

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT 10-YEAR: 2015–2024—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Energy and Natural Resources	49,697	52,232	620	620
Environment and Public Works	422,694	33,513	0	0
Finance	20,308,332	20,297,926	8,772,526	8,769,114
Foreign Relations	235,490	231,546	1,590	1,590
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	1,292,529	1,262,703	237,985	237,985
Judiciary	122,841	127,325	9,717	9,685
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	45,975	64,666	48,100	47,402
Rules and Administration	361	104	304	304
Intelligence	0	0	5,140	5,140
Veterans' Affairs	6,700	8,463	1,003,084	1,000,104
Indian Affairs	7,098	8,957	0	0
Small Business	0	0	0	0

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 114(a)(2) OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013

\$s in millions	Balances
Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019	0
Fiscal Years 2015 through 2024	0

GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, listening to your doctor is just common sense. That is why it is important for Congress to take note that this April, the American College of Physicians, ACP, our Nation's largest medical-specialty organization and second largest physician group, released an important diagnosis: that our Nation is trapped in an epidemic of gun violence. Fortunately, it also includes a treatment: a set of policy positions and recommendations to reduce gun violence in our country.

The ACP report begins with recognition that "firearm violence is not only a criminal justice issue but also a public health threat." The statistics are undeniable: Guns kill over 32,000 individuals in our Nation every year—about 88 lives stolen, every day. But those are only the fatal shootings; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have estimated that more than 73,000 nonfatal firearm injuries occur in the United States every year. And what is a "nonfatal" injury? Anything from a bullet grazing someone's shoulder, to a domestic abuser taking aim at a spouse's heart and striking the arm, to a child accidentally shooting him or herself in the stomach and barely surviving. "Nonfatal" gun injuries may evade the first sad statistic, but they can be devastating all the same. These statistics also belie the collateral damage the families, friends and communities shattered by a pull of the trigger.

The ACP report surveyed the highly trained and clinically minded internists whom we entrust with our health and well-being, along with that of our families, children and communities. Direct experience with the problem was widespread, with 63 percent of surveyed internists reporting having had patients who were injured or given fatal wounds by a gun. Other results showed overwhelming consensus: that 85 percent of surveyed internists believe firearm injuries are a public health issue;

95 percent support mandatory background checks on all firearm purchases; 86 percent support a ban on military-style assault weapons; 85 percent support a ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines; and 86 percent support the creation of requirements that all firearms include child-proof safety features. 76 percent of respondents agreed that gun safety legislation would "help to reduce the risk for gun related injuries or deaths."

Responding to this consensus, the ACP report includes several recommendations to reduce gun violence in our society. It argues that all gun sales should be "subject to satisfactory completion of a criminal background check," and supports enactment of "a universal background check system to keep guns out of the hands" of dangerous individuals. Fortunately, there is legislation pending in this Congress that would do just that.

It also supports the "enactment of legislation to ban the sale and manufacture for civilian use of firearms that have features designed to increase their rapid killing capacity (often called assault weapons.*)" Legislation pending in this Congress would also accomplish that goal.

In addition, the report argues for "strong penalties and criminal prosecution for those who sell firearms illegally and those who legally purchase firearms for those who are banned from possession of them"—so called "straw" purchases. And yes, there is legislation pending in this Congress to do that too.

Mr. President, our Nation's medical community agrees with our law enforcement community, and the 90 percent of Americans who support sensible gun safety reforms. I urge my colleagues to listen to these important voices and to pass the commonsense pieces of legislation already pending before this body. The cost of inaction is just too high.

DATA ACT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to commend my colleagues in the Senate and House for coming together last month to pass the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, which is known as the DATA Act. The measure enjoyed near unanimous support in both bodies, and I expect President Obama to sign the DATA Act into law shortly.

This legislation seeks to ensure that Federal agencies have a framework in place to standardize their financial data, and will better ensure that expenditure data for all of our agencies is accessible to taxpayers and Congress. This will represent an important step toward a more transparent and responsive government.

Passage of the DATA Act, though, is merely the first step towards improving transparency into how the Federal Government spends taxpayer dollars. Now comes the hard part—implementation. I know that Federal agencies and the Office of Management and Budget will face challenges in implementing the bill. To that effect, I have received a letter from Beth Cobert, the Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget, expressing concern about implementing the bill without additional resources.

As with any legislation, our job does not end when the President signs the bill. I believe that those of us here in Congress have the responsibility to work with the administration to ensure that laws—such as the DATA Act—that we enact have the support they need to be implemented. That is why I will work with my colleagues on the Appropriations committees to help make sure Federal agencies have the resources they need to meet the requirements of the bill. I invite my colleagues who worked so hard to pass this legislation to join me in this continuing effort.

With that being said, I ask unanimous consent that Ms. Cobert's letter be printed in the RECORD in its entirety.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,

Washington, DC., May 1, 2014.

Hon. THOMAS R. CARPER, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CARPER: The Administration recognizes and appreciates your commitment to Government transparency and accountability, and appreciates the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs' leadership on these issues.

The Administration supports the objectives of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) which would establish Government-wide data

standards for financial data and assist in making Government-wide spending more accessible. The Administration appreciates the bill's support for establishing data standards and we additionally appreciate the bill's statement of confidence in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Treasury (Treasury). The Administration is currently working to improve Federal spending transparency. For example, we will soon roll-out a refreshed USAspending.gov with better search capabilities and functionality to manipulate the data and issue guidance to improve USAspending.gov's data quality. Additionally, we completed the transition of USAspending.gov to the Department of Treasury to take advantage of its core functions on agency financial reporting and ongoing work with other initiatives related to transparency in Federal spending.

To implement the legislation, Executive branch agencies will need to work to redesign the structure of existing financial systems, adopt new data standards, and review future budgetary requests to ensure compliance with the new definitions. However, the legislation does not provide funds to OMB, Treasury, or any agency to develop and implement new data standards under the timeframes prescribed. Without specific appropriations, this bill's requirements would require that agencies either divert agency resources from other mission critical activities, or implement requirements based on current funding and the timeframes that permits.

Also, the bill requires agencies to report information by "program activities." The FY 2015 President's Budget includes 1,275 executive budget accounts that track Federal agencies' spending. Currently, Executive Branch agencies' Federal financial systems are not designed to report by "program activity" as defined by the legislation. "Program activities" can and do change from year to year as a result of Congressional or other action. To avoid public reporting of information that is incomplete or potentially inaccurate, Executive Branch agencies will implement these requirements initially through reporting at the budget account level. We commit to implement the statute by working on efforts to report below the budget account level in a manner that clearly links to the spending data in agency financial systems. We share a common goal with data transparency, however, OMB needs to ensure that our approach considers the realities of the funding environment and reflects how funds are currently tracked through the budget process and in agency financial systems.

We look forward to working with you to pursue our shared goal of improving Federal spending transparency.

Sincerely,

BETH COBERT,
Deputy Director for Management,
Office of Management and Budget.

SCRIPPS FLORIDA INSTITUTE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I rise to recognize an important meeting taking place this week at the Scripps Research Institute in my home State of Florida that coincides with Older Americans Month. Leaders in the field of aging and medical research are gathering at this internationally renowned research facility to discuss their latest research at a symposium, the first of its kind, entitled, "Therapeutic Approaches for Extending Healthspan: The Next 10 Years."

Headquartered in California, the Scripps Institute has long been recognized as a leader in biomedical sciences. Establishing an additional Scripps research facility in Florida in 2009 represents an extension of this tradition of world-class research excellence to our State. Scripps Florida is working on finding answers to some of the most critical biomedical questions that confront us today through six academic departments targeting the areas of cancer biology, chemistry, infectious diseases, molecular therapeutics, neuroscience, and the relationship between metabolism and aging. Hopefully, this symposium will lead to a series of gatherings where experts can forge collaborative partnerships and work toward improving the quality of life for aging adults.

Over the past decade, Scripps has advanced existing knowledge on aging-related diseases such as blindness, atherosclerosis, deafness, and amyloid diseases that cause Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's Diseases, among others. This forum will focus on novel research in the field of aging and establish a path for research into the next decade. Though the field shows enormous promise for the future, barriers still exist in translating research into clinical applications. Experts participating in this symposium will discuss how to overcome these challenges to provide meaningful medical solutions for our aging Nation.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am aware of the daily challenges faced by many older Americans. Like the roundtable hosted by the Aging Committee last October to discuss the state of aging research, I believe these opportunities to bring our Nation's best scientists, physicians, and researchers together are essential if we are going to conquer aging-related diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia. As such, we must continue to support research that drives innovation, advances current knowledge, and encourages collaboration among our Nation's greatest thinkers.

As the number of older Americans continues to grow, we must support research efforts that provide paths to treatment or prevention so our Nation's seniors can enjoy living out their golden years with dignity.

REMEMBERING ISAAC GREGGS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished former Southern University Director of Bands who passed on April 28, 2014, at the age of 85 in Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Greggs was the third child born in Shreveport, LA on January 22, 1929 to Sarah and Isaac Greggs. Dr. Greggs was baptized in the Bethel Baptist Church in Frierson, LA and later joined the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. He was a visionary, who created and led the Southern University Marching Band, affectionately

known as the Human Jukebox for 36 years.

Dr. Greggs graduated from Central Colored High School in Shreveport, LA and at 15 years of age enrolled in Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge, LA, where he received a B.S. in music education. He received a M.S. in music education from Vander Cook College in Chicago, IL. Later, he entered the University of Peru to complete his doctorate degree in music. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army. His service in the Army was honored with and dedicated to playing in the Army band, 4th Division, 4th Infantry, APO 39, and to playing early morning reverie. While in Germany, he received the Occupational Medal.

After his return from service in the U.S. Army, he began teaching at J. S. Clark Junior High School and Notre Dame High School in Shreveport, LA. He and his family later moved to Baton Rouge, LA where he taught and directed the band at the Southern University Laboratory School. During his tenure at Southern University, Dr. Greggs directed countless future band directors, musicians, and myriad of industry leaders outside of music. He attracted thousands of students to Southern, who were drawn as a result of his unmatched leadership and lyrical genius. Under his leadership, the Human Jukebox performed at six Super Bowls, four Sugar Bowls and three Presidential inaugurations. His grueling practices were well known throughout Louisiana and the discipline that Dr. Greggs instilled in his musicians produced exceptional results year end and year out. Dr. Greggs retired in 2005.

With pride, the State of Louisiana honored Dr. Greggs in 2013 by inducting the legendary band leader into the Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame for his commitment to serving African American students for nearly four decades. He was also the recipient of the Key of Life Award at the 31st NAACP Image Awards; an award created in honor of Stevie Wonder and presented each year to a musician who embodies Wonder's "inner vision."

Dr. Isaac Greggs was a true inspiration to all that had the great privilege of knowing him. I am grateful and honored to have known him. He will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences go out to his wife of 58 years, Rose Audrey Metoyer Greggs; his children: Audree Greggs Vaughn (Percy), Colette Greggs, Dedrick Jon Greggs (Carla), and Mark Eric Greggs (Tricia); grandchildren: Kirsten Vaughn Watson (Benjamin), Kory Greggs Vaughn MD, Jamal Greggs Russell, Kyle Greggs Russell, Daniel Isaac Greggs and Casey Daniel Greggs; great-grandchildren Grace Makayla Watson, Naomi Love Watson, Isaiah Benjamin Watson and Judah Seth Watson, and a host of other relatives, family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents: Sarah and Isaac Greggs, brother Edmond and sister Ellen Greggs.