



# COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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## SUMMARY: 2009 FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS BILL

### Bill Total

<b>2008 Enacted:</b>	<b>\$20.7 billion</b>
<b>Bush Request:</b>	<b>\$22.3 billion</b>
<b>2009 Bill:</b>	<b>\$22.7 billion</b>

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## KEY INVESTMENTS

### NEEDS OF AN ECONOMY IN CRISIS

#### Strengthening Oversight and Enforcement at Consumer Protection and Regulatory Agencies

- **Consumer Product Safety Commission:** \$105 million, \$25 million above 2008, building on a 27.5% increase in 2008, to keep unsafe products from the marketplace.
- **Securities and Exchange Commission:** \$943 million, \$37 million above 2008, to enhance enforcement, oversight, and investor protections.
- **Federal Trade Commission:** \$259.2 million, \$15 million above 2008, to protect consumers, including investigations into sub-prime lending, identity theft, and anti-competitive practices.

**Small Business Assistance:** \$110 million for Small Business Development Centers, \$12.9 million above 2008, to provide free or low-cost management assistance to small businesses that are customized to local conditions and \$22.5 million for small business microloans, \$5.5 million above 2008, to provide loan subsidy and technical assistance to entrepreneurs.

**Community Development Financial Institutions:** \$107 million, \$13 million above 2008, for economic development and low-cost financial services in underserved communities. On average, each dollar invested in the CDFI Fund leverages \$19 for housing and microbusiness loans, community development banks, and other economic development efforts.

**Financial Education:** \$1.6 million, \$500,000 above 2008, for Treasury's Office of Financial Education to help Americans make smart financial choices with initiatives in schools and efforts to combat predatory lending.

**Election Reform:** \$106 million, for grants to help states ensure reliable, accurate, and accessible elections, including \$100 million to help states meet the requirements of the Help America Vote Act and \$5 million for research into voting systems for voters with disabilities.

## IMPROVING SERVICES FOR TAXPAYERS AND CATCHING TAX CHEATS

**Improving Services for Taxpayers:** \$2.3 billion, \$143 million above 2008.

- **IRS Pre-filing Services:** \$38 million increase to educate taxpayers about their rights and obligations before they file, improving the IRS 1-800 help line and assisting taxpayers at IRS walk-in sites around the country.
- **IRS Taxpayer Advocate:** \$193 million, \$16 million above 2008, to help individuals solve ongoing tax problems with the IRS. From 2004 to 2006, the service's caseload rose 43% while its staff declined by 7%, resulting in long delays for taxpayers needing help.
- **Tax Counseling for the Elderly:** \$5.1 million, \$2.1 million above 2008, for grants to organizations that provide free tax preparation services for seniors.
- **Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics:** \$9.5 million, \$500,000 above 2008, for grants to help provide legal representation for low-income taxpayers involved in disputes with the IRS.

**Closing the Tax Gap:** An estimated \$290 billion in taxes owed go unpaid every year, leaving responsible taxpayers stuck paying for tax cheats.

- **Enforcement:** \$5.1 billion, \$337 million above 2008, to catch tax cheats through audits, collection efforts, and improved technology.
- **Business Systems Modernization:** \$230 million to improve IRS efficiency and accuracy by updating outdated computer systems.

## STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE WAR ON DRUGS

- **Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence:** \$62 million, \$5.3 million above 2008, to track terrorist financing, support economic sanctions against terrorist networks, and reduce the backlog of Freedom of Information Act requests at the Office of Foreign Assets Control.
- **Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN):** \$91.5 million, \$5.6 million above 2008, to detect and prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, coordinate financial crimes enforcement efforts with other countries, and make security improvements at FinCEN headquarters.
- **Office of National Drug Control Policy:** \$439 million, \$17 million above 2008, to reduce illicit drug use, manufacturing, and trafficking, drug-related crime and violence, and drug-related health consequences.
- **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas:** \$234 million, \$4 million above 2008, to coordinate state, local and federal efforts to fight drugs and support these efforts with equipment and technology.
- **Drug-free Communities Grants:** \$90 million, the same as 2008, to support over 700 drug-free community coalitions across the United States in identifying and responding to local substance abuse problems.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- **Assisting District of Columbia Students:** \$109 million, \$35 million above 2008, to support D.C. students including: \$35 million for college tuition support, \$54 million for school improvements, and a one-time payment of \$20 million to improve the District's public school system.
- **Supporting the DC Criminal Justice System:** \$540 million, \$45 million above 2008, to support DC Courts, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, and the Public Defender Service.
- **National Events:** \$39 million, to compensate the District government for security costs of National events including the Presidential Inauguration.

**SUPPORTING THE JUDICIAL BRANCH:** \$6.5 billion, \$235 million over 2008.

- **Defender Services:** \$849 million, \$14 million above 2008, to increase the rate for attorneys for indigent clients from \$100 to \$110 per hour, because every American needs quality legal representation.
- **Judges Pay:** Includes a cost of living adjustment.

**General Services Administration:** \$8.4 billion for the Federal Buildings Fund, including \$746 million for new construction and \$692 million for repairs and alterations of Federal buildings.

**National Archives and Records Administration:** \$330.3 million, \$15 million above 2008, to prevent a cut in public research hours and to process its backlog of Presidential records requests.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT POLICY PROVISIONS**

**Cuba:** Language in the bill: allows visits to immediate family members in Cuba once a year, instead of only once every three years; expands the definition of “close relative” for purposes of travel; and reverses the Bush Administration’s 2005 regulatory impediments on the sales of food and medicine to Cuba.

**Public-Private Competitions:** Includes a moratorium on new competitive sourcing activities until the new Administration has an opportunity to implement federal workforce policies. Restricts replacing federal employees with contractors and requires agencies to establish guidelines for insourcing new functions and functions currently being performed by contractors.

**Private Debt Collection:** Prohibits the IRS from contracting out debt collection as the IRS can perform the same function at less cost and with better safeguards for taxpayers.