



FROM THE NEWSROOM OF:

HOUSE COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

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## **DeLauro Written Statement on 2023 Government Funding Legislation as Submitted to the Congressional Record**

I rise in support of the fiscal year 2023 government funding legislation before us, a package of 12 appropriations bills that makes critical investments to help our communities. The bill also includes legislation to continue the fight against Russian aggression and to help parts of our nation devastated by natural disasters.

For far too long, our economy has been working for billionaires and big corporations that use their power to shape this budget. But over the past two years, we have worked to reverse this trend and reinvest in the programs that hardworking people, small businesses, and communities in need rely on. And they are finally paying taxes.

I came to Washington to do that, inspired by the work of leaders, who in times of despair, brokered life-changing victories whose impact we feel to this day. These are leaders like Hubert Humphrey, who served in these halls, and who held that the “moral test of government” is how we treat those “in the dawn of life...the twilight of life...and the shadows of life.” And I have always held that as a guiding principle.

These bills before us pass this moral test of government—they touch every corner of our nation and impact people at every stage of their lives. With \$1.7 trillion in discretionary resources, we are investing the highest level of funding ever in non-defense government programs while keeping our communities and our nation safe.

This funding helps us tackle the biggest issues facing American families, including inflation and rising costs. We lower the cost of living for hardworking people and the middle class by investing in child care, early learning programs, high poverty schools and students with disabilities, by expanding access to higher education and increasing the maximum Pell Grant award by \$500, by strengthening high-quality job training and apprenticeship programs, and by making the dream of owning a home a more realistic one for many families.

We strengthen our economy by creating better-paying jobs, putting people to work rebuilding our infrastructure, keeping our nation competitive, strengthening our supply

chain, helping small businesses access the capital they need, investing in the economic development of distressed communities, and preserving our advanced manufacturing base. In addition, for the first time since 2010, we included an increase in funding for the National Labor Relations Board to \$299 million, a \$25 million increase, to protect workers' rights to collective bargaining. People haven't seen a pay raise in decades, and this change makes that more likely.

This package also provides a necessary lifeline to families and communities struggling to make ends meet by meeting their basic needs. We are strengthening nutrition assistance, increasing access to affordable housing by creating over 21,500 affordable housing units and expanding housing options for people experiencing homelessness, fighting health disparities and health crises, prioritizing the health of our veterans with a record \$118.7 billion for VA medical care, providing \$800 million, a huge increase of \$650 million, for the migrant Shelter and Services Program, formerly the Emergency Food and Shelter Humanitarian Program, increasing funding by \$125 million for Violence Against Women Act prevention and prosecution programs, and investing in rural broadband.

These investments are strengthened with a recommitment to the funding we need to keep our nation and our communities safe. With strong increases for the Department of Defense, we protect our national security and strengthen our ability to counter China and other near-peer adversaries. We defend global democracy from threats from Russia and China. We enhance our maritime, border, and cyber security, protect our military personnel and installations and prioritize a combination of defense, diplomacy, and global development efforts.

We support our police and state and local law enforcement at all levels with \$4.4 billion in grants, fight the gun violence epidemic on several fronts, and bolster our public health infrastructure and our biomedical research, including with \$47.5 billion for the National Institutes of Health.

We make investments to battle climate change with environmental enforcement and environmental justice efforts, launching a renewed focus on land and water conservation, and investing in clean energy and climate science.

Simultaneously, for the second year in a row after a decade without this funding, this bill includes community projects to meet the needs of districts all over the nation. This package includes over 7,200 projects totaling over \$15 billion and requested by 407 Members and Senators—including 223 Democrats and 120 Republicans in the House.

These projects respond directly to pressing needs locally by supporting underserved areas and making all our communities healthier, safer, and stronger.

And as communities rebuild from recent natural disasters and extreme weather events, this bill provides \$27 billion in urgently needed support to help families, small businesses, and entire towns and cities recover, repair damaged infrastructure, and prepare for future disasters, including \$1 billion for the electric grid in Puerto Rico.

Finally, as Ukraine continues to defend itself against Putin's ruthless attack, this bill provides \$45 billion in emergency funding to support the Ukrainian people and defend global democracy—investments that save lives, make our world safer, and help defend against Putin's continued war crimes. Congress heard from President Zelensky. His plea to us was clear—they desperately need our continued support. In his words, "This struggle will define what world our children and grandchildren will live in." Ukraine's struggle is democracy's struggle—it is a struggle for freedom and independence. We stood and we clapped when he told us last night that our "money is not charity. It's an investment in the global security and democracy that we handle in the most responsible way." Because it is. This funding will save lives and protect democracy. We have no other choice.

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the Appropriations Committee for the past two years and to bring to the Floor yet another strong bill. This package makes critical, bipartisan investments that lower the cost of living for hardworking families, create better-paying jobs, and help communities in need.

I wish more of our priorities had been included—including increased funding for Title X and other family planning programs in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Women are and will continue to suffer until we do more to help them access essential health care services, and I am deeply disappointed we were not able to increase this funding. I will continue to wage the battle for increased resources for women's health.

I want to make it very clear to everyone here and to all our constituents at home that I will never stop fighting for the programs that make the biggest impact as we look to continue passing the moral test of government.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank and congratulate Chairman Leahy and Vice Chairman Shelby for their partnership over the past two years. I wish them all the best in their retirements.

For the House, I extend my sincerest appreciation to the subcommittee Chairs of the Appropriations Committee: Marcy Kaptur, David Price, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Sanford Bishop, Barbara Lee, Betty McCollum, Tim Ryan, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Chellie Pingree, Mike Quigley, and Matt Cartwright. I want to especially acknowledge David, Lucille, and Tim who will not be here with us next Congress and acknowledge them for their outstanding careers. I also thank all of the subcommittee Ranking Members for your partnership and collaboration on these bills.

A special thank you to all of our staff, including Staff Director and Clerk, Robin Juliano, and Deputy Staff Director, Matt Washington—who we will miss dearly upon his departure early next year.

I am grateful for the staff of all the subcommittees - who are up in the gallery with us! – who have sacrificed sleep and time away from their families to help us complete the appropriations process, including our subcommittee Clerks Martha Foley, Bob Bonner, Chris Bigelow, Scott McKee, Matt Smith, Darek Newby—who we recognize and thank upon his upcoming retirement—Rita Culp, Faye Cobb, Stephen Steigleder, Nicole Cohen, Erin Kolodjeski, Jenny Neuscheler, and Christina Monroe.

And the front office staff—Katelynn Thorpe, Danu Rojzman, Jason Gray, Adam Wilson, Raquel Spencer, Alex Swann, Tom Tucker, Ryann Kinney, Sebastian Franco, Celine Wolff, and Robert Baransaka.

And from my personal office—Becky Salay, Jack Rayburn, King Green, Caitlin Peruccio, Marie Gualtieri, Harper White, Molly Opinsky, Jami LaRue, John Neureuther, Merone Kahassai, and Daniel Robillard.

From the minority staff, thank you to Anne Marie Chotvacs, Johnnie Kaberle, Alec Davis, Sara Peters, and the rest of the minority clerks and staff. I look forward to working with the incoming Chair of the Appropriations Committee Kay Granger in the 118th Congress. With Senators Patty Murray and Susan Collins leading the Senate Appropriations Committee, next year will be the first year that the Appropriations Committee will be led on all four corners by women. In fact, this is the first time ever, that any Congressional committee, will have all four corners led entirely by women. I look forward to serving with this historic, highly skilled group of lawmakers.

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