund. This is \$7.0 million below the FY 2013 enacted level and \$9 million below the requested level. For many years, the Committee has had concern with the placement of the Center in the Legislative Branch. While I understand there are strong champions of this program, it is difficult to sustain it within the Legislative Branch in this environment.

I would like to thank Ranking Member Debbie Wasserman Schultz for her role throughout the process. We have worked well together and in a bipartisan manner. Also, I extend my appreciation to all the members of the Subcommittee for their participation in the process this year.

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