

## Conservative “Wins” in the FY16 Omnibus Bill

*Below is a list of some of the major “wins” in the omnibus that address important national and conservative priorities.*

**Decreases Our Dependence on Foreign Oil.** Ends the 40-year old ban on exporting crude oil. The crude oil export ban imposed an estimated \$200-\$600 billion cost to the U.S. economy. Lifting the crude oil export ban will contribute to 40,921 jobs by 2020 and an estimated \$5.21 billion in income for Texas alone. U.S. crude oil exports will allow our allies in Europe, Asia, and Israel to diversify their crude oil supply options. The bill also prevents the Obama Administration’s plan to increase oil and gas inspection fees.

**Protects Second Amendment Rights.** Our Second Amendment right to bear arms is fundamental to our American way of life. As Chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee I was able to include several provisions in the bill to protect our Second Amendment rights:

- **Allows Firearms to be Imported.** Recently, the Obama Administration has tried to prohibit individuals from importing firearms that have “non-sporting” features, or that are antique or of other value to collectors. I worked with my colleagues to include language that would allow these shotguns and antique firearms to continue to be imported and legally sold in the United States.
- **Allows Firearms to be Exported to Canada.** Allows individuals to export gun parts valued at less than \$500 to Canada without having to obtain a license from the Obama Administration.

**Prohibits “Fast and Furious” Operations by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.** Between 2009-2011, the Phoenix division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms allowed illegal gun sales to Mexican drug cartels to occur in a botched effort to track the purchasers. This resulted in the distribution of approximately 1,400 weapons into the hands of dangerous criminals. Some of these weapons even caused the death of U.S. Border Patrol Agents. This cannot be allowed to happen again, and as Chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee I included language in the bill that would prevent the federal government from distributing weapons to drug cartels.

**Prohibits the Administration from Implementing the Anti-Gun UN “Arms Trade Treaty.”** The UN’s “Arms Trade Treaty” would infringe upon the rights of law abiding American gun owners. While Secretary Kerry signed the treaty, it has yet to be ratified by the Senate. The language included in the omnibus blocks President Obama from enforcing the treaty unless it has been ratified by the Senate, as required by the Constitution. This important provision will ensure that our Second Amendment rights are protected.

**Blocks New Funding for Obamacare.** House conservatives blocked the President’s efforts to fully fund Obamacare. The bill includes no new funding for Obamacare.

**Fighting Sanctuary Cities.** The bill withholds funding from DHS until the Director of Immigration Enforcement briefs Congress on efforts to increase the number of cities complying with Federal Immigration law to detain illegal immigrants.

**Customs and Border Protection (CBP).** The bill includes \$11 billion in funding for Border Patrol agents and CBP officers. This also includes \$1.2 billion in investments in border security and air operations. These funds will ensure round-the-clock surveillance of air, land, and sea approaches to the border and will maintain no less than 95,000 operational flight hours for law enforcement and surveillance.

**Includes Funding for Border Agents.** The bill provides \$5.8 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to strengthen enforcement of immigrations and customs laws and to hire an additional 1,080 ICE agents and support personnel bolstering efforts to fight illegal migration and other illicit activities.

**Includes Funding for Immigration Enforcement.** \$3.2 billion is targeted to detention programs to sustain 34,040 detention beds, and to fund the state and local partnership program. The bill also provides \$1.9 billion for both domestic and international investigations, including increases to combat human trafficking, child exploitation, and to expand visa vetting capabilities.

**Includes Funding for Immigration Courts.** With the recent surge in illegal immigrants crossing our southern border, it is critically important that we have the resources available to process illegal aliens and remove them from our country. As Chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee I ensured that our Immigration Courts will have the resources they need and increased funding for Immigration Courts by \$76 million, providing a total of \$427 million. This funding will support 55 new immigration judge teams to expedite removal proceedings.

**Strengthens the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.** The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) is a federal program designed to help states and localities with the costs of incarcerating illegal alien criminals. I am a strong supporter of this program, and as Chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee I worked to increase funding for SCAAP. This year's bill provides \$210 million in funding for the program. This level of funding is a \$25 million increase over the \$185 million in funding provided in last year's bill.

**Deporting Criminal Aliens.** As a member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I included language directing ICE to detain illegal immigrants until they can be deported and to particularly focus on criminal aliens engaged in or suspected of terrorism, participate in street gangs, or have been convicted of an aggravated felony.

**Prohibits the Transfer or Release of Guantanamo Detainees into the United States.** Blocks the president from transferring Guantanamo detainees to the U.S. or its territories, and prohibits funding to modify any facility in the U.S. to house detainees. In addition, the bill includes restrictions on the release of detainees to other countries.

**Increases Funding for Law Enforcement.** As Chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee, it is very important to me to make sure that the FBI, Marshals Service, US Attorneys, and DEA all have the resources that they need. That is why I increased funding for our law enforcement officers in the field and froze funding for the Attorney General's office. Specifically, the bill includes a \$315 million increase above the President's request for the FBI. This funding will provide the FBI with additional operational funds to combat terrorism and espionage.

**Combating ISIS and other Threats.** The bill contains \$58.6 billion in Global War on Terror funding for ongoing military operations overseas. This funding will provide needed resources and training for our troops to conduct successful operations and fight our enemies around the globe. This includes funds to combat the threat presented by ISIL and to train our Iraqi allies. It also allows us to continue combat operations in Afghanistan, reinforce European countries facing Russian aggression, support allies in the Middle East and Africa, and increase intelligence and surveillance capabilities.

**Provides Critical Healthcare Benefits to 9/11 First Responders.** More than 30,000 first responders continue to suffer from injuries or illnesses sustained during the 9/11 attacks. This bill permanently reauthorizes health care benefits for these brave men and women.

**Fully Funds Pay Raise for Our Troops.** The bill fully funds the 1.3 percent pay raise for the military and provides funding to address the housing allowance shortfall which will ensure secure housing for all eligible troops and their families.

**Equipping our Troops.** Provides \$111 billion for new equipment and upgrades to ensure our nation's military readiness and will provide the weapons and other equipment our forces need to train, maintain our force, and conduct successful operations. Some of these equipment purchases will include:

- 68 F-35 Joint-Strike Fighters
- 102 Blackhawk Helicopters
- 64 Remanufactured Apache Helicopters
- Three Littoral Combat Ships
- Two Attack Submarines
- Two DDG-51 Guided Missile Destroyers
- Seven EA-18G Growlers and five F-18E/F Super Hornets
- 12 KC-46 Tankers

**Taking Care of Warfighters and their Families.** The bill contains \$32.3 billion for the Defense Health Program to provide care for our troops, military families, and retirees. This is \$260 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level, and includes a \$1.1 billion increase above the President's request for important research on traumatic brain injury and psychological health, cancer, and suicide prevention outreach programs, among others.

**Increases Military Readiness.** Provides \$167.5 billion in funding for operation and maintenance to ensure that our troops are well prepared and supported to meet all current and emerging threats.

**Prevents President' Obama's Internet Giveaway.** As Chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee, I included language that protects Internet domain names from being controlled by China and Russia. Specifically, the language in the bill prohibits the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) from relinquishing stewardship of Internet governance to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

**Limits the Ability of the Administration to Implement Obamacare.** House conservatives limited funding for the primary agency responsible for issuing new Obamacare regulations. The bill freezes funds for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in an effort to limit CMS's ability to issue burdensome new Obamacare regulations.

**Restricts the Ability of the Administration to Enforce Obamacare.** House conservatives succeeded in freezing most funding for the IRS at last year's levels which was the lowest level of funding provided to the IRS since 2008. This level of funding is about \$1.2 billion below what the IRS's budget was when Obamacare was signed into law. And, the bill includes a targeted pot of \$290 million solely for the IRS to provide taxpayer services to ensure that the IRS responds to taxpayer questions in a timely manner.

**Reining in the IRS.** The bill prohibits the IRS from hosting lavish conferences, creating inappropriate videos, as well as from targeting groups for scrutiny based on their political beliefs.

**Requires Administration to Provide Information Needed to Fully Defund Obamacare.** I worked with my House colleagues to include language requiring the administration to disclose how it is spending federal funds to implement Obamacare, so we can dismantle it in the New Year.

**Requires the Administration to Disclose How Many People Are Being Paid to Implement Obamacare.** This important provision will add much-needed transparency to the administration's efforts to hide the true cost of Obamacare.

**Stops the Obamacare Insurance Company Bailout.** House conservatives succeeded in completely eliminating Obamacare's so-called "risk-corridors" program. President Obama created this program to protect health insurance companies from financial losses that they faced by selling insurance through the new Obamacare exchanges. According to an estimate compiled by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, this bailout would cost taxpayers at least \$775 million. By eliminating the program, this bill stops Obamacare's taxpayer bailout of insurance companies.

**Defunds the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) Death Panel Rationing Board.** IPAB was created by Obamacare to recommend Medicare cuts if health care spending grows too fast.

**Prohibits the Administration from Using the Prevention and Public Health Fund to Implement Obamacare.** When Obamacare was signed into law, it included billions for a so-called "Prevention and Public Health Fund" that Democrats claimed funded public health programs and research. In reality, the administration has used this money as a slush fund to avoid restrictions in previous appropriations bills and to divert money from public health to implement Obamacare. This bill eliminates all funding for President Obama's Prevention and Public Health slush fund.

**Requires to OIG to Ensure Compliance with the Requirement Prohibiting Use of Federal Funds to Lobby for Obamacare.** This bill requires the OIG to monitor the administration for compliance of the provision that prohibits the use of our hard earned tax dollars to lobby individuals, state officials, and federal officials regarding provisions included in Obamacare.

**Directs the GAO to Report on Improper Payments of Obamacare Tax Subsidies.** Obamacare subsidies have not been adequately tracked and monitored at HHS, which may be leading to improper payment. House republicans included language directing the GAO to conduct a comprehensive review of the process and coordination between HHS and the Treasury and to make recommendation to ensure adequate processes are in place to prevent improper payments.

**Includes Important Pro-life Protections.** It prohibits taxpayer dollars from being spent for abortions or abortion services by maintaining all current pro-life provisions. It includes a ban on taxpayer dollars funding abortions or abortion services and includes a provision preventing HHS from discriminating against health care providers who refuse to provide, pay for, or refer for abortions. The bill also includes a ban on creating embryos for research purposes, or federal funding of research in which embryos are destroyed. In addition, it includes two new pro-life provisions that have not been included in previous appropriations bills. First, it cuts funding for the U.N. Population Fund by 7 percent and withholds funds if the organization operates in China. In addition, it includes a prohibition on gene editing of human embryos.

**Nullifies the President's Budget.** For years the president has tried to "reprogram" funding to use our tax dollars as he sees fit. In order to stop the damage the president is doing to our country, for the second year in a row, I included language in the bill that will nullify the president's budget and force the federal agencies to follow the budget passed by Congress.

**Increases Funding for NIH.** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the world's largest funder of medical research, supporting nearly 50,000 competitively awarded research grants to more than 300,000 researchers at 2,500 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions in every state across the country. Promising discoveries made by these researchers are then handed off to private industry for further development. NIH funding has a proven track record of supporting the basic discoveries that lead to the development of preventive tools, such as childhood vaccines; advanced diagnostics, including cutting edge genetic testing; and more innovative, effective, and targeted ways to treat complex diseases. I worked with my colleagues to increase funding for the NIH by \$2 billion -- for a total of \$32.1 billion in funding for fiscal year 2016.

**Limits Funding for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).** The bill freezes funding for the NLRB at \$274.2 million. House Republicans also secured language in the bill prohibiting the National Labor Relations Board from issuing electronic voting regulations that could promote coercive tactics and privacy violations in union elections.

**Repeal Country of Origin Labeling.** The bill includes a provision repealing mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements. These requirements are in violation of World Trade Organization trade standards, and would have resulted in trade retaliation, while also impacting the U.S. economy by more than \$1 billion.

**Provides Relief from Obamacare's Menu Labeling Requirements.** The bill provides grocery stores and food retailers regulatory relief from one of the most costly and burdensome regulations in Obamacare. The bill provides a year delay or more in complying with menu labeling requirements.

**Allows Flexibility in the School Lunch Program.** Since the implementation of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, we have heard from students, parents, teachers, and school officials about the financial burden of the new rules as well as the need for flexibility. I worked with my colleagues to grant an exemption for the whole grain requirements, provided that the school demonstrates hardship.

**Ensures that Only Eligible Individuals will have Access to WIC and SNAP.** I worked with my colleagues to direct the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to work with states to ensure full compliance with the law that all WIC and SNAP participants meet all program eligibility requirements. The committee also directs the FNS to ensure that these programs are not being promoted to ineligible individuals, which would increase program costs.

**Prohibits Taxpayer Dollars from Going to ACORN.** Prevents federal funds from going to ACORN or any of its associates.

**Allows the Sale of Incandescent Light Bulbs.** Prohibits the administration from implementing former Speaker Pelosi's ban on the sale and use of incandescent light bulbs.

**Cuts Funding for the EPA.** For the sixth consecutive year, House conservatives have reduced funding for the EPA. The EPA is funded at a level lower than 2010. This reduction in funding will keep the EPA at its lowest staffing levels since 1989. Reduced funding will help the agency focus on streamlining their operations rather than pursuing unnecessary and burdensome regulations.

**Maintain Existing Definition of "Fill Material" or "Discharge of Fill Material" under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Regulations.** Current regulations provide environmental protection without imposing overly burdensome restrictions. The bill prohibits any funds from adopting, changing or implementing a change to the definition, protecting the mining industry and the communities that benefit from mining operations.

**Supports our Ally Israel abroad.** Israel is one of our nation's greatest allies, and its continued presence lends stability to an unstable part of the world. It is important for our national security that we support Israel's efforts to defend against those who would destroy it. The bill fully funds our agreement with Israel at \$3.1 billion and provides \$55 million specifically for Iron Dome.

**Maintains the Prohibition on Funding U.N. Organizations that Grant Full Membership to the Palestinians.** The bill prohibits funds to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which has granted Palestine full membership and has shown anti-Israel tendencies.

**Protects U.S. Jobs.** The bill overrides anti-coal regulations of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Export-Import Bank and allows the financing of coal-fired and other power generation projects by U.S. companies overseas. These provisions will bolster U.S. job creation and ensure high-quality, cost-effective energy technology is available to developing countries and other nations.

**Increases Funding for National Security and Weapons Activities.** The bill provides \$12.5 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion from last year, for the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons security programs which enable the U.S. to maintain the safety and readiness of our nuclear stockpile.

**Ensures no Taxpayer Money Supports Russian Aggression.** The bill prohibits any funds from going towards assistance for the Russian government. The bill also goes one step further and prohibits any funds from going to governments that support Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea.

**Ensures Congressional Oversight on Iran's Compliance with the President's Nuclear Deal.** The bill expresses deep concern about the President's agreement with Iran and maintains periodic reporting requirements to make sure Iran complies with every step of the agreement. The bill requires periodic reporting on the sanctions relief received by Iran and how Iran has used the money.

**Requires the Administration Submit a Plan to Defeat ISIS.** The bill would require the Obama Administration submit a comprehensive strategy to Congress on defeating ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and other affiliated groups. The United States needs a comprehensive plan that the President has so far failed to articulate.

**Supports Counter-Terrorism Efforts Abroad.** The bill would provide \$175 million for the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund to prevent and counter terrorist safe havens, stem the flow of foreign fighters joining terrorist groups such as ISIL, and counter terrorist groups sponsored by the Government of Iran.

**Requires the Administration Come Clean About the Scope of the Government Data Breach.** The bill would require the Administration submit a report on the scope of the Office of Personnel Management data breach and how the breach has affected the intelligence community as well as all those government employees affected.

**Includes Limits on Foreign Aid Sent to the Palestinian Authority.** The bill withholds funding until the State Department can confirm the Palestinian authorities have demonstrated a firm commitment to a peaceful co-existence with Israel and are actively pursuing a comprehensive peace deal with Israel.

**Establishes Oversight of Taxpayer Dollars Used for Climate Change.** The bill requires the Administration to report in detail all federal agency funding for climate change programs, projects, and activities for fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

**Requires More Oversight of U.N. Funds and Activities.** The Administration is required to submit a report on U.N. policies and processes to combat corruption and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse. The bill encourages the administration to use all existing authorities, including withholding funds, to further accountability and transparency reforms at the U.N.

**Rejects the Administration's Efforts to Decrease Funding for Embassy Security.** The bill provides \$5.6 billion for embassy security, which is \$1.9 million above the President's requested level and \$175 million above the 2015 enacted level.

**Increases Funding for Planetary Science.** One of my goals as Chairman of the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee is to revitalize NASA and restore this agency to where it was when it inspired a generation of Americans to "race to the moon." This bill includes the funding needed ensure that America will always lead the world in space exploration and scientific discoveries. Specifically, it includes \$1.63 billion for planetary sciences which includes probes that are sent to explore our solar system, \$2 billion to develop a program called the Space Launch System, which will build the rockets to send us to the far reaches of our solar system, and \$1.27 billion to help us build the Orion capsule that will carry astronauts to Mars in the coming decades.

**Funds Space Exploration.** Since the dawn of time, a fundamental question – are we alone in the universe – has preoccupied and enthralled mankind. Now we have the opportunity to answer that question by exploring Jupiter's icy moon Europa. This distant moon is covered with more water than is available on Earth and there is a high chance a probe may discover life. Such a discovery could fundamentally alter how we see our universe and ourselves. This mission is one of my top science priorities, and I have included \$175 million in funding to make sure that the planning for this mission moves forward.

**Prohibits Funding for High-Speed Rail.** One of the president's top transportation priorities has been increasing funding for high-speed rail. House conservatives blocked all funding for high-speed rail in the omnibus.

**Prohibits Federal Funding for Light Rail on Richmond Avenue and Post Oak Boulevard in Houston, Texas.** In response to overwhelming opposition from my constituents to Houston METRO's proposal to build at-grade rail lines on Richmond Avenue and Post Oak Boulevard through Houston's Galleria, I included language that prohibits Houston METRO from building these proposed light rail lines that are unaffordable, unnecessary, unwanted, and in the case of Richmond, unapproved by voters.

**Requests that CMS Review Medicaid 1115 Waivers in a Timely Manner.** My colleagues and I requested CMS to report on the status of all pending Medicaid section 1115 waivers in the fiscal year 2017 budget request.

**Ensuring our Veterans' have Access to Care.** The bill provides \$50 billion dollars for VA medical services – an increase of \$4.7 billion to provide care and treatment for approximately 7 million veterans. This includes funding for traumatic brain injury treatment, homeless veterans, and rural health initiatives.

**Reining in the VA Leadership.** The bill includes provisions to increase oversight to ensure veterans are receiving the care and benefits they need and to protect taxpayer investments. To address widespread mismanagement at VA regional offices, health care provider shortages, construction mismanagement, and other issues, funding for VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) is increased by \$10 million over the 2015 enacted level. The bill will also require the OIG to provide all work products to the Congress in a consistent and timely manner to support oversight.

**Fixing the Backlog at the VA.** To assist VA to end its disability compensation claims backlog, the bill includes \$2.7 billion for the costs of processing disability claims. Funding for the Board of Veterans Appeals is increased by \$11 million to address the looming appeals backlog.

**Requires the VA and DoD to Continue Work on an Interoperable Electronic Health Record.** The bill provides \$233 million for the VA electronic health record initiative and includes language requiring the VA to create an interoperable system that works with that the Department of Defense uses. The bill requires VA to make this happen in a timely and cost-effective fashion – to help prevent unnecessary mistakes or delays in veterans’ medical care. If goals are not met, the majority of funding will not be released.

**Research and Development.** The bill includes \$69.8 billion for Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation of new defense technologies to help advance the safety and success of military operations and prepare our nation to meet a broad range of security threats in the future. These efforts often pair small business and Healthcare providers in Texas, and across the country, with the Department of Defense to bring emerging technologies to the battlefield.

**Funds Virginia Class Submarines.** With national security threats emerging throughout the world, it is more important than ever to deter our enemies with state of the art military capabilities. Fast attack submarines are critical to maintaining our nation’s deterrent posture, and I worked with my colleagues to include funding for these swift, highly capable vessels.

**Securing the Skies.** The bill restores funding for Federal Flight Deck Officers and canine detection teams. It also includes \$167 million to fully fund privatized screening operations at airports.

**Coast Guard.** The bill includes \$10.8 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard to improve readiness, modernize vessels and aircraft, and improve the quality of life for our service members. The bill denies the President’s proposed cuts that would have gutted vital Coast Guard operations.

**Funds Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Research.** Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is the leading genetic killer of children. It affects about one out of every 3,500 boys born in the United States, has a 100 percent fatality rate, and currently does not have a cure. Progressive deterioration in muscle strength leads to death in the late teens or early twenties. There is important research being conducted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Defense (DoD) that could help us find treatments and one day a cure for Duchenne. I worked with my colleagues to include \$6 million for the CDC and \$3.2 million for the DoD to help fight Duchenne.