



## **The Reed-Mikulski Amendment for a Safe and Strong America**

*The Bipartisan Budget Act replaced extreme automatic cuts that would have short-changed our national defense, weakened our economy, and cost jobs with smarter savings. The agreement, supported by Republicans and Democrats, established that we will provide what we need for national security and economic security by ensuring that every dollar of investment in defense is matched by a dollar of investment in a strong America. The Reed-Mikulski amendment rejects efforts to break this promise and honors the agreement by investing in a strong America – increasing funding for homeland security while also investing in our nation’s economy and addressing national emergencies such as the Zika virus, the opioid crisis and the failure of our nation’s water infrastructure exposed by the Flint disaster.*

### **\$1.9 Billion to Fund the President’s Zika Emergency Request**

**Presently, more than 1,700 Americans in 45 states, including 341 pregnant women, show evidence of Zika virus infection.** There is no cure or vaccine for the Zika virus and it has been shown to cause severe neurological birth defects, including microcephaly, where a baby’s head and brain are abnormally small. [DPCC, [6/2/16](#)]

**Congress has now waited more than 105 days to act on the President’s request for emergency funding to combat the Zika virus.** That’s two-to-three times longer than Congress waited to act on previous emergency funding requests for infectious disease outbreaks. The President’s request would fund mosquito control activities, development of a Zika virus vaccine, surveillance for Zika virus infections in pregnant women and preventive health measures, such as family planning, for key populations at risk of infection. [DPCC, [5/17/16](#)]

### **\$1.1 Billion to Fight the Growing Opioid Epidemic**

**The President requested \$1.1 billion in additional funding to fight the opioid epidemic.** More than 120 Americans are killed each day by drug overdoses. Last year, three times more Americans died from drug overdoses than car crashes. [ONDCP, [10/8/15](#)]

- Meanwhile, nearly nine out of 10 Americans with substance use disorders don’t receive treatment. [SAMHSA, [9/4/14](#)]

**The National Governors Association, public health officials and local justice officials have said greater funding is a necessity to attack this crisis.** Funding will go towards increasing prevention and education of the dangers of illicit drugs, expanding access to addiction treatment, strengthening state prescription drug monitoring programs and enhancing law enforcement efforts to get drugs off the streets. [National Governors Association, [2/18/16](#)]

## **\$1.9 Billion for Water Infrastructure to Aid Communities like Flint**

**The Flint water crisis, where over 8,000 children were poisoned with lead and over 100,000 Americans remain without safe drinking water, is a historic failure of government to invest in and protect a local water supply.** But Flint is just the tip of the iceberg: across the United States, communities have experienced decades of under-investment in our water infrastructure. A recent *USA Today* [analysis](#) of data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that nearly 2,000 water systems across all 50 states have lead levels in excess of federal limits. [USA Today, [3/11/16](#)]

**Our nation's water infrastructure is crumbling and over 100 years old in most parts of the country.** According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) most recent estimates, more than \$655 billion may be needed to repair and replace drinking water and wastewater infrastructure nationwide over the next 20 years. This comes to \$32.75 billion per year, every year for 20 years, yet we are spending barely \$2 billion combined on both the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds. [EPA, [accessed 6/7/16](#)]

## **\$1.4 Billion for TSA Security and Law Enforcement Needs**

**Reducing long wait times and securing TSA lines.** Hours long wait times and lines at airport security checkpoints across the country are a critical national security issue. Travelers are left exposed in unsecured areas as they wait to be screened by TSA agents. TSA staffing shortages combined with a boom in air travel caused by cheap fares have greatly exacerbated the problem. [Washington Post, [5/29/16](#)]

- Over the last 3 years, TSA lost more than 5,000 screeners due to budget cuts (a 12 percent decrease), while expecting to screen 740 million people this year, 97 million more than flew three years ago. The Reed-Mikulski OCO amendment provides needed funding for TSA to reduce wait times and improve security.

**Boosts funding for our first responders.** The Reed-Mikulski OCO amendment also increases funding for FEMA grants to prepare state and local first responders to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from incidents of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

**Provides funding to hire 2,000 new CBP officers.** In March, Homeland Security Secretary Johnson testified to Congress that additional officers will help CBP better accomplish its border security mission by addressing its current hiring backlog, especially in light of the threat from ISIS and the increase in unaccompanied minors. Importantly, additional CBP officers will also help CBP better respond to and prepare for the recently heightened pace of unaccompanied minors arriving at the Southern border.

**Increases resources for the FBI and the DoJ's COPS hiring program.** The COPS Hiring Program provides grant funding to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to hire entry level law enforcement officers. This helps to preserve jobs, increase community

policing capacity, and prevent crime. [COPS, accessed [6/7/16](#)]

## **\$2 Billion for Cybersecurity**

**Bolstering our vulnerable cybersecurity infrastructure.** The \$2 billion for cybersecurity in this supplemental amendment will support federal efforts to secure the government’s IT networks, fortify critical infrastructure and technologies, invest in modern cybersecurity tools, and strengthen the cybersecurity workforce. [White House, [2/9/16](#)]

- These efforts are designed to help Americans protect their identities, companies secure their operations and information, and the federal government safeguard private individuals’ personal information. [White House, [2/9/16](#)]

## **\$3.2 Billion for Infrastructure Needs of the United States**

### **\$1.25 billion for TIGER grants to invest in crumbling transportation**

**infrastructure.** Our nation’s highways and bridges face an \$808.2 billion backlog of investment needs, including \$479.1 billion in critical repair work. The United States needs \$3.6 trillion in infrastructure investment by 2020 to bring infrastructure to a safe and reliable state of “good repair”. TIGER is an extremely popular program that allows communities to make transformative investments in their surface transportation infrastructure. Demand has been overwhelming, DOT received over 6,700 applications, requesting more than \$134 billion for transportation projects across the country. The Reed-Mikulski amendment, consistent with the President’s request, would enable up to 58 additional communities across the country to make critical transportation investments.

- Americans spend 5.5 billion hours in traffic each year, costing families more than \$120 billion in extra fuel and lost time. American businesses pay \$27 billion a year in extra freight transportation costs, increasing shipping delays and raising prices on everyday products. Underinvestment impacts safety too. There were more than 33,000 traffic fatalities in 2014 alone and roadway conditions are a significant factor in approximately one-third of traffic fatalities. [[DOT](#), [ASCE](#); White House, [7/14](#)]

**Addresses the VA maintenance and facilities backlog:** Roughly 60 percent of VA’s medical facilities are more than 50 years old. The VA estimates a total of \$10 billion to \$12 billion in unfunded requirements to correct deficiencies at hospitals and clinics. A VA Inspector General audit of the Veterans Health Administration found that failure to deal with the \$10 - \$12 billion maintenance backlog jeopardizes patient safety. [VA Inspector General, [5/7/14](#)]

**Affordable Housing Production for Low Income Families:** The nation is facing an affordable housing crisis. More than 35% of very low income renters and 61% of extremely low income renters are no longer able to obtain affordable housing, and more than 7.7 million households are paying more than half of their income towards rent. Since the mortgage housing crisis, the supply of affordable housing has continuously declined all the while the cost of development has increased. The HOME investment partnerships program (HOME) is the

primary federal funding source that allows communities to create and sustain affordable housing for low income families. Since 2011, \$6.4 billion has been provided to states and local governments through the HOME program to produce more than 245,000 units of affordable housing. The Reed-Mikulski amendment could allow states and local governments to rehabilitate up to 65,000 affordable housing units and provide rental assistance to 15,000 families in FY17.

**Accelerates work on the FAA maintenance backlog.** The FAA must safely manage air traffic 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with no room for error. Despite growing needs, annual funding levels for the FAA's facilities and equipment have fallen by \$328 million since 2010. As a result, the FAA has had insufficient funding to perform needed maintenance on its facilities and equipment. The FAA's maintenance backlog has grown by over \$1 billion, now totaling more than \$5 billion. The Reed – Mikulski amendment allows the FAA to address the maintenance backlog, including the modernization of FAA staffed facilities that are in poor condition and the replacement of obsolete Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) Critical Essential Power Systems (ACEPS) that provide critical backup power during commercial outages.

**Prioritizes rail and transit safety.** Our current transit infrastructure is aging, and almost 50% of Americans lack access to public transportation. 70 percent of our transit systems are considered to be in less than good condition, and 45 percent of Americans lack access to public transportation. To meet current demands on our transit systems, the country needs to invest \$43 billion each year, but we only spend \$17 billion. The Northeast Corridor alone is currently running a \$21 billion state of good repair and major projects backlog. According to the NEC Commission's latest report, the Northeast Corridor alone has a Basic Infrastructure backlog of \$7.3 billion for things such as track maintenance and communications and signals; and a Major Projects backlog of \$13.8 billion for large scale repairs to aging bridges and tunnels. Projects awaiting action because of the backlog include century-old bridges and tunnels like the Portal Bridge in New Jersey, the Baltimore and Potomac Tunnels in Maryland, and the Devon Bridge in Connecticut. The Reed – Mikulski amendment would allow Amtrak to continue installation of life saving Positive Train Control as well as other vital safety repairs and upgrades. The amendment also supports capital investment grants through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts, Small Starts and Core Capacity grants across the country. [The Atlantic, 2/6/13; DOT; NEC Commission, 9/16/14]

**National Parks Service maintenance backlog:** As the National Park Service celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it faces billions of dollars in delayed maintenance for projects ranging from replacing water works at the Grand Canyon to making sure the Jefferson Memorial doesn't sink into the Tidal Basin. The National Park Service maintenance backlog for deferred work due to lack of funding has now reached \$12 billion nationwide, a \$440 million increase over last year. [U.S. News, 2/5/16]

### **\$1.9 Billion to Fight the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)**

**Provides funding for the State Department to carry out the fight against ISIL, boost embassy security, and provide assistance to Israel, Jordan and Lebanon:** The President's FY17 budget requested additional funding to stabilize communities liberated from

ISIL in Syria and Iraq; disrupt ISIL's attack-plotting, financing and recruitment; and discredit ISIL propaganda. The President's budget also included a boost for diplomatic facility construction and maintenance to continue the Department's commitment to implementing security recommendations, as well as the ongoing repair and safety of overseas real property assets. Furthermore, additional funding is needed to support U.S. allies, like Jordan and Lebanon that are severely impacted by the Syrian conflict and the influx of millions of Syrian refugees. [[State Department](#); [USAID](#)]

### **\$3.498 Billion for Medical and Scientific Research**

**\$2 Billion to Fund the National Institutes of Health:** The NIH is the primary federal agency charged with performing and supporting biomedical and behavioral research. NIH-funded biomedical research has played a critical role in improving the physical and mental health of Americans. Unfortunately, since FY 2003, the NIH budget has lost 22% of its purchasing power. The amendment includes an increase of \$2 billion for NIH funding to help ensure that America can continue to lead the world in research spending and innovation. [CRS, [4/17/15](#); CAP, [3/25/14](#)]

**\$1.498 billion for the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and clean energy research at the Department of Energy, including the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA-E):** The President's FY17 budget requested a 6.7 increase for the National Science Foundation – an increase of \$500 million over 2016 levels which would allow NSF to make 10,100 new research grants across fields of science and engineering, affecting 377,170 senior researchers, other professionals, postdocs, graduate and undergraduate students, and K-12 students and teachers.

- The President's budget request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is \$19 billion, including \$790 million for aeronautics research aimed at transforming the safety, capacity, and efficiency of the air transportation system while minimizing negative impacts on the environment. The Budget initiates a series of large-scale demonstration projects to test cutting-edge technologies in realistic environments and enable their widespread adoption. Aviation accounts for more than \$1.5 Trillion of annual US economic activity and generates a positive trade balance -- \$78 billion in 2014 alone. [[NASA](#)]
- The President's FY 2017 budget for the Department of Energy budget also supports an agreement made by the United States and 19 other countries to double clean energy research and development over five years. The request puts forward \$5.85 billion in discretionary funding for clean energy R&D at DOE, a 21 percent increase from FY 2016, including increases for DOE's innovation incubator ARPA-E (Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy) and the creation of new regional partnerships that will drive breakthroughs at research universities, labs, and companies across America. [[NSF](#); [DOE](#)]

### **\$202 Million for Wildland Fire Suppression**

**Wildfires across the country have already burned 1.3 million acres – an area the**

**size of Delaware – in the first 3 1/2 months of the year.** That is more than twice the average for this point of the year. Last year, a record 10,125,149 acres burned across the USA, topping the 10-million-acre mark for the first time. The previous record, set in 2006, was 9,873,745 acres. The 2015 figure was about 4 million more acres than average. With catastrophic fires being exacerbated by worsening drought conditions and climate change, it is critical that Congress provide more funding for wildfire suppression to keep pace with estimated needs so that federal fire fighters can combat this threat to life and property. [USA Today, [4/18/16](#)]

### **\$900 Million for Food Safety Modernization, Education, and Job Training**

**After thousands of people were sickened by tainted eggs, peanut butter and spinach in the form of Salmonella and E.Coli outbreaks, Congress passed a sweeping food safety law in 2010 – the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) – that gave the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) new powers to prevent additional outbreaks.** Last year, one in six Americans will get sick from foodborne diseases, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That amounts to nearly 50 million people, resulting in approximately 128,000 hospitalizations, and, tragically, 3,000 deaths. [Consumer Reports, [10/18/15](#)]

- However, Congress has fallen far short in providing the FDA the funding it needs to implement the reforms needed to modernize our food safety system. The Congressional Budget Office said the [F.D.A.](#) would need a total of \$580 million from 2011 to 2015 to carry out the changes required by the [Food Safety Modernization Act](#). So far, Congress has appropriated less than half of that amount. [New York Times, [4/7/15](#)]

**Increases investments for K-12 education.** The amendment includes additional resources to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which Congress passed last year to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the nation’s national education law. The increase in funding will help maintain the law’s original intent to address poverty and educational inequality in the United States by providing targeted funding for children in poverty.

**Helps support education opportunities for students with disabilities.** Special education grants under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) help states with the additional costs of providing educational services to children with disabilities. The amendment provides additional resources to help fund IDEA.

**Provides increased funding for job training programs.** The amendment includes additional resources to implement the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Grants under WIOA provide federal funding for states to implement job training programs and offer assistance to low-skilled adults, dislocated workers, and low-income youth with barriers to employment.

**Helps more Americans afford college.** Higher education remains the best path to the American Dream, but as college has become more critical to economic success, rising costs have

saddled millions with crushing debt and put college out of reach for many more Americans. Today, more than 42 million Americans owe more than \$1.3 trillion in student loan debt. This amendment will provide additional resources to invest in college affordability to help more college students and their families cover the costs of higher education. [Huffington Post, [2/3/16](#)]

### **\$18 Billion in Additional Funding for our Military**

**Provides for a strong defense at home and abroad.** In addition to providing the resources we need for a strong America at home, the Reed-Mikulski amendment supports additional funds to help our military succeed.