

Total Spending

The Omni bill provides \$1.012 trillion in funding for the federal government for the rest of Fiscal Year 2014, through September 2014.

The 1,582 page bill provides \$520.46 billion for Defense funding and an additional \$92 billion for the war. \$491.77 billion is provided for nondefense funding, plus an additional \$5.6 billion for disaster aid.

Under the Budget Control Act, FY 2014 was the final year spending reductions were scheduled to lower the deficit. Discretionary spending under BCA would have been \$967 billion in FY 2014. This legislation is a \$45 billion (nearly 5%) increase over the BCA level.

The CR on which the federal government is currently running funds operations at an annualized rate of \$986 billion, which was the BCA established level for FY 2013.

This represents a failure of Congress once again to consider the individual appropriations bills. These bills were meant to be considered individually, in the full light of day, so members of Congress can debate and discuss the priorities at each agency.

Even more, this legislation breaks the promise Congress and Washington made to taxpayers, to begin to reduce our deficit and turn the country's finances around.

The Omni not only breaks the Budget Control Agreement, but snatches away the only real spending reductions scheduled to occur during our time in the Senate.

The omnibus has provides \$2 billion more for OCO than last year despite drawdown and nearly \$6 billion more than the request (despite cutting some items in the request). Since most of OCO funding goes to replenish existing DoD accounts for operations and maintenance, procurement, etc., it easy for DoD to use those funds to backfill cuts below the request for the base defense budget.

CHIIMPS

The omnibus contains \$17.9 billion in Changes in Mandatory Programs (CHIMPS) for fiscal year 2014.

Changes in mandatory programs (CHIMPs) in annual appropriations have the potential effect of providing more discretionary spending for a fiscal year than the statutory limits appear to allow.

For example, the amount of discretionary spending provided for FY2014, excluding the budgetary effects of the CHIMPs, is actually over \$17.9 billion more than the statutory limits appear to allow for discretionary spending for FY2014.

Congress has included two types of "CHIMPS" in legislation. The first form requires a permanent cancellation of mandatory funds. One could make the argument, in some cases, this represents a real offset for increasing discretionary spending.

The Crime Victims Fund (CVF) "CHIMPS" does **not** reflect a permanent reduction in funds. Instead, the CHIMP involves an obligation limitation. Congress does not actually rescind or transfer money out of the fund.

According to CRS, “The difference between the fund’s balance and the capped amount due to the obligation limitation is scored as a reduction or offset (i.e., as a CHIMP as explained above) in the Department of Justice (DOJ) total discretionary spending in a given fiscal year. Moreover, that offset also affects the discretionary spending total in measures reported in the Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill.”

The CRS memo also notes the scorekeeping rules do not “appear to distinguish between delays in mandatory spending and the permanent cancellation of mandatory spending.”

The Crime Victims Fund “CHIMPS” provision raises another specific policy concern. Each year Congress uses the surplus balance in the Crime Victims Fund (mandatory spending) in order to increase discretionary spending.

However, Congress never actually transfers or rescinds the money out of the fund. Next year, the “extra money” will still remain in the Crime Victims Fund.

As a result of criminal fines and the fund’s carryover, each year the balance of Crime Victims Fund has grown, which also resulted in the scoring of the budget gimmick to increase. For example, the scoring of the Crime Victims Fund “CHIMP” increased from \$1.2 billion in 2003 to \$9.2 billion in 2013.

Table 3. Selected Estimates of Changes in Mandatory Programs (CHIMPs)
 Crime Victims Fund and Totals, FY2003-FY2005, FY2007-FY2013 in millions of dollars

Category	Fiscal Year									Pres. Req.		Enacted	
	2003	2004	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010*	2011	2012	2012	2013	2013	
Criminal justice assistance													
Office of Justice Programs, <i>Crime victims fund</i>													
Account 15 5041 0 2 754													
BA	-1,200	-1,095	-888	-1,253	-1,373	-1,909	-3,290	-4,919	-6,641	-7,113	-8,491	-9,224	
Outlays	-420	-383	-311	-447	-481	-668	-823	-639	*	*	-595	-646	
Grand Totals													
BA	-1,972	-1,930	-1,492	-5,906	-7,817	-7,526	-5,455	-17,512	-9,585	-18,814	-18,521	-18,611	
Outlays	-919	-448	1,698	-790	-487	-926	-940	-1,159	*	*	-2,066	-784	

Some Examples of Parochial Spending in the Omni

The bill would maintain funding of \$16.7 million for the East-West Center, a cultural exchange center located in Hawaii, and a project of late Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel K. Inouye.

\$10 million for the Denali Commission

Allows the NEA to award a grant to an individual only if it is for a “literature fellowship, National Heritage Fellowship, or American Jazz Masters Fellowship.” (page 833)

Washington State

Provides \$65 million for Pacific salmon recovery for the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska and the federally recognized tribes of the Columbia River and Pacific Coast

These Washington projects are listed in the committee statement and derived from the administration's budget request:

- \$210,000 for construction at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
- \$1.1 million for construction at Abernathy National Fish Hatchery System
- \$970,000 for construction at Makah National Fish Hatchery System
- \$50,000 for construction at Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery
- \$5.89 million for repairs at Olympic National Park
- \$3 million for land acquisition at Washington Cascades-Yakima River watershed

Department of Interior funding made available for coral reef initiative activities and brown tree snake control and research

Continues to prohibit USPS from moving to five day delivery or closing rural post offices.

Guam

Sec. 8102 directly contravenes the FY14 NDAA by providing \$120 million for a public regional health laboratory and civilian wastewater improvements in Guam. Since Congress has not yet received a sufficient cost analysis of the proposed movement of troops from Okinawa to Guam, the Armed Services Committees of the House and Senate explicitly prohibited premature investments in civilian infrastructure. See detailed memo from McCain's office at the end.

Funding for Guam is also provided through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities

Department of Interior funding for territories provides grants to the government of Guam. The bill allows the governor of Guam to transfer funds from various accounts to use for "construction and repair projects in Guam."

Alabama

\$69,500,000 for new construction and repair to meet the housing requirements of the Judiciary's Southern District in Mobile, Alabama

Kansas

\$404 million for construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas.

California

\$37 million for the California Bay Delta Restoration

\$128 million for new construction for a port of entry in San Ysidro, California

Colorado

\$13.9 million for new construction for a port of entry in Lakewood, Colorado

Hawaii

Designates a federal building in Hilo, Hawaii as the Daniel K. Inouye United States Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center

Museums

\$4.2 million for the Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

\$1.5 million for the biodiversity Center
\$284,000 for the World Cultures Center
\$2 million for the Anacostia Community Museum
\$593,000 for the American Experience Center
\$3.2 million for the Museum Conservation Institute
\$10 million for the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian
\$20.2 million for the Museums for America
\$7.6 million for the National Leadership Museums

Agency Specific Details

FAA

Good:

- Reduced the Small Community Air Service Development Program from \$10 million to \$5 million (you have proposed elimination in BIB, Wastebook, and amendments)
- Maintains funding for the 149 contract towers the FAA threatened to eliminate last year

Questionable:

- Includes \$149 million for Essential Air Service - \$42 million above the authorization level

Department of Interior

Good

- requires transparency of litigation fees paid for with federal funds by the Department of Interior, EPA, and Forest Service

Questionable:

- \$306 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- mandates the continued funding of the National Capitol Area Performing Arts Program at \$2.1 million despite the Administration requesting elimination
- includes an authorization extension and funding of \$1.9 million for the Chesapeake Gateways and Trails program and extend the authorization for this wasteful program
- extends the 12 National Heritage Areas authorizations that have all gone past the 15 year original sunset and funds the entire program at \$18.3 million, double the administration's request
- \$98.1 million for land acquisition and state assistance for the National Park Service, including \$2.7 million for 3 acres on the Virgin Islands
- no increased funding for deferred maintenance backlog issues

Environment

Applies a Buy America reference to iron and steel products used in projects that utilize the \$2.3 billion in Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Funds

Includes a provision to delay flood insurance rate changes based on new maps through the length of the appropriations

Trade**Export-Import Bank***Existing Programs*

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY2014 Funding</i>	<i>FY2013 Funding</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Ex-Im OIG	\$5.1 million	\$4 million	+\$1.1 million

Education**Department of Education***Existing Programs*

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY2014 Funding</i>	<i>FY2013 Funding (post-sequestration)</i>	<i>Difference</i>
ESEA Title I	\$14.4 billion	\$13.8 billion	+\$0.6 billion
ESEA Title II		\$2.3 billion	
Head / Early Start	\$8.6 billion	\$7.6 billion	+\$1.0 billion
IDEA	\$11.5 billion	\$11.0 billion	+\$0.5 billion
Impact Aid	\$1.3 billion	\$1.3 billion	+\$0.06 billion
School Improvement Grant Program	\$505 million	\$505 million	--
Federal Work Study	\$975 million	\$926 million	+\$49 million
Dept. of Ed. Total	\$70.6 billion	\$68.8 billion	+\$1.8 billion

Notes

- Maximum Pell Grant award is increased by \$85 to \$5,730.

New Programs

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY2014 Funding</i>	<i>FY2013 Funding (post-sequestration)</i>	<i>Difference</i>
First in the World Initiative	\$75 million	--	+\$75 million

Labor**Department of Labor**

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY2014 Funding</i>	<i>FY2013 Funding</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Job Corps	\$1.65 billion	\$1.64 billion	+\$0.075 billion
WIA Total	\$2.6 billion	\$2.5 billion	+\$0.1 billion

Notes:

- Includes a 1 percent pay increase for civilian federal employees and U.S. military personnel

Social Security**Social Security Administration**

<i>Program</i>	<i>FY2014 Funding</i>	<i>FY2013 Funding</i>	<i>Difference</i>
SSA Program Acct.	\$11.7 billion	\$1.4	+\$0.265 billion

OBAMACARE

ObamaCare Funding - The bill does not provide new Budget Authority for the federal Exchange. In addition, no new ObamaCare programs are funded.

Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) – The bill cuts off the HHS Secretary’s \$1 billion slush fund by allocating funding for the PPHF to important prevention programs determined by the Subcommittee. PPHF funds are used to fund high priority health care programs for Republicans, including Alzheimer’s activities, immunization programs, and cancer and diabetes prevention programs. In FY2013, the Secretary used \$453.8 million from the PPHF to fund the federal Exchange.

CMS Funding – The bill includes the same funding level for CMS Program Management as the FY2013 level with sequester. The bill does not provide the President’s requested \$1.5 billion funding increase for the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Office of the Secretary – The bill includes the same funding level for the Secretary’s operations account as in FY2013 with sequester.

Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) Rescission – The bill rescinds \$10 million from IPAB. IPAB is a 15 member board of unelected bureaucrats created by the ACA to achieve a reduction in Medicare spending through the only means they have – rationing care.

HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) – The bill includes \$71 million, an increase of \$23.5 million over the current level, to strengthen oversight of HHS programs including the ACA.

Nonrecurring Expenses Fund (NEF) – Starting in FY2013, HHS has the authority to transfer unobligated balances from expired accounts into NEF for nonrecurring capital acquisitions such as IT procurements. However, last year HHS used over \$500 million for ACA Information Technology related activities. This agreement includes report language requiring HHS to include in the FY2015 budget justification the total amount of expired unobligated balances available to be transferred into NEF.

OIG Oversight Plan – The agreement includes report language requiring the OIG to develop a plan on how it will conduct ACA oversight activities.

ACA Exchange Transparency – A provision is included to bring increased transparency to funding for the federal Exchange. The Secretary is required to provide Congress specific details on how much money is being used for the federal Exchange. At a minimum, the information must include the ACA section that was funded, the amount of funds, the programs supported, and amount of funding used to implement the federal Exchange under each program.

ACA Analysis – This bill requires the Secretary to include within the FY2016 budget justification an analysis of how section 2713 (preventative and public health services) of the Public Health Service Act will affect individuals’ eligibility for HHS discretionary programs. This provision was included to determine how the ACA will affect HHS programs that offer some types of preventative services that should be covered for free by the health insurance carrier as part of the essential benefits requirement.

ACA Full Time Employee Report – The bill contains a provision requiring HHS to publish a report on the Department’s website detailing how many federal employees and contractors they currently have and will employ in the future to implement the provisions of the ACA.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -- \$6.9 billion, a \$567 million increase from FY2013.

National Institutes of Health -- \$29.9 billion, \$1 billion above FY13 level.

National Science Foundation -- \$7.2 billion, decrease of \$82 million below FY13

NASA- \$17.6 billion, an increase of \$120 million over FY13.

PEPFAR – Fully funded at budget request of \$5.7 billion, with \$1.65 billion going to the Global Fund.

Abortion

- Ban on needle exchange
- Ban on federal funding for abortion except in cases of rape, incest and endangering life of the mother
- Ban on creating embryos for research purposes
- Prevents DC from using local or federal funds for abortions or abortion-related services

HUD -- Overall budget reduced by \$687 million to \$32.8 billion.

- \$26.3 billion for section 8 and Indian housing, an increase of \$411 million over last year but less than requested. Efficiency reforms will supposedly save \$200 million in FY14, and \$1 billion over three years.
- CDBG is funded at about \$3 billion, \$82 million over FY13.
- \$10.5 billion for other housing programs (elderly, disabled, and others).
- Contains a provision exempting public housing authorities in Los Angeles, Alaska, Iowa, and Mississippi from including a resident on their board of directors as required of all PHAs. (This provision has been included in the past.)
- Switches section 8 inspections to biennial schedule to ease administrative burden.
- Includes provisions to strengthen penalties against slumlords.
- Includes better targeting to extremely low-income people.
- Extends authorization for US Interagency Council on Homelessness to 2016 (currently expires in October 2015).
- Prohibits federal funding for projects that employ eminent domain for “economic development”

Department of Commerce -- \$8.2 billion, an increase of \$113 million over FY13, most of which is due to an increase for NOAA.

Department of Agriculture

Funding

- Top-line appropriations for USDA = \$20.88 billion, a **3.4% increase** from \$20.2 in FY2012
- Offices of Secretary, Tribal Relations, and Chief Economist increase from \$16.2 million to \$22.326 million (*all subsequent figures in millions unless noted*)
- IG’s Office increases from \$85.6 to \$89.9

- Buildings, Facilities, and Rental Payments increases from \$230.4 to \$233
- Other Departmental Administration Offices increases from \$131.3 to \$138.7
- Agricultural Research Service, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Economic Research Service, and National Agricultural Statistics Service increase from \$2,533.2 to \$2,638.8
- Animal Health and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) increases from \$819.7 to \$824.9
- Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) increases from \$37.8 to \$40.3
- Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) increases from \$1,004.4 to \$1,010.7
- Conservation Programs *decrease* from \$844.0 to \$824.9
- Child Nutrition Programs increase from \$18.15 billion to \$19.29 billion
- Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program increases from \$6.62 billion to \$6.72
- SNAP increases from \$80.4 billion to \$82.2
- Commodity Assistance Program increases from \$242.3 to \$269.7
- Nutrition Programs Administration increases from \$138.5 to \$141.3

General Provisions

- No funds may be used for first-class travel by employees of agencies funded by this Act
- *Earmark*: \$600,000 to the Farm Service Agency to carry out a pilot program to demonstrate the use of new technologies that increase the rate of growth of reforested hardwood trees on private nonindustrial forests lands, enrolling lands on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.
- Maintains eligibility for RHS loans for any area eligible as of September 30, 2013 (maintaining exemption for larger areas that should not qualify)
- \$1 million for a private-sector entity to conduct an assessment of the existing and prospective scope of domestic hunger and food insecurity; establishment of the “National Commission on Hunger,” to which this private entity reports
- USDA cannot publish the final rule relating to GIPSA and “competitive injury”
- No funds may be used to inspect horses set for slaughter under the Federal Meat Inspection Act
- Disapproves of USDA’s implementation of Country of Origin Labeling regulations in WTO dispute with Mexico and Canada

Department of Energy

Funding

- Top-line appropriations for Department of Energy = \$27.28 billion, a **1.9% increase** from \$25.75 in FY2012
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy increases from \$1.8 billion to \$1.9 billion
- Building Technologies: the agreement provides \$25.8 million for solid state lighting research and development (*all subsequent figures in millions unless noted*)
- The agreement provides \$2 million for the clean cookstoves effort
- Electricity Delivery and Reliability increases from \$139.1 to \$147.3
- Nuclear Energy increases from \$765.4 to \$889.2, a 16% increase
- Fossil Energy R&D increases from \$346.7 to \$562.1, a **62% increase**. Of this total, \$392.3 goes to Carbon Capture and Storage funding, an increase from \$368.6 in FY2012. It is unclear where the rest of the increase goes, although “Program Direction” is the most likely source
- Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves increases from \$14.9 to \$20.0
- Strategic Petroleum Reserve *decreases* from \$192.7 to \$189.4
- Energy Information Administration increases from \$105 to \$117

- Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund increases from \$472.2 to \$598.8
- Office of Science increases from \$4.87 billion to \$5.07 billion
- The Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program is provided \$42 million, offset by estimated revenues of \$22 million for a net appropriation of \$20 million. This program was not funded in FY2012
- Departmental Administration increases from \$126 to \$234.6, an 86% increase

General Provisions

- The Department is directed to continue conducting only research, development, and demonstration activities advancing technologies that can produce fuels and electricity from biomass and crops that could not otherwise be used as food.
- The Department has continued to ignore the statutory directive to submit a report to Congress regarding the effects of expanding the Strategic Petroleum Reserve on the domestic petroleum market by April 27, 2009. The Department has not yet submitted the report, and continues to fail to meet other congressionally mandated deadlines without explanation or cause.
- Prohibits funds to implement or enforce higher efficiency light bulb standards (aka the ban on incandescent light bulbs)

Defense Department

Overall funding levels remain consistent with FY13 sequester amounts, but \$29 billion less than the President's budget request.

	FY13 enacted	FY14	% change
Total	\$597.6B	\$565.0B	-0.05
Personnel	\$127.5B	\$128.7B	0.01
Operations & Maintenance	\$173.5B	\$159.8B	-0.08
Procurement	\$100.3B	\$92.8B	-0.07
Research & Development	\$69.9B	\$62.9B	-0.10
Overseas Contingency Operations	\$86.9B	\$85.1B	-0.02

The bill caps the military pay raise at 1 percent for a savings of \$580 million, and exempts disabled veterans from the cut to military retiree Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, but does not provide an offset for the cost, estimated at \$600 million.

The Operations & Maintenance (O&M) accounts took the biggest cuts at 8 percent; however, an additional **\$5.6 billion was added to the OCO account to supplement sequester cuts** to the O&M accounts, the net result being that O&M is cut by slightly less than 3 percent. While \$1 billion of this is appropriated for migration and refugee assistance for Syria, **\$1 billion is appropriated for equipment purchases for the National Guard and Reserve that does not belong in a supplemental bill.**

Most programs took small cuts, and notably, the bill reduces funding for various Other Procurement programs (a Back in Black recommendation) including radios and night vision devices, as well as a \$150 million in Military Intelligence Program (MIP) funding for the Army’s Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS-A).

The bill prohibits the Administration from transferring Guantanamo detainees to the U.S., funding modifications to facilities in the U.S. for the purpose of housing those detainees.

The bill includes funding for weapons not requested by the services, including:

- \$90 million for Abrams tank upgrades to maintain “critical industrial base capability.”
- \$1.2 billion to the Navy’s request for the Virginia-class submarine to fully fund a second submarine in FY14 (the Navy had requested partial funding).
- Eight additional MQ-9 Reaper UAVs (the Air Force requested 12).

The bill funds research not requested by the DOD, including:

- \$6M for Human, Social and Culture Behavior Modeling
- \$46.7M for Weapons Technology
- \$70M for Common Kill Vehicle Technology

The bill includes a \$31.5M plus up for the Navy to administer the C.W. Bill Young Marrow Donor Recruitment and Research Program in support of the Bone Marrow Registry.

The bill includes an over \$800M plus up for peer-reviewed medical research into ALS, Alzheimer’s disease, autism, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, among others. **This more than doubles funding for DOD medical research.**

The bill increases funding for the National Guard counter-drug program by \$150M (you recommended a reduction of \$250M in Back in Black).

The bill includes \$60M in plus ups for alternative energy research, which is in addition to the \$150 million in Energy Conservation Investment Program (ECIP) funding and the funding the services are allocating toward alternative energy projects. The plus ups include \$25 million for combat vehicle and automotive alternative energy research, \$25 million for alternative energy research under Force Protection Applied Research, and \$10 million under the Air Force’s Support Systems Development Research.

Military Construction-VA

Military Construction funding took an eight percent cut. Funding is generally consistent with the requested amounts, with the exception being infrastructure to support KC-46A operations at McConnell AFB in Kansas, and Altus AFB in Oklahoma.

	FY13 enacted	FY14	% change
Total	\$147.0B	\$159.1B	0.08
Military Construction/Housing	\$10.6B	\$9.8B	-0.08
Department of Veterans Affairs	\$136.0B	\$149.1B	0.10

Veterans Benefits Administration	\$73.0B	\$84.8B	0.16
Veterans Health Administration	\$55.2B	\$56.3B	0.02
Department Administration	\$7.5B	\$7.8B	0.04
National Cemetery Administration	\$260M	\$250M	-0.04
Administrative Provisions	(\$1.9M)	(\$232M)	121.11
Other Agencies	\$338M	\$246M	-0.27

VA saw a 10 percent increase in its budget, resulting from increases for both benefits and health care administration.

To manage the benefits claims backlog, an additional \$30 million above the requested levels is provided for IT system upgrades and claims processor training. Similarly, almost \$13 million more than the request is provided to the Board of Veterans Appeals to address the appeals backlog.

The VA is encouraged to strengthen resources for Military Sexual Trauma (MST) for victims of military sexual assault, which will result in additional benefits claims for MST related PTSD, as well as new programs for MST.

The bill includes an additional \$40 million in advance appropriations for medical services, \$4.7 billion in advance appropriations for medical facilities, and an additional \$35 million above requested levels for vet centers and suicide prevention outreach.

To address opioid prescription drug abuse among veterans, a report on VA physician attendance at opioid prescription management continuing medical education is required within 90 days of the bill's enactment.

State and Foreign Operations

State and Foreign Ops funding is cut by eight percent, with funding generally remaining consistent with FY13 levels and the President's request.

	FY13 enacted	FY14	% change
Total	\$53.4B	\$49.1B	-0.08
State Department and Related Agencies	\$13.6B	\$14.0B	0.03
Administration of Foreign Assistance	\$1.2B	\$1.2B	0.00
Bilateral Economic Assistance	\$18.0B	\$18.1B	0.01
International Security Assistance	\$7.2B	\$7.3B	0.01

Multilateral Assistance	\$2.9B	\$2.9B	0.00
Export and Investment Assistance	(\$508M)	(\$1.1B)	-1.00
General Provisions	(\$400M)	\$1M	1.00
Overseas Contingency Operations	\$11.2B	\$6.5B	-0.42

An additional \$76 million above the President's request was added for diplomatic security protection resulting from Benghazi.

Though OCO funding was cut by 42 percent overall, \$1.3 billion is added for Syrian refugee assistance; however no funding requested for UN peacekeeping in Syria is appropriated.

\$1.3 billion in military aid and \$250 million in economic assistance for Egypt is made contingent on the constitutional referendum and democratic elections, and the Secretary of State must certify that Egypt is upholding its obligations under the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty before any aid can be provided.

Funding for the Afghan government is withheld pending the signing of the bilateral security agreement.

A Few Provisions of Interest

Tax Cheats

Every section of the bill (except leg branch approps) includes a prohibition against entering into contracts with contractors or grantees that have not paid their taxes. Different prohibitions apply to each section. For some, the prohibition only applies to contracts or grants over \$5 million, and for others it applies to every contract/grant. It is unclear how effective these policies will be in prohibiting the government from paying out contracts to tax cheats.

Official Portraits

Prohibits funds in the bill from being used for the painting of a portrait of an officer or employee of the federal government, including the President, the Vice President, a member of Congress (including a Delegate or a Resident Commissioner to Congress), the head of an executive branch agency, or the head of an office of the legislative branch

Conference Travel

The CJS section and the State Department section include a prohibition of not sending more than 50 on international conferences.

The bill also codifies the OMB memo calling for transparency reporting for conferences over \$100,000 and notifying IG about conferences over \$20,000.

The bill requires no funds can used for a conference not in compliance with the OMB memo.

WASTEBOOK

Confronted with self-imposed budget cuts necessary to trim years of trillion dollar shortfalls, Washington protested that it could not live within its means. Yet, sequestration did little to prevent nearly \$30 billion some of Washington's worst wasteful spending. And now, Congress is increasing spending with this bill, and has failed to address any areas of waste, fraud, duplication and mismanagement.

Wastebook 2013 details 100 projects wasting nearly \$30 billion in taxpayer's funds in an epic year of spending squalor. For example, Washington managed to provide benefits to the Fort Hood shooter, study romance novels, help the State Department buy Facebook fans and even help NASA study Congress.

Had just these 100 been eliminated, the sequester amount would have been reduced nearly a third without any noticeable disruption.

Top Ten

1. Federal Employees Paid to Do Nothing - \$400 million
2. It's a Bird. It's a Plane. It's Superman! - \$10 million
3. Uncle Sam Looking for Romance Online - \$914,000
4. Studying Attitudes Towards Filibuster - \$251,525
5. Beachfront Boondoggle in Hawaii - \$500 million
6. Pimping the Tax Code in Nevada - \$17.5 million
7. Mass Destruction of Weapons at DoD - \$7 billion
8. Let Me Google That for You Office - \$50 million
9. Obamacare & the Broken Website - \$379 million
10. Army Buys Blimp Too Heavy to Fly - \$297 million