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## **Summary: Fiscal Year 2011 Consolidated Appropriations Legislation**

Washington, DC – The Senate Appropriations Committee today released details of the FY 2011 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a substitute amendment to the House passed Continuing Resolution (H.R. 3082). The legislation is \$29 billion below the cost of the budget proposed by the President and equal to the topline Budget Authority level of \$1.108 trillion as proposed in the Sessions-McCaskill amendment.

**“While I appreciate the work that the House has done in producing a full year Continuing Resolution, I do not believe that putting the government on autopilot for a full year is in the best interest of the American people,”** said Appropriations Committee Chairman Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii).

**“The substitute amendment I introduce today represents the bipartisan work of the Committee. The twelve bills included in this package fulfill the Congress’ most basic responsibility, to exercise the power of the purse. As an example, who among us believes we should base our spending recommendations for defense, homeland security and veterans on whatever level was needed last year?”**

**“This measure reflects a year’s worth of work by members of both parties. Together, we have closely scrutinized the President’s budget request, held hundreds of hearings, thousands of meetings, and asked literally tens of thousands of questions to each and every federal department and agency seeking justification for how taxpayer dollars are being spent. This Omnibus measure is not perfect, but it represents a far superior alternative to the Continuing Resolution.”**

### **[Link to Omnibus Text](http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=ad31335e-5623-4d30-be2a-0aa657a3a52d)**

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### ***Omnibus vs. Continuing Resolution***

The Omnibus, in contrast to a Continuing Resolution, lives up to Congress’ constitutional responsibility to provide federal agencies with the direction and the resources they require, most critically for national defense and homeland security. Below are a number of specific programs that would be impacted if forced to operate under a Continuing Resolution:

- A CR would fail to implement more than \$10.2 billion in cuts made to wasteful, poor performing, or terminated military programs. In the Omnibus, these funds are redirected to high priority programs.
- Head Start: The Omnibus includes an \$840 million increase for Head Start, including increases to improve the quality and oversight of Head Start programs across the country.

The CR includes an increase of only \$314 million, putting over 60,000 disadvantaged children in limbo over whether they'll receive comprehensive early childhood care next year.

- Child Care: The omnibus includes a \$681 million increase for child care for low-income families. The CR includes an increase of only \$374 million, meaning about 45,000 fewer low-income children and their families would receive child care subsidies. These are families that are working, or in some cases looking for work, and that depend on these subsidies to do so.
- The Deepwater Horizon oil spill earlier this year showed that the Coast Guard requires additional resources to improve oversight of the maritime industry, including offshore oil rigs. The Omnibus provides \$12.8 million above the CR for this purpose, including up to 100 new Coast Guard maritime inspectors.
- Not passing the Omnibus would halt new national security enhancements intended to improve the FBI's cyber security, WMD and counterterrorism capabilities, and assist in litigation of intelligence and terrorism cases. The FBI would be unable to hire 126 new agents and 32 intelligence analysts to strengthen national security and counter terrorist threats.
- The CR does not provide the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) with the resources necessary to enhance our defenses against terrorist attacks, such as Northwest Flight 253 and the recent attempts against all-cargo aircraft. The Omnibus bill provides \$219.6 million above the CR for TSA to acquire 800 explosives trace detection units, 275 additional canine teams, hire 31 additional intelligence officers, and strengthen international aviation security.

### **Highlights of important policies and initiatives contained in the Omnibus:**

The bill provides \$667.7 billion in new discretionary spending authority for the Department of Defense, including \$157.8 billion for overseas contingency operations.

- The bill provides sufficient funding to close the Pell Grant "shortfall" and prevent a cut to the \$5,550 maximum award, and additional funding to improve mine safety.
- The bill provides a total of \$3.8 billion for State and Local Law Enforcement, which is \$115.5 million above the enacted level and \$345 million above the President's budget request, for grants to aid local and state law enforcement and crime victims. From 2001 to 2006 these grant programs were cut by nearly \$2 billion.
- For Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraq Freedom (OEF/OIF), \$2.6 billion is provided, equal to the request, to meet the health care needs of veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, a \$597 million increase over last year. The VA estimates that the number of OEF/OIF veterans in its health care system will reach 439,271 in 2011, a 68% increase since 2008. This funding includes research and treatment programs for mental health issues, including Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
- The bill reorganizes the former Minerals Management Service to create the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. This new bureau will ensure better and safer management of our nation's energy and minerals resources, including offshore drilling permitting and leasing, worker safety issues, and protection from avoidable environmental

disasters. The bill will enable the agency to double the outer continental shelf oil and gas inspection workforce.

- The Omnibus provides \$3.58 billion to fully fund 20,500 Border Patrol agents, of whom over 17,000 will be based on the Southwest Border – more than double the number of agents on board in 2004.

**Summaries for the individual Divisions of the bill can be found at the following links:**

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-agriculture.cfm>

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

<http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news.cfm?method=news.view&id=00058c70-649a-435f-9b73-85832758a0b1>

Defense

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-defense.cfm>

Energy & Water Development

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-energy.cfm>

Financial Services and General Government

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-financial.cfm>

Homeland Security

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-homeland-security.cfm>

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-interior.cfm>

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-labor.cfm>

Legislative Branch

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-legislative.cfm>

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-military.cfm>

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-state.cfm>

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/sc-transportation.cfm>