



May 2, 2017

## **Key Vote NO on the Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 244**

On behalf of our activist community, I urge you to contact your representative and ask him or her to vote NO on the Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 244. The bill would fund the federal government for the remainder of FY 2017, which ends on September 30.

The process for this omnibus could not have been worse. This massive, nearly 1,700-page spending measure was negotiated behind closed doors between congressional leadership from both chambers and appropriators.

With a Republican-controlled Congress and a Republican president, this spending bill reflects Obama-era spending levels. The bill annualizes base discretionary spending for FY 2017 at \$1.07 trillion. This spending level blows through the spending caps established by the Budget Control Act of 2011 by \$30 billion. The bill spends an additional \$106 billion for overseas contingency operations, disaster relief, and other spending, which isn't counted toward the spending caps.

In total, the bill authorizes more than \$1.175 trillion in annualized discretionary spending for FY 2017.

The bill also falls short of promoting conservative priorities. While the bill does renew the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program and does not include funding for ObamaCare's cost-sharing subsidies, it allocates nearly \$296 million to bail out Puerto Rico's Medicaid program, preserves current spending levels for the Environmental Protection Agency, increases spending for the National Institutes of Health and the National Endowment for the Arts, and provides a bailout for a private sector labor union.

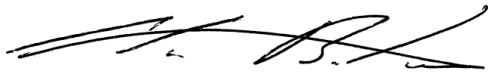
It's telling when the Democratic leader in the Senate, Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), bragged, "Early on in this debate, Democrats clearly laid out our principles. At the end of the day, this is an agreement that reflects those principles."

At some point, Republicans in Congress must look in the mirror and ask themselves, "What are we doing here?" Every election cycle Republicans run on a limited government platform and

claim they're going to cut spending. In Washington, D.C., however, they negotiate with themselves and sell the farm to Democrats for little in return, and conservative priorities get tossed aside. This has to end.

FreedomWorks will count the votes for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 244, when calculating our Scorecard for 2017 and reserves the right to score any related votes. The scorecard is used to determine eligibility for the FreedomFighter Award, which recognizes Members of the House and Senate who consistently vote to support economic freedom and individual liberty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Brandon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Brandon  
President, FreedomWorks