

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 176

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 176.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2829 and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during consideration of H.R. 2829 pursuant to House Resolution 517, the Chair may reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 517 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. 2829.

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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. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, with Mr. HASTINGS of Florida in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

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

I'm pleased to present, Mr. Chairman, and my colleagues, the first Financial Services and general government appropriations bill to the House. This is my first time as chairman, and it has been an honor and a privilege.

The subcommittee held multiple hearings this spring to explore the

issues facing agencies funded through this bill. As the hearings progressed, a common theme emerged in my mind for improving these agencies. It became clear that the subcommittee needed to work to bring government closer to the people, to better fit its services to their needs.

The American people expect and deserve the best services their governments can offer. For example, with respect to the Internal Revenue Service, we, as a subcommittee, addressed the fact that the IRS needs to be fair and evenhanded in whom it audits. We also ensure that the IRS works to provide real assistance to the taxpayer who cannot afford the services of an expensive accountant.

We want the Election Assistance Commission to help promote the use of voting machines in student and school elections as an educational tool. Because these are our future voters, we must do this. We felt that government must do more to protect our consumers, and so we have directed the Federal Trade Commission to examine identity theft with an eye toward ending this hurtful crime.

We directed the Consumer Product Safety Commission to strengthen its consumer product monitoring capabilities. We have also increased funding for the community development financial institutions to help expand the availability of credit, capital and financial services to underserved communities throughout the Nation.

I feel that through funding initiatives and congressional guidance contained in this bill, government will be more responsive and more proactive on behalf of the American people whom it serves.

The total funding recommended by the bill is \$21.4 billion. This funding level is tight. While the bill is \$1.9 billion above the fiscal year 2007, it is \$243 million below the President's budget request.

It was a challenge to reduce funding from the requested level for two reasons. First, most of this bill, over 80 percent, funds basic administrative accounts, such as the salaries of the Treasury employees who are managing the Nation's finances. These accounts cannot be reduced without reducing the most basic government services.

Second, there were a number of holes in the President's budget that needed to be filled. This bill increases funding for programs where we believe money will be well spent and will benefit, for example, disadvantaged communities or small businesses. These are important priorities that needed to be addressed.

To summarize, this bill includes \$12.3 billion for the Department of the Treasury. Within this amount, \$11.1 billion is for the IRS, a \$550 million increase above fiscal year 2007, and \$52 million above the President's request. This increase includes more money than requested for taxpayer services and the IRS Taxpayers Advocate Office.

The bill also includes \$100 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund's program to increase economic development and financial opportunities for folks living in disadvantaged communities.

The bill includes \$722 million for the Executive Office of the President, of which \$460 million is directed to the Office of National Drug Control Policy and its programs. This includes increases for the Drug Free Communities grants program, and the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, which are critical efforts in the war on drugs.

This bill, however, rejects the 31 percent increase to the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign requested in the President's budget. Recent studies have called in question the effectiveness of the campaign, and it does not make any sense to give this program the substantial increase requested in light of these questions. The recommendation reduces funding for the campaign by \$6 million from last year to \$93 million this year.

The judicial branch will receive \$6.3 billion, which is \$278 million above 2007, but \$254 million below the request. While this is a reduction to the requested level, we believe that the amount in the bill will be sufficient to fund all necessary operations and staffing levels for the judiciary.

Programs related to the District of Columbia will receive \$648 million, including \$309 million for the District of Columbia court system. Within this figure, the bill assumes an increase in the reimbursement for attorneys who defend indigent clients so that their compensation rate is closer to the rate for defense attorneys practicing before Federal courts.

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This will help ensure fair and just representation for these defendants. The bill also includes funding for the D.C. public schools, the Tuition Assistance Grant program, the Water and Sewer Authority, construction of a forensic lab, and other critical items requested by the D.C. Government.

General provisions for the District of Columbia are fewer in number and have been changed based on our discussions with the D.C. government.

My basic principle is that the Federal Government should not dictate to the city how to manage its own affairs or spend its own money. Therefore, you will find that we have removed or changed riders that have been in past bills that closely prescribed to the city what it should or should not do. In some cases, I would actually like to go further than this bill goes. But I consider the changes we made to be first steps toward eliminating some of the restrictions Congress has placed on the District.

Let me take this opportunity, as an aside, to mention that my ranking member, Mr. REGULA, has been excellent also on this issue. He, like I, believe that since the District of Columbia has a new mayor and an exciting

new leadership, we want to do everything we can to allow them to grow within their own boundaries, make their own decisions and develop their own vision.

The bill includes funding for numerous important independent agencies. Some, such as the General Services Administration and the Office of Personnel Management, support all government agencies in their day-to-day operations. Other agencies are smaller but equally vital. For example, the Election Assistance Commission deals with issues that are extraordinarily important to the Nation and its ability to have reliable, secure and accessible elections. This bill includes, Mr. Chairman, \$300 million for payments to States to help them meet the requirements of the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

The bill also includes money for essential regulatory agencies, namely the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Federal Communications Commission. We have provided a total of \$78 million in increases over 2007 for these agencies. We are recommending funding to ensure that they have the ability to oversee, investigate, and take necessary actions relating to their respective missions. For example, the Federal Trade Commission would receive \$36 million above this year's level and \$7 million above the request to enhance consumer protection activi-

ties, including investigations of subprime lending and identity theft and to keep the marketplace free from anticompetitive business practices.

Another important agency in this bill is the Small Business Administration. The bill includes \$582 million for the SBA, including \$100 million for Small Business Development Centers, which is \$12 million above the current year. The bill also funds a 7(a) loan guarantee program by providing an \$80 million subsidy to make loans more affordable for small businesses.

We also include \$17 million for a Microloan program, including \$2.5 million for the subsidy cost of these loans, as well as funding for SBA programs that target businesses in disadvantaged or low-income communities. These include the HUBZone program, the PRIME program and the 7(j) program, which provides assistance relating to accounting practices or bidding on Federal contracts.

This bill also has numerous general provisions that apply to funds in the Act or governmentwide. The mark includes some changes in these provisions from previous bills. It includes, for example, some changes to the provision on public-private competitions, known to some as A-76, or outsourcing, that will strengthen protections for Federal employees.

Mr. Chairman, this bill will not make everyone happy. It is not even doing all that I want it to do. We have had to make compromises in order to ensure

that this bill will make it through the process and to the President's desk. However, the bill is a good step towards making some important changes to funding and policies. I encourage everyone to recognize that this bill is part of a process that will take time to complete. We will not be able to do everything in our first year.

Mr. Chairman, I would like at this time to thank my friend and colleague, Mr. REGULA, for his work and collaboration. We may not always agree on everything in this bill, but we worked together where we could to develop the best possible bill. I truly appreciate his leadership and support.

I also want to express my appreciation and thanks for the dedication and hard work of our subcommittee staff, both the majority and minority, especially today when they will be here past 1, 2 o'clock in the morning.

Dale Oak, Bob Bonner, Karyn Kendall, Frank Carillo, Deb Bilek, and Jim Curry with the majority staff; John Martens and Alice Hogans with the minority staff; and Rick Limardo with Congressman REGULA's personal staff have devoted countless hours. That is why this bill is before you today. I would like to recognize their many contributions. I would like also like to acknowledge and thank my personal staff under the leadership of Nadine Berg.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for this bill.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008 (H.R. 2829)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY					
Departmental Offices					
Salaries and expenses.....	216,348	250,141	250,591	+34,243	+450
Executive direction.....	(10,753)	(19,815)	(10,115)	(-638)	(-9,700)
General Counsel.....	(8,713)	---	(9,700)	(+987)	(+9,700)
Economic policies and programs.....	(36,154)	(45,450)	(45,450)	(+9,296)	---
Financial policies and programs.....	(24,632)	(28,869)	(29,069)	(+4,437)	(+200)
Terrorism and Financial Intelligence.....	(43,457)	(56,225)	(56,475)	(+13,018)	(+250)
Treasury-wide management.....	(17,837)	(20,810)	(19,010)	(+1,173)	(-1,800)
Administration.....	(74,802)	(78,972)	(80,772)	(+5,970)	(+1,800)
non-print admin subtotal.....	216,348	250,141	250,591	+34,243	+450
Department-wide systems and capital investments					
programs.....	30,268	18,710	18,710	-11,558	---
Office of Inspector General.....	16,957	18,450	18,450	+1,493	---
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.....	132,861	140,533	140,533	+7,672	---
Air transportation stabilization program account.....	---	-3,600	-3,600	-3,600	---
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.....	73,216	85,844	83,344	+10,128	-2,500
Subtotal, Departmental Offices.....	469,650	510,078	508,028	+38,378	-2,050
Financial Management Service	235,381	235,191	234,423	-958	-768
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau:					
Salaries and expenses.....	90,618	93,515	93,515	+2,897	---
Bureau of the Public Debt.....	177,623	172,871	172,871	-4,752	---
Community development financial institutions fund					
program account.....	54,506	28,557	100,000	+45,494	+71,443
Payment of government losses in shipment.....	500	1,000	1,000	+500	---
Total, Dept. of Treasury, non-IRS.....	1,028,278	1,041,212	1,109,837	+81,559	+68,625
Internal Revenue Service					
Taxpayer services.....	2,138,238	2,103,089	2,155,000	+16,762	+51,911
Enforcement.....	4,686,478	4,925,498	4,925,498	+239,020	---
Operations support.....	3,544,835	3,769,587	3,769,587	+224,752	---
Business systems modernization.....	212,659	282,090	282,090	+69,431	---
Health Insurance Tax Credit Administration.....	14,856	15,235	15,235	+379	---
Total, Internal Revenue Service.....	10,597,066	11,095,499	11,147,410	+550,344	+51,911
Total, title I, Department of the Treasury.....	11,625,344	12,136,711	12,257,247	+631,903	+120,536
TITLE II - EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT					
The White House					
Salaries and expenses.....	---	186,920	---	---	-186,920
Compensation of the President.....	---	450	---	---	-450
Total, Salaries and expenses.....	---	187,370	---	---	-187,370
Compensation of the President and the White House					
Office:					
Compensation of the President.....	450	---	450	---	+450
Salaries and expenses.....	53,616	---	53,156	-460	+53,156
Executive Residence at the White House:					
Operating expenses.....	12,398	---	12,814	+416	+12,814
White House repair and restoration.....	1,683	---	1,600	-83	+1,600
Council of Economic Advisers.....	4,032	---	4,118	+86	+4,118
Office of Policy Development.....	3,487	---	3,482	-5	+3,482
National Security Council.....	8,684	---	8,640	-44	+8,640
Office of Administration.....	88,643	---	92,829	+4,186	+92,829
Total, The White House.....	172,993	187,370	177,089	+4,096	-10,281

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008 (H.R. 2829)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of Management and Budget.....	76,714	70,866	78,394	+1,680	+7,528
Office of National Drug Control Policy.....	26,766	23,883	26,636	-130	+2,753
Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center.....	20,000	5,000	10,000	-10,000	+5,000
High intensity drug trafficking areas program.....	224,730	220,000	226,000	+1,270	+6,000
Other Federal drug control programs.....	192,951	224,485	197,800	+4,849	-26,685
Total, Office of National Drug Control Policy.....	464,447	473,368	460,436	-4,011	-12,932
Unanticipated needs.....	990	1,000	1,000	+10	---
Special Assistance to the President and Official Residence of the Vice President:					
Salaries and expenses.....	4,432	4,432	4,432	---	---
Operating expenses.....	322	320	320	-2	---
Total, title II, Executive Office of the Presi- dent and Funds Appropriated to the President..	719,898	737,356	721,671	+1,773	-15,685
TITLE III - THE JUDICIARY					
Supreme Court of the United States					
Salaries and expenses:					
Salaries of justices.....	2,000	2,149	2,149	+149	---
Other salaries and expenses.....	60,576	64,377	64,377	+3,801	---
Subtotal.....	62,576	66,526	66,526	+3,950	---
Care of the building and grounds.....	11,427	12,201	12,201	+774	---
Total, Supreme Court of the United States.....	74,003	78,727	78,727	+4,724	---
United States Court of Appeals for the Federal circuit					
Salaries and expenses:					
Salaries of judges.....	2,000	2,431	2,431	+431	---
Other salaries and expenses.....	23,311	26,107	25,545	+2,234	-562
Total, US Court of Appeals for the Fed Circuit..	25,311	28,538	27,976	+2,665	-562
United States Court of International Trade					
Salaries and expenses:					
Salaries of judges.....	2,000	1,765	1,765	-235	---
Other salaries and expenses.....	13,825	14,962	14,779	+954	-183
Total, US Court of International Trade.....	15,825	16,727	16,544	+719	-183
Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services					
Salaries and expenses:					
Salaries of judges and bankruptcy judges.....	316,000	332,434	332,434	+16,434	---
Judges COLA.....	---	5,000	---	---	-5,000
Other salaries and expenses.....	4,160,569	4,517,021	4,328,156	+167,587	-188,865
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses.....	4,476,569	4,854,455	4,660,590	+184,021	-193,865
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund.....	3,952	4,099	4,099	+147	---
Defender services.....	776,283	859,834	830,499	+54,216	-29,335
Fees of jurors and commissioners.....	60,945	62,350	62,350	+1,405	---
Court security.....	378,663	421,789	396,476	+17,813	-25,313
Total, Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services.....	5,696,412	6,202,527	5,954,014	+257,602	-248,513
Administrative Office of the United States Courts					
Salaries and expenses.....	72,377	78,536	75,667	+3,290	-2,869

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008 (H.R. 2829)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Federal Judicial Center					
Salaries and expenses.....	22,874	24,835	23,994	+1,120	-841
Judicial Retirement Funds					
Payment to judiciary trust funds.....	58,300	65,400	65,400	+7,100	---
United States Sentencing Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	14,601	16,191	15,477	+876	-714
Total, title III, the Judiciary.....	5,979,703	6,511,481	6,257,799	+278,096	-253,682
Mandatory appropriations.....	(380,300)	(404,179)	(404,179)	(+23,879)	---
Discretionary appropriations.....	(5,599,403)	(6,107,302)	(5,853,620)	(+254,217)	(-253,682)
TITLE IV - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA					
FEDERAL FUNDS					
Federal payment for Resident Tuition Support.....	32,868	35,100	35,100	+2,232	---
Federal payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia.....	8,533	3,000	3,352	-5,181	+352
Federal payment to the District of Columbia Courts....	216,723	213,861	256,395	+39,672	+42,534
Defender Services in District of Columbia Courts.....	43,475	43,475	52,475	+9,000	+9,000
Federal payment to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia....	179,603	190,343	190,343	+10,740	---
Federal payment to the District of Columbia Public Defender Service.....	31,103	32,710	32,710	+1,607	---
Federal payment to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority.....	6,930	12,000	12,000	+5,070	---
Federal payment for the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.....	2,970	---	---	-2,970	---
Federal payment to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.....	1,287	1,300	1,300	+13	---
Federal payment for Transportation Assistance.....	990	---	---	-990	---
Federal payment to the District of Columbia Public District of Columbia.....	1,980	---	---	-1,980	---
Federal payment to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia.....	20,000	---	6,148	-13,852	+6,148
Federal payment for School Improvement.....	39,600	40,800	40,800	+1,200	---
Federal payment for consolidated laboratory facility..	4,950	10,000	10,000	+5,050	---
Federal payment for Central Library/branch locations..	---	10,000	10,000	+10,000	---
Federal Payment to reimburse the FBI.....	---	5,000	4,000	+4,000	-1,000
Total, Title IV, District of Columbia.....	591,012	597,589	654,623	+63,611	+57,034
TITLE V - OTHER INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Consumer Product Safety Commission.....	62,728	63,250	66,838	+4,110	+3,588
Election Assistance Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	16,263	15,467	15,467	-796	---
Election Reform Programs.....	---	---	300,950	+300,950	+300,950
Total, Election Assistance Commission.....	16,263	15,467	316,417	+300,154	+300,950
Federal Communications Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	291,282	313,000	313,000	+21,718	---
Transfer from USF for OIG audits (by transfer).....	---	(20,480)	(20,980)	(+20,980)	(+500)
Offsetting fee collections - current year.....	-290,295	-312,000	-312,000	-21,705	---
Direct appropriation.....	987	1,000	1,000	+13	---
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation: Office of Inspector General (by transfer).....	(30,690)	(26,848)	(26,848)	(-3,842)	---

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008 (H.R. 2829)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Federal Election Commission.....	54,528	59,224	59,224	+4,696	---
Federal Labor Relations Authority.....	25,372	23,718	23,641	-1,731	-77
Federal Trade Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	211,289	240,239	247,489	+36,200	+7,250
Offsetting fee collections - current year.....	-129,000	-139,000	-139,000	-10,000	---
Offsetting fee collections, telephone database.....	-23,000	-19,000	-20,000	+3,000	-1,000
Direct appropriation.....	59,289	82,239	88,489	+29,200	+6,250
General Services Administration					
Federal Buildings Fund					
Appropriations.....	(93,586)	(344,450)	(88,144)	(-5,442)	(-256,306)
Limitations on availability of revenue:					
Construction and acquisition of facilities.....	701,137	615,204	524,540	-176,597	-90,664
Repairs and alterations.....	618,241	804,483	733,267	+115,026	-71,216
Installation acquisition payments.....	163,999	155,781	155,781	-8,218	---
Rental of space.....	4,067,881	4,383,000	4,315,534	+247,653	-67,466
Building operations.....	2,003,830	2,132,450	2,105,490	+101,660	-26,960
Subtotal.....	7,555,088	8,090,918	7,834,612	+279,524	-256,306
Repayment of debt.....	43,338	50,804	50,804	+7,466	---
Rental income to fund.....	-7,845,000	-7,916,272	-7,916,272	-71,272	---
Total, Federal Buildings Fund.....	-246,574	225,450	-30,856	+215,718	-256,306
Policy and operations.....	---	144,338	142,945	+142,945	-1,393
Government-wide policy.....	52,346	---	---	-52,346	---
Operating expenses.....	83,176	---	---	-83,176	---
Office of Inspector General.....	52,621	47,382	47,382	-5,239	---
Appropriation (P.L. 110-28).....	(4,500)	---	---	(-4,500)	---
Electronic Government Fund.....	2,970	5,000	2,970	---	-2,030
Allowances and Office Staff for Former Presidents.....	2,922	2,500	2,500	-422	---
Federal Citizen Information Center Fund.....	14,874	17,790	15,798	+924	-1,992
Total, General Services Administration.....	-37,665	442,460	180,739	+218,404	-261,721
Merit Systems Protection Board					
Salaries and expenses.....	36,063	37,507	37,507	+1,444	---
Limitation on administrative expenses.....	2,603	2,579	2,579	-24	---
Total, Merit Systems Protection Board.....	38,666	40,086	40,086	+1,420	---
Morris K. Udall Foundation					
Morris K. Udall Trust Fund.....	1,984	---	2,000	+16	+2,000
Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund.....	1,896	750	2,000	+104	+1,250
Total, Morris K. Udall Foundation.....	3,880	750	4,000	+120	+3,250
National Archives and Records Administration					
Operating expenses.....	279,338	312,874	315,000	+35,662	+2,126
Reduction of debt.....	-10,026	-10,896	-10,896	-870	---
Electronic records archive.....	45,254	58,028	58,028	+12,774	---
Repairs and restoration.....	9,120	8,663	16,095	+6,975	+7,432
National Historical Publications and Records					
Commission: Grants program.....	7,425	---	10,000	+2,575	+10,000
Total, National Archives and Records Admin.....	331,111	368,669	388,227	+57,116	+19,558
National Credit Union Administration					
Central liquidity facility:					
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	---	---
(Limitation on admin expenses, corporate funds)...	(323)	(329)	(329)	(+6)	---

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008 (H.R. 2829)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Community development credit union revolving loan fund	941	950	1,000	+59	+50
Office of Government Ethics.....	11,115	11,750	11,750	+635	---
Office of Personnel Management					
Salaries and expenses.....	111,605	101,765	101,765	-9,840	---
Limitation on administrative expenses.....	112,546	111,936	123,401	+10,855	+11,465
Office of Inspector General.....	2,061	1,519	1,519	-542	---
Limitation on administrative expenses.....	16,278	16,481	16,981	+703	+500
Govt Payment for Annuitants, Employees Health Benefits	8,780,260	8,884,000	8,884,000	+103,740	---
Govt Payment for Annuitants, Employee Life Insurance..	39,000	41,000	41,000	+2,000	---
Payment to Civil Svc Retirement and Disability Fund...	10,532,000	11,941,000	11,941,000	+1,409,000	---
Total, Office of Personnel Management.....	19,593,750	21,097,701	21,109,666	+1,515,916	+11,965
Office of Special Counsel.....	15,524	16,368	16,368	+844	---
Securities and Exchange Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	892,560	905,330	908,442	+15,882	+3,112
Prior year unobligated balances.....	-25,000	-30,330	-41,397	-16,397	-11,067
Direct appropriation.....	867,560	875,000	867,045	-515	-7,955
Selective Service System.....	24,850	22,000	22,000	-2,850	---
Small Business Administration					
Salaries and expenses.....	327,592	310,103	346,553	+18,961	+36,450
Rescission (unobligated balances).....	-6,100	---	---	+6,100	---
Office of Inspector General.....	13,835	15,000	15,000	+1,165	---
by transfer from Disaster Loans Program account...	(1,485)	(500)	(500)	(-985)	---
Surety bond guarantees revolving fund.....	2,824	3,000	3,000	+176	---
Business Loans Program Account:					
Direct loans subsidy.....	1,283	---	2,530	+1,247	+2,530
Guaranteed loans subsidy.....	---	---	80,000	+80,000	+80,000
Administrative expenses.....	124,862	135,414	135,414	+10,552	---
Rescission (unobligated balances).....	-5,000	---	---	+5,000	---
Total, Business loans program account.....	121,145	135,414	217,944	+96,799	+82,530
Disaster Loans Program Account:					
Administrative expenses (by transfer).....	---	(156,000)	---	---	(-156,000)
Administrative expenses (P.L. 110-28)(by transfer)	(181,069)	---	---	(-181,069)	---
Economic injury loans (P.L. 110-28)(by transfer)..	(25,000)	---	---	(-25,000)	---
Administrative expenses.....	114,931	---	---	-114,931	---
Rescission (unobligated balances).....	-2,300	---	---	+2,300	---
Disaster Relief, FEMA (transfer out).....	---	(-200,000)	---	---	(+200,000)
Disaster Relief, FEMA (P.L. 110-28)					
(transfer out)(emergency).....	(-150,000)	---	---	(+150,000)	---
Office of Inspector General (transfer out).....	(-1,485)	(-500)	(-500)	(+985)	---
Total, Disaster loans program account.....	112,631	---	---	-112,631	---
(by transfer).....	(206,069)	(156,000)	---	(-206,069)	(-156,000)
(transfer out).....	(-151,485)	(-200,500)	(-500)	(+150,985)	(+200,000)
Total, Small Business Administration.....	571,927	463,517	582,497	+10,570	+118,980
United States Postal Service					
Payment to the Postal Service Fund.....	29,000	---	---	-29,000	---
Advance appropriations.....	79,915	88,864	88,864	+8,949	---
Total, United States Postal Service.....	108,915	88,864	88,864	-20,051	---

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008 (H.R. 2829)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Enacted	FY 2008 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
United States Tax Court.....	47,625	45,326	45,069	-2,556	-257
=====					
Total, title V, Independent Agencies.....	21,797,366	23,718,339	23,912,920	+2,115,554	+194,581
Appropriations.....	(21,730,851)	(23,629,475)	(23,824,056)	(+2,093,205)	(+194,581)
Rescissions.....	(-13,400)	---	---	(+13,400)	---
Advances.....	(79,915)	(88,864)	(88,864)	(+8,949)	---
(by transfer).....	(32,175)	(203,828)	(48,328)	(+16,153)	(-155,500)
(transfer out).....	(-1,485)	(-200,500)	(-500)	(+985)	(+200,000)
=====					
Grand total.....	40,713,323	43,701,476	43,804,260	+3,090,937	+102,784
Appropriations.....	(40,646,808)	(43,612,612)	(43,715,396)	(+3,068,588)	(+102,784)
Rescissions.....	(-13,400)	---	---	(+13,400)	---
Advances.....	(79,915)	(88,864)	(88,864)	(+8,949)	---
(by transfer).....	(32,175)	(203,828)	(48,328)	(+16,153)	(-155,500)
(transfer out).....	(-1,485)	(-200,500)	(-500)	(+985)	(+200,000)
=====					
Discretionary total.....	19,517,875	21,676,898	21,434,000	+1,916,125	-242,898

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chairman, I am going to include my statement in the RECORD. I will paraphrase it in the interests of time.

First, I want to congratulate Chairman SERRANO in being the pioneer chairman of the newly created Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee. He has given us great leadership in a bipartisan, inclusive spirit while shepherding this bill through the subcommittee. Additionally, my colleagues on the subcommittee on both sides have provided valuable input and guidance. The chairman has mentioned the hard work of the staff on both the majority and minority. I won't reiterate that, but I will say we have had great staff help for both majority and the minority.

I am pleased to present this Financial Services bill. We have taken into consideration the priorities of the President and the Members of the House, and I think we have produced a bill that meets the needs of Americans and our operations of government while staying below the President's budget request, which is somewhat unusual for most of the Appropriations Committee bills. I appreciate the leaders of the Appropriations Committee, Chairman OBEY and Ranking Member LEWIS, in providing a manageable allocation for the bill.

We allocate, as the chairman has said, \$21.4 billion in discretionary budget authority. This is \$243 million below the administration's request, but it is \$2 billion above fiscal year 2007. This is in recognition of some additional responsibilities that we have.

It provides funding for a diverse number of agencies that affect the lives of all Americans. Twenty-seven different agencies are funded in this bill: Telecommunications; IRS Taxpayer Assistance; Small Business Administration, an interesting group; the General Services Administration; and also the Office of Personnel Management.

I want to mention here that in testimony, I was struck by the fact that the director of the Office of Personnel Management said that in the next 10 years, 60 percent of the workforce will retire. I would say to any young people that are listening tonight there will be a lot of opportunity in the Federal Government.

Another point that was made in the hearing was that only 15 percent of the Federal employment is in Washington, D.C., which means that there will be job opportunities all across the country. I would urge young people that are in political science or have an interest in government to think about getting the skills that might be useful in working in Federal employment. This would, of course, be some budget experience, some tax policy and some general policy of government. There will be opportunities and exciting challenges.

We have the Small Business Development Centers. Sometimes I think we only think about the big ones in terms of businesses, but it is the thousands and thousands of small businesses that really fuel this Nation's economy. I know in my own district, if you add up the 50, the 75 and the 100-employee businesses, that is a very significant total. Those businesses don't tend to go overseas. They don't sell out and move their operations somewhere offshore. They stay. Therefore, I think it is extremely important that we help small business in every possible way.

We do that in this bill. We have \$100 million for Small Business Development Centers. This is an increase. It is a method, a way of providing management assistance. Just in Ohio alone, we have over almost 900,000 small businesses. Every dollar we invest in this leverages a couple of dollars in economic activity.

□ 2115

Another interesting thing in the bill is financial literacy. We hear a lot of comment about the fact that our young people don't know how to handle credit cards, they don't know how to handle their loans, and they get themselves in financial trouble. We have allocated in this bill \$900,000 for the Treasury's Office of Financial Education. This is some \$200,000 over the President's request.

What I would like to do is urge that Treasury work with the Department of Education and move some of this responsibility to them to work with the schools, the elementary and high schools, in improving financial literacy in this country. Credit is extremely important, and too often young people do not understand the impact of building credit card debt and other types of debt which gets them in substantial financial trouble. So we hope that we can encourage a greater amount of financial education among the students of this Nation.

We also hear a lot about the fact that \$300 billion of taxes are left uncollected. As Mr. DREIER pointed out on the statement on the rule, most people pay their taxes. The United States is unique, probably in some respects in that we have a voluntary system of paying taxes, but people want to know that if they pay their taxes, they want their neighbor and their fellow citizens to also pay theirs.

If there is this \$300 billion tax gap, we need to do something to address it, so we have set aside the money for taxpayer support services. And I might say, for those that are listening out in the audience across the country, that many people are not aware of the fact that there is a Taxpayer Assistance Service. It is available in most of the major cities of the country, and they can be very helpful to people who have some type of problem with IRS. We said some years ago that we want to make the IRS more taxpayer friendly, and we have tried to do that in this bill.

The chairman mentioned the District of Columbia. I often think about President Reagan, who talked about the city of Washington being the "shining city on the hill." What we try to do in this bill is to move this city a little bit further along in that direction.

The District of Columbia, and we recently changed their voting status, is the Capital of this Nation and a city we should all take pride in. So what we have tried to do in this bill, since we fund D.C., their Federal money, is to make it a better city.

I want to say I think the Mayor is recognizing the challenge that is before him. They have made a dramatic change in their school system. Now the Mayor is responsible and accountable, and I am hopeful that this will make a vast improvement over a period of time in education.

The key to a successful city is a successful education system. One of the things that plagues the cities of America is the fact that they do have problems with their system, and they have a high rate of dropouts. We hope we can change that not only in the District of Columbia, but in every city in America.

If our Nation is to remain competitive in the years to come, we have to start with the education system. I am pleased that the Mayor and the city leadership here recognize that fact. We put \$35 million for college tuition assistance, \$41 million for school improvement, and \$10 million to improve libraries. I know the Mayor has selected a new superintendent. We wish her well. We want to do everything we can to make her administration and that of the Mayor a success in dealing with education problems.

The chairman mentioned the Election Assistance Commission. This is, of course, designed to make sure that everybody has an opportunity to vote. That is, again, fundamental to our democracy, that people have not only the right to vote, but that we make it as uncomplicated as possible so they do make the effort to exercise their franchise. I think, perhaps, the \$300 million is not necessarily required at this time because the Presidential primaries will start in January, and the States are already sitting on \$1.3 billion, but we can perhaps address that issue in conference.

The loan program, I am a little concerned. We are giving \$80 million to help subsidize loans where there is a default. Historically this is funded by a premium on both the borrowers and lenders, and I am hoping that we can work out a program that will encourage people to use the loan program.

Private debt collectors, we don't know. We have kept that in place with a very limited amount of money because we are not sure how effective that program is, but I think the Treasury would argue that it has been a successful program.

We have maintained the policies on abortion. We have maintained the policies on Cuba. Any change of these would bring about a Presidential veto.

I hope that we can work out any differences we might have in conference, and that the bill would be one that the President of the United States can sign. Certainly in terms of meeting his fiscal requirements. We have more than met that challenge by being under his numbers.

I urge Members to look at this bill and weigh the importance of it when it comes time for final passage. I know we will have a number of amendments, and we will address those as we move along.

INTRODUCTION

First, I would like to congratulate Chairman SERRANO on being the pioneer Chairman of the newly created Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee. Chairman SERRANO has provided great leadership and a bipartisan, inclusive spirit while shepherding this bill through subcommittee and full committee. Additionally, my colleagues on the subcommittee have provided valuable input and guidance throughout the process.

Also, I would like to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and expertise of the subcommittee staff. On the majority side, Dale Oak, Bob Bonner, Karyn Kendall, Frank Carillo, Deb Bilek, Jim Curry and Nadine Berg on Chairman SERRANO's personal staff. On the minority side I would like to thank John Martens and Alice Hogans for their counsel in putting together this bill.

OVERVIEW

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present before the House today the fiscal year 2008 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill. By taking into consideration the priorities of the President and the Members of the House, we have produced a bill that meets the needs of Americans, and the operations of our government while staying below the President's budget request. I appreciate the efforts of the leaders of the House, Chairman OBEY and Ranking Member LEWIS to provide a manageable allocation for this bill.

The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill allocates \$21.4 billion in discretionary budget authority. This number is \$243 million below the Administration's request and \$2 billion above fiscal year 2007. I would like to repeat this to my colleagues who have voiced concerns over extraneous spending in appropriations bills; this bill is \$243 million below the Administration's request, while still providing sufficient funds for various agencies to continue their missions and service.

The bill provides funding for a diverse number of agencies that affect the lives of all Americans. The agencies funded in this bill regulate the financial and telecommunications industries, collect taxes and provide taxpayer assistance, lend a helping hand to small businesses and disadvantaged communities by providing them with capital, support the operations of the White House and Federal Judiciary, provide Federal payments to the District of Columbia, operate and maintain Federal buildings, manage our federal workforce which is expected to experience tremendous attrition rates over the next ten years, assists in the administration of federal elections and protect

consumers and investors from fraudulent practices.

SBA-SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

The Chairman has done a good job of highlighting the bill so I will not repeat him, but I would like to mention several items of importance to me. I am particularly pleased at the \$100 million for Small Business Development Centers, an increase of nearly \$13 million. The Small Business Development Centers account is the Small Business Administration's primary method of providing management assistance to small businesses. In my state of Ohio we have over 889,000 small businesses and every dollar invested in the OHIO SBDC network leverages at least \$2.00. This program is vital to the life of small business, and I urge my colleagues to maintain this funding on the House floor today.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

I am also encouraged to see \$900,000 for Treasury's Office of Financial Education, an increase of approximately \$200,000 over the President's request. The increase is targeted toward improving the National Strategy for Financial Literacy and expanding efforts at financial literacy in elementary schools and high schools. Financial literacy is a very important life skill and I look forward to working with the Chairman to further develop this initiative and ensure maximum programmatic impact.

Additionally, the bill increases essential funding for the Internal Revenue Service to close the nearly \$300 billion tax gap, which is the difference between the amount of taxes owed and the amount actually paid. Closing the tax gap is critical as most Americans do not mind paying their fair share of taxes as long as they know others are doing the same. Furthermore, \$3.6 billion is set aside for taxpayer support services activities aimed at tax return preparation, the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate and IRS outreach and education efforts to serve taxpayers by helping them understand their tax obligations before they file. These activities have been steadily reduced in recent years and are in need of a boost.

D.C. EDUCATION

I am supportive of the funding appropriated in the bill to improve education in the District of Columbia, including \$35 million for college tuition assistance, \$41 million for school improvement, and \$10 million to improve libraries. The children in Washington D.C. have been at a disadvantage for many years, and I look forward to working with the Mayor to enhance the school system to give the children of D.C. a chance to succeed.

CONCERNS

As I mentioned previously, this bill is \$243 million below the Administration's request, and Chairman SERRANO has done a fair job in allocating these funds to the various agencies within the bill. However, I do have a couple spending and policy concerns, which I would like to outline.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Primarily, I am concerned about \$300 million added to this bill in unrequested funding for election assistance grants. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 authorized \$3.9 billion for grants to the states to improve their voting systems through 2007. This program has not been authorized to receive funding in 2008 and there still remains \$1.3 billion in appropriated dollars from the Help America Vote Act that have yet to be spent by the States.

Therefore, I believe that an additional \$300 million is unnecessary at this time especially with Presidential primaries beginning in January. This is a short turnaround to spend \$300 million while the states are sitting on \$1.3 billion. Although I am supportive of the Election Assistance Commission, I remain concerned over these unrequested and unauthorized funds.

SBA 7(A) LOAN PROGRAM

Another funding item of concern that I bring up with trepidation is subsidization of 7(a) business loans. An amendment in committee was adopted which ignores the fact that the 7(a) loan program has been operating at record levels without a subsidy appropriation since fiscal year 2005. Past practice has proven that subsidies limit access to SBA loans if demand for loans exceeds the availability of appropriations. In past years, SBA has been forced to temporarily shut the program down or impose loan limits to manage within available appropriations. Zero subsidy has proven to be effective and allowed SBA flexibility to manage the program in a user friendly way. I hope to work with the Chairman in Conference to find an agreeable solution regarding 7(a) subsidization.

POLICY RIDERS

Regarding policy, I have reservations with language attempting to limit the use of private debt collectors. Private debt collectors simply pursue the low hanging fruit that the IRS does not currently devote resources to.

Otherwise longstanding policies on abortion and Cuba are maintained in this bill. Any altering of these may bring about a Presidential veto.

Lastly, while I have a few qualms with the bill, I believe it is a bill that should be passed by the House and signed by the President, as long as controversial policy riders or substantial funding changes are not made to the bill. I thank the Chairman and ask my colleagues to vote yes with me on House passage of the first Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support for the inclusion of \$300 million in funding for election reform programs under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2008. Although this represents less than half of the funding that still remains unappropriated under HAVA, it will help states improve and secure their election systems before November 2008.

We have now been through our second post-HAVA general election, but both the 2004 and 2006 elections provided strong indications that there is much work yet to be done in the area of election reform in this country. Election protection groups across the country published extensive reports after each of those elections, documenting machine failures, incidents of suppression, voters being told wrongfully that they were not on the voter registration rolls, voters being denied provisional ballots, and a myriad of other problems. One of those reports documented more than 1,000 incidents of machine failure in more than 300 counties in 36 states. In addition, a report issued by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University school of Law following an in-depth examination of all of the major voting systems used in the United States found that all such systems are vulnerable to tampering and failure.

Granted, many problems with our electoral system can be solved through better procedures and better enforcement of existing procedures, and do not require funding. But that is not true of issues related to the security and reliability of our voting equipment. That is why my Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act (H.R. 811) authorizes \$1 billion to help states transition to voting systems that provide a durable voter verified paper ballot for every vote cast, and \$100 million to reimburse states for conducting routine random audits.

As the situation now stands, in November 2008, six entire states and various counties in 13 more and the District of Columbia will conduct their elections on voting systems that neither produce nor require the use of voter verified paper ballots, and therefore will provide no means of conducting meaningful recounts or audits. In total, approximately 35 million voters will be casting votes that will be completely unverifiable. That is more than ten times the margin of victory in the last Presidential race. In 2008, if the outcome of the Presidential race hinges on Pennsylvania, or Georgia, or Tennessee, or anyone of the other unauditable jurisdictions, there will be nothing tangible left that the voters themselves created or verified; whatever they will have seen on the touch screen on election day, it will be gone forever and all that will remain is a software translation that may or may not reflect voter intent. And we will never know, unless we have strong new legislation and adequate funding.

As a country, we simply cannot afford to have un-resolvable election problems in 2008. Election anomalies can be corrected by funding measures to ensure that voting systems produce durable paper ballots and that jurisdictions conduct routine audits of those ballots. Therefore, I commend the Financial Services Committee for including \$300 million in HAVA funding, which may be used to meet and improve upon HAVA's requirement for permanent paper records with a manual audit capacity, in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2008, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ANDREWS) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2829) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2829, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 2829 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 517, notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no further amendments to the bill may be offered except:

Pro forma amendments offered at any point in the reading by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate;

An amendment by Mr. STEARNS regarding currency manipulation;

An amendment by Ms. HOOLEY regarding funding for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas;

An amendment by Mr. POE or Mr. CUELLAR regarding funding for the Federal district courts;

An amendment by Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia regarding funding for District of Columbia schools programs;

An amendment by Mr. KING of Iowa reducing funding for election reform programs;

An amendment by Mr. CARDOZA regarding funding for the General Services Administration;

An amendment by Mr. CARDOZA regarding funding for the General Services Administration;

An amendment by Mr. DEFAZIO regarding funding for the Selective Service System;

An amendment by Mr. SESSIONS striking section 738;

An amendment by Mr. BOOZMAN regarding High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas;

An amendment by Mr. BOSWELL regarding studies by the Office of National Drug Control Policy;

An amendment by Mr. CONAWAY regarding use of reductions made through amendment for deficit reduction;

An amendment by Mr. DEFAZIO regarding funding for the Selective Service System;

An amendment by Mr. ELLSWORTH prohibiting funds for certain contractors with tax debt;

An amendment by Mr. EMANUEL limiting funds for the Vice President's office;

An amendment by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey limiting funds to enforce certain requirements under section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act;

An amendment by Mr. GOODE limiting Federal funds for registration of unmarried couples in the District of Columbia;

An amendment by Mr. HULSHOF regarding funding for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas;

An amendment by Mr. JORDAN of Ohio reducing funds in the bill by 8.9 percent, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. KINGSTON limiting funds for contracts to entities that do not participate in a basic pilot program related to illegal immigration;

An amendment by Mr. LUCAS limiting funds to seize coins made or issued by the U.S. Government prior to 1933;

An amendment by Mr. MORAN of Kansas limiting funds to enforce certain regulations related to exports to Cuba;

An amendment by Mr. MILLER of North Carolina regarding Executive Order 13422;

An amendment by Mrs. MUSGRAVE reducing funds in the bill by 0.5 percent, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. NEUGEBAUER limiting funds for the Federal Election Commission regarding certain certifications for the Presidential Election Campaign Fund;

An amendment by Mr. NEUGEBAUER limiting the collection and distribution of funds from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund;

An amendment by Mr. PENCE limiting funds to implement the Fairness Doctrine, which shall be debatable for 40 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. PRICE of Georgia reducing funds in the bill by 1 percent, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. SOUDER limiting funds for needle exchange programs in the District of Columbia;

An amendment by Mr. SOUDER limiting funds for certain entities in the District of Columbia;

An amendment by Mr. STEARNS limiting funds for the IRS "Where's My Refund" program;

An amendment by Mr. UPTON regarding use of Energy Star certified light bulbs;

An amendment by Mr. WICKER limiting the use of funds to implement section 5112 of title 31, United States Code;

An amendment by Mr. WOLF regarding establishment and funding for a budget and entitlement reform commission;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for a project of the Baracks Row Main Street;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the Fairplex Trade and Conference Center in Pomona, California;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the Grace Johnstown Area Regional Industries Incubator and Workforce Development program;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the Mitchell County Development Foundation, Inc. for the Home of the Perfect Christmas Tree project;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting funds for the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, SPUR Urban Center;