

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1994

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw myself as a cosponsor of H.R. 1994. While I strongly support our American veterans, I am concerned about permanent changes to hard-won labor agreements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2578, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 287 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2578.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1403

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2578) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, I am very pleased to present to the House the fiscal year 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill with my colleague, Mr. CHAKA FATTAH of Pennsylvania.

I would like to begin by thanking my ranking member CHAKA FATTAH of Pennsylvania. It has been a pleasure to work with him. We have worked together closely on this legislation. I appreciate Mr. FATTAH's approach to the bill. His input has improved the bill

considerably. I look forward to working with him and all the members of the subcommittee as we move forward and go into conference with the Senate on this important legislation. I also want to thank Chairman HAL ROGERS of Kentucky and Ranking Member NITA LOWEY of New York for their help in putting this legislation together.

This is my first year chairing the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. It is an extraordinarily important committee that oversees so many noble and worthwhile efforts that the Federal Government is engaged, both in preserving and protecting lives and property of the American people and advancing scientific research and space exploration.

I am especially grateful to Chairman HAL ROGERS for his trust in me in this extraordinarily important assignment. I want to thank him also for his generous allocation to this subcommittee. As the Congress under the Republican leadership has done our very best to live within our means, as every American must do, every business and every private citizen knows how important it is to only spend the money that you have on hand. Don't spend more than you have got. We have in this Republican Congress done our very best through the appropriations process to live within our means.

Our subcommittee has—with that in mind, I am a personal follower of Dave Ramsey's advice. I do so in my personal life and try to do so in representing the people of west Houston—don't spend more money than you have got, and the money you have got you want to prioritize—and we have in this subcommittee prioritized the many agencies that we have responsibility for. In priority order, we have approached it with law enforcement number one and made sure that the FBI has got the resources they need to do their job of protecting this Nation against terrorists and espionage, cyber espionage. They are a growing problem that we see in so many ways. The enemies of the United States have figured out how to hardwire Trojan horses and back doors into telecommunications equipment. The FBI has just done a spectacular job of protecting this Nation in the area of cyber espionage and terrorism, and we have made the FBI a top priority in this legislation and made sure that they have got all the money that they need to do their job.

We have also prioritized the work the Department of Justice is doing in enforcing our laws. We have made sure that scientific research, space exploration are prioritized, and America will preserve its leadership in the world in space exploration.

We have made sure that weather forecasting is funded and taken care of. Managing the Nation's fisheries is extraordinarily important.

As you work down that list of priorities, we have made sure those at the top of the list are fully funded and

those that tend to fall towards the bottom—we have just simply had to drop some programs that are no longer authorized, the length of time for which Congress approved them is expired, or they weren't fulfilling the function for which they were originally intended.

But we in the bill before us today, Mr. Chairman, have provided \$51.4 billion in funding for this year, which is a \$1.3 billion increase over last year but \$661 million below the President's request. The President's budget assumed a number of tax increases and fee increases that are simply not going to happen. We, again, wanted to live within our means and do our very best to minimize the debt that we are passing on to our children and grandchildren, so we have done our best in this environment to fund the priority programs while reducing funding for activities that are not essential to the operations of the Federal Government.

Once we have taken care of the FBI and made sure they have got the funding they need to protect this Nation in an era of evolving threats, we have also included funding, Mr. Chairman, for 55 new immigration judges. Our committee has jurisdiction over these executive branch judges who handle immigration cases. Because of the tremendous backlog of immigration cases, we have added 55 new immigration judges to reduce that backlog and made sure at the same time that we are providing for fully funding the U.S. Attorney's Offices, the Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the ATF—Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—and our prison system.

Now, for State and local law enforcement, Mr. Chairman, the subcommittee has increased funding for priority programs such as the Byrne Formula Program and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program funding, which compensate State and local taxpayers for the cost of housing people who are in the country illegally and have committed criminal acts in violation of State law and are housed in State prison facilities—that is the responsibility of the Federal Government—and we have funded that program to the highest extent that we can.

We have also funded youth mentoring programs, which have done such great work. We have created, in addition, Mr. Chairman, in this bill a \$53 million community trust program that will fund police body cameras, body camera demonstration programs, and justice reinvestment initiatives.

I want to say a special thanks to our Texas State Senator Royce West, who just concluded the Texas legislative session. Texas became the first State in the Union to pass legislation controlling when, where, and how body camera data can be provided to law enforcement or in a criminal trial to make sure to protect the privacy rights of individuals. We respect that. In our legislation we make sure that State law controls when, where, and how police body camera data will be used.