

few key provisions in this legislation that set the stage for future productive efforts, such as animal welfare enforcement funding and language restricting funding for horse slaughter.

These and other positive provisions, however, in no way offset the harm caused by the many destructive elements and the horrible precedent set for future action. A Republican House majority that campaigned on promises to reform and respect the process has instead abused it. A massive bill released too late to read, let alone understand, makes a mockery of their promises and I refuse to support it.

INSULAR AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 83, Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, and to set forth my views on certain matters concerning or relating to the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. While the bill does fund many agencies and programs within the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction at the 2014 enacted level or higher through September 2015, H.R. 83 funds the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) only through February 27, 2015 because of the Republican Leadership's opposition to the President's actions on immigration. By restricting funding to DHS to a highly limited duration, this measure is not only short-sighted and irresponsible, but potentially harmful to all Americans.

H.R. 83, by providing short-term funding to DHS, makes it nearly impossible for the agency to pursue long-term strategies to ensure the safety and security of our Nation. The bill jeopardizes many critical functions of DHS, including developing technologies to prevent future terrorism attacks and securing the Internet to fight various cyber crimes such as identity theft and financial fraud. It also undermines the agency's Disaster Relief Fund that FEMA uses to fund response and recovery efforts associated with major disasters. Other affected DHS components include the Secret Service, which protects the President and the White House from attack, and the U.S. Coast Guard, which provides essential operations, training, and equipment to those who guard our Nation's waters.

Essentially, the Majority has bundled with must-pass year-end appropriations legislation a short-sighted measure intended to lash back at the President's humanitarian efforts to deal with a major immigration crisis. As a result, H.R. 83 now puts at risk the ability of the DHS and its thousands of dedicated employees to protect all Americans from terrorism, disaster, and crime.

With respect to other agencies and programs that fall within the Judiciary Committee's authorization jurisdiction, H.R. 83 appropriates funding in most instances above 2014 enacted levels. Nevertheless, I am disappointed that the bill reduces funding for the COPS Program—a very effective initiative to reduce crime by putting more police on the streets and promoting community policing—by \$6 million.

The bill also extends the Internet Tax Freedom Act till October 1, 2015, which is a moratorium on state and local taxation of Internet access and on multiple or discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce, and which includes grandfather protections.

In addition, the bill includes various riders, some of which are harmful. Fortunately, the final version of H.R. 83 does not include numerous House-proposed riders that would have impeded the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory authority to ensure the safety of our Nation's air and water.

Further, H.R. 83 attempts to prevent the implementation of an initiative legalizing recreational use of marijuana in the District of Columbia by prohibiting the use of any funds to "enact any law, rule, or regulation" for such purpose. It is my understanding, however, that as this initiative has already been enacted, no further funds are needed for it to go into effect. Thus, the bill's restriction has no legal effect on the initiative.

The following summarizes the bill's principal provisions pertaining to the Judiciary Committee's jurisdiction:

JUDICIARY

Funding: \$6.7 billion for the Judiciary, which is \$182 million more than the 2014 enacted level; the \$182 million increase is \$1 million less than the Judiciary's request.

Riders: 10 temporary district judgeships were extended for 1 year; no funding for new courthouse construction until the General Services Administration completes a feasibility study.

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Funding: \$3.5 billion for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), which is equal to CBO's projection of USPTO's FY 2015 fee revenue collections, and \$434 million above the 2014 enacted level.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Funding:

—\$8.44 billion for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is \$93.3 million more than the 2014 enacted level.

—\$2.03 billion for the Drug Enforcement Agency, which is \$15.3 million more than the 2014 enacted level.

—\$1.2 billion for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which is \$22 million more than the 2014 enacted level.

—\$6.82 billion for the Bureau of Prisons, Salaries and Expenses account, which is \$46 million more than the 2014 enacted level.

—\$376 million for Byrne-JAG grants, which is the same as the 2014 enacted level.

—\$208 million for the COPS program, which is \$6 million less than the 2014 enacted level.

—\$430 million for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs, which is \$13 million above the 2014 enacted level.

—\$125 million for the ongoing DNA Initiative program which funds the testing of sexual assault kits, which is the same as the FY 2014 enacted level and \$25 million above the request. In addition, \$41 million is included for the new Community Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Reduction program.

—\$73 million for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which is \$14.5 million more than the 2014 enacted level and \$18 million more than the request.

Riders:

—The agreement rejects House policy riders to: 1) block reporting requirements on multiple sales of rifles/shotguns to the same person, and 2) make permanent two annual riders related to firearms.

—The agreement rejects a House rider to defund grants to state or local law enforcement on the basis of local immigration policy.

—The agreement rejects a House rider prohibiting the Department of Justice from enforcing certain parts of the Fair Housing Act.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Funding: \$375 million, which is \$10 million above the enacted 2014 level.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Funding: \$293 million, which is \$5 million below the 2014 enacted level but reflects one-time moving expenses for 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

Funding: \$3.1 million, which is \$.1 million above the 2014 enacted level.

OTHER MATTERS

Abortion

—The agreement does not include a House rider prohibiting funds to subsidize abortion services in connection with a multi-state plan offered under the Affordable Care Act exchanges negotiated by OPM.

SURVEILLANCE

—The agreement does not include significant House-passed reforms on government surveillance activities conducted by the National Security Agency, but instead retains current law.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY CONCERNS

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting EPA's Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule.

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting EPA's rule clarifying which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act.

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting EPA from changing the way discharge of fill material is regulated.

—The agreement includes a House policy rider prohibiting regulation of lead in ammunition.

—The agreement includes a House policy rider prohibiting the issuance of final and proposed rules related to Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act.

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting EPA from ensuring mining companies are financially capable of cleaning up pollution rather than taxpayers, but includes report language on the matter.

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting EPA from enforcing a rule on safe removal and renovation of lead paint, but includes report language on the matter.

—The agreement does not include a House policy rider prohibiting funding for the development or revisions of regulations regarding imported ivory.

THE FALSE ECONOMICS OF THE CROMNIBUS BILL

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 12, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, in the 11th Century, King Canute proved his humility by ordering the tides from not coming in, yet the tides came in without respect to his royal majesty. Last night I thought we were experiencing another King Canute moment. The