



**Legislative Bulletin.....May 29, 2014**

**Contents:**

**Amendments to H.R. 4660 - Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (Wolf, R-VA) – Part III**

**Further Updates on amendments will be sent as they become available.**

---

---

**Amendments to H.R. 4660 - Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (Wolf, R-VA) – Part III**

The Committee Report can be found [here](#), and the text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

**Amendments with Requested Votes:**

1. **Thompson (D-CA)**: Increases funding for [National Instant Criminal Background Check System \(NICS\)](#) Initiative grants by \$19.5 million. These funds are meant to provide federal grants to states to upgrade criminal and mental health records for NICS, as authorized by the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007. NICS is already funded at \$58.5 million, a level that is already \$3.5 million above the President’s budget request. Gun Owners of America opposes the amendment.

This increase is offset by reducing Commerce Departmental Administration by \$1 million, Justice Information Sharing Technology by \$3 million, Federal Prison System Buildings and facilities by \$5.5 million, and National Science Foundation Agency Operation and Awards Management by \$10 million.

2. **Polis (D-CA)**: Would cut \$35 million from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). This would bring DEA back to the current FY14 enacted level and the President’s budget request. The DEA is funded at \$2.42 billion in the underlying legislation.
3. **Cicilline (D-RI)**: Increases funding by \$8.5 million for DOJ State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance and reduces NASA Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration by \$8.5 million. This funding is meant to support [Project Safe Neighborhoods](#), a grant program that is meant to reduce gun and gang crime.

4. **Smith (R-TX)**: Would reduce National Science Foundation (NSF) Social-Behavioral-Economic (SBE) Directorate by \$15.35 million and refocus those funds on science and technology NSF research directorates. This would freeze the SBE Directorate at the current FY14 level.

This amendment is consistent with the goal of prioritizing NSF research that is in [H.R. 4186](#), the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology (FIRST) Act, which was approved by the Science, Space, and Technology Committee yesterday.

The underlying legislation funds the NSF at \$7.404 billion, \$149 million above the President's request, \$232 million above the FY14 enacted level, and \$409 million above the level proposed by the House Appropriations Committee for FY14. The NSF has not been authorized since 2013. The RSC budget called for reducing funding for the NSF due to [the number of wasteful grants](#) funded by the NSF.

5. **Scott (R-GA)**: Would eliminate funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). In the underlying legislation, the LSC is appropriated \$350 million, \$80 million below the President's request, \$15 million below the FY14 enacted level, and \$50 million above the level proposed by the House Appropriations Committee for FY14.

The LSC has not been authorized since 1980. The RSC Budget calls for the elimination of the LSC, explaining "the LSC has evolved into an organization that also takes part in the advocacy of political causes and lobbying. Coupling the misuse of taxpayer funds with the redundancy of free legal services provided by states and other organizations eliminates the need for this federally funded entity." Several outside groups have advocated eliminating the LSC, including [Heritage](#), [Citizens Against Government Waste](#), and [Cato](#).

**RSC Staff Contact**: Matt Dickerson, [matthew.dickerson@mail.house.gov](mailto:matthew.dickerson@mail.house.gov), 6-9718

**NOTE**: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*