

2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill Passed

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On Friday, March 23rd President Trump signed into law a \$1.3 trillion appropriation that will fund the federal government through September 30, 2018, the end of the fiscal year. H.R. 1625 – **The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018** – was a 2,232-page bill incorporating all 12 appropriations bills. The new language was introduced on March 20th and passed the House on March 22nd by a vote of 256-167 and passed the Senate shortly after midnight on March 23rd by a vote of 65-32, averting a government shutdown.

This omnibus appropriation bill represented a reversal from recent years of decreased discretionary spending levels. The legislation sets defense spending levels at \$700 billion and non-defense spending at \$591 billion. The enactment last month of the of the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018* paved the way for the higher spending levels reflected in the omnibus. The bill increased defense spending by \$80 billion dollars and an additional \$71 billion in defense related Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). The omnibus also appropriates \$63 billion above previous caps in domestic discretionary programs.

Some notable funding items in the omnibus include:

- \$7.9 billion for FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. This is in addition to the nearly \$126 billion in supplemental disaster relief that has already been appropriated during FY 2018
- \$21.2 billion to support to rebuild and improve infrastructure, including transportation and capital projects, water and wastewater projects, and rural broadband
- \$175 million for flood mitigation activities under the National Flood Insurance Program
- \$8.3 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a 15% increase over FY 2017
- \$5.43 billion for Community Health Centers to provide health care services to medically underserved communities

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