



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

July 24, 2018

THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On July 19, 2018, the Homeland Security Subcommittee considered the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Overall, according to information provided in the Subcommittee press release, the bill increases funding by \$3.7 billion, or nearly 8 percent above the FY 2018 enacted level. The Administration embraces the Subcommittee's strong support for border security and immigration enforcement, which includes \$5 billion in funding for border wall construction and associated technology, as well as funds for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operations and personnel. The Administration thanks the Committee for the opportunity to weigh in on this bill.

The Administration appreciates that the Subcommittee bill includes funding for critical priorities, while noting the need for additional investments to protect the homeland:

- **Border Security Assets and Infrastructure.** The bill provides \$5 billion for border wall construction and associated technology. This funding is critical to the Administration's top priority, securing the Nation's borders. It will enable the construction of more than 200 miles of new physical barrier along the southern border, including associated surveillance technology and access roads. These investments are essential to deterring, preventing, and denying illegal border crossings by would-be illegal immigrants, human traffickers, criminal aliens, child smugglers, and drug dealers.
- **DHS Law Enforcement Personnel.** The bill provides funding for 400 additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) law enforcement personnel and 375 new Customs and Border Protection Officers, initial yet important investments that would help ensure the integrity of our Nation's immigration and trade systems. While we appreciate these increases, funding ICE at the FY 2019 Budget requested level is critical for the agency to carry out its mission and protect the homeland from terrorism and a myriad of other diverse threats that cross our borders. We look forward to working with you to meet the requirements as requested in the FY 2019 Budget. These brave men and women risk their lives daily to protect our families, our economy, and our Nation, and we must ensure that ICE and CBP have sufficient funds to carry out their missions as dictated in a post-911 world.

- ICE Detention Beds. The Administration appreciates the Subcommittee's increase to detention beds over the FY 2018 enacted amount of 40,520, but more capacity is necessary to secure our borders, protect our communities and prevent "catch-and-release." The bill provides \$4.1 billion for detention and removal programs, \$1 billion below the FY 2019 Budget request. According to the Subcommittee press release, the bill provides funding to support 44,000 detention beds, 8,000 beds below the FY 2019 Budget request level of 52,000 necessary to protect the homeland.
- Cybersecurity Programs. The bill provides over \$1 billion to secure Federal civilian computer networks, grow the Federal cyber workforce, and mitigate the threat of evolving cyber attacks. This funding and the programs it supports are critical to the operations of the entire Federal Government and our Nation's increasingly interconnected future.

Section 308 of the bill limits FEMA's ability to use household income as a determinant of the need for Federal rental assistance during major disasters declared pursuant to the Stafford Act. This provision would increase Federal outlays and expenditures and accelerate depletion of the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund by allowing anyone, regardless of their ability to pay, to qualify for Federal rental assistance. In addition, the bill does not include proposed provisions regarding sanctuary cities, or prohibiting the use of appropriated funds to pay for abortions or the facilitation thereof.

As the appropriations process continues, the Administration will continue to advocate for the full FY 2019 Budget request levels for these and other Homeland Security priorities critical to the defense of our Nation.

Sincerely,



Mick Mulvaney
Director

cc: The Honorable Kevin Yoder
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard

Identical Letter Sent to the Honorable Nita Lowey