

FY 01 Appropriations Memo
Crime Team
7-21-00

Highest Priority Budget Items

(1) National Gun Enforcement Initiative -- \$280 million total proposed

- Treasury Department: \$94 million proposed for 500 ATF agents and inspectors, ballistics testing (NIBIN), and tracing-related initiatives. We received full funding in House bill and were underfunded by about \$20 million in Senate mark. Senate appropriators are generally supportive of this request, so we should insist on the House-passed level. We should try to get all funding as direct appropriations into the base and no funding out of asset forfeiture funds. **Lowest acceptable level for Treasury portion is \$94 million proposed.**
- Justice Department: \$186 million proposed for: (1) 1,000 state and local gun prosecutors; (2) nearly 100 federal gun prosecutors; (3) smart gun research; (4) local anti-gun violence media campaigns; and (5) ballistics testing (FBI). The House bill only provides funding for federal gun prosecutors (\$15 million). The Senate mark only funds our ballistics increase (\$1.3 million). We should insist on full funding for federal gun prosecutors and ballistics. We should try to get full funding for smart gun research (\$10 million) and insist on full funding for our state and local gun prosecutors (\$150 million) to fund 1,000 state and local gun prosecutors. Fighting for gun prosecutors may be our leading debate point during negotiations on the CJS bill. We also need to be sure that the gun prosecutors (federal and local) are not restricted to prosecuting only a handful of specific gun offenses. **Lowest acceptable level for Justice portion of initiative is \$176 million.**

Lowest acceptable level for entire initiative is \$270 million. At this level, we will fund the largest increase in ATF's history, with 500 ATF agents and inspectors, fund 1,000 more federal, state and local gun prosecutors, and dramatically expand law enforcement's ability to track gun criminals with crime gun tracing and ballistics testing.

(2) COPS (21st Century Policing Initiative) – \$1.325 billion proposed

The COPS initiative as proposed is: (1) \$650 million for hiring and hiring-related expenses; (2) \$200 million for state and local gun and community prosecutors; (3) \$350 million for law enforcement technology; and (4) \$125 million for community crime prevention.

- Hiring. This is the highest priority within the entire initiative as it will fund the hiring of our next installment of officers toward the 50,000 officers goal. The House-passed level of \$435 million would fund 1,000-2,000 fewer officers in FY 2001 than our proposal. The Senate level provides close to the Administration's request, but contains language on school resource officers and COPS MORE that could decrease the number of officers we could fund with the money. We should insist on our \$650 million proposed level to reach our full hiring goal and remove restrictive language on hiring. Within the total for "hiring-related funds", we should push for funding the \$20 million we did not receive last

year for a new police officer scholarship program -- the proposal is strongly supported by both police union and management groups. **Lowest acceptable level is the proposed level of \$650 million.**

- **State and local prosecutors.** Historically, this has been one of the hardest parts of the initiative to fund. Last year, we received \$10 million of our \$200 million community prosecutors request. Neither the House nor Senate bill provide any funding for this proposal. Since community prosecutors (\$50 million) and gun prosecutors (\$150 million) are now combined, we should insist on a higher level for this portion of the initiative. **Lowest acceptable level is \$170 million** -- \$150 million for gun prosecutors (see above) and \$20 million for community prosecutors (doubles current program).
- **Law enforcement technology.** The House provides \$130 million and the Senate provides \$230 million for this proposal. The Senate has provided earmarks much of what would be otherwise be discretionary grants for DOJ. This is critical funding for law enforcement and we should try to get the entire amount. We also should try to ensure that some of the final technology funding is discretionary for DOJ. **Lowest acceptable level is \$350 million proposed.**
- **Community crime prevention.** We did not receive any of this funding in FY 00. Within the \$125 million we proposed are some smaller initiatives to strengthen police and community relations, an important issue for this Administration. This year, we should try to get \$5 million for a police recruitment initiative, \$20 million for a police integrity training initiative, and \$5 million for citizen problem-solving academies. We should also push for \$10 million to help end the resale of used police weapons. **Lowest acceptable level is \$40 million.**

The House and Senate bills contain between \$140 million and \$20 million, respectively of "unobligated" FY 00 balances from hiring to fund FY 01 COPS programs. COPS estimates that there will be no unobligated balances since demand for hiring is high, so final funding amount should all be new appropriated funds. **Lowest acceptable level for entire initiative is \$1.21 billion.**

COPS Reauthorization: Senator Biden may offer his amendment to reauthorize COPS program for another five years onto CJS. If he is successful in passing the amendment, retaining the authorizing language should be a top priority in negotiations.

(3) Drug Testing and Treatment for Offenders ("Stop Drugs Stop Crime") -- \$215 million proposed. This is a three-part initiative: (1) \$100 million for States to drug test and provide treatment to offenders under criminal justice supervision; (2) \$50 million for drug courts; and (3) \$65 million for residential substance abuse treatment (RSAT) funding for state inmates with hardcore drug problems. A total of \$112 million of the proposal is new funding. **Lowest acceptable level is a total of \$165 million:** (1) \$50 million for State drug testing and treatment; (2) \$50 million for drug courts; and (3) \$65 million for RSAT. This level will provide the first funding for a new State drug testing and treatment program -- something the Administration has been pushing for years, a 25 percent increase for the successful drug court

program and a small increase for RSAT. We should push hard for the \$50 million for State drug testing and treatment even if appropriators allow States to use a percentage of their prison construction funding for the same purpose.

(4) Project Reentry -- \$60 million proposed. This is a new proposal to provide greater community supervision to the millions of offenders who will be released from incarceration in the coming years. There is a complementary funding piece of this proposal in the Labor Department budget which has a lowest acceptable level of \$30 million. The House did not fund this initiative. The Senate CJS bill provides \$7 million for the reentry proposal. **Lowest acceptable level of funding is \$20 million.**

(5) Strengthening NICS and Brady Checks -- \$75 million. Our budget proposes to double the current funding from \$35 million to \$70 million for state criminal history records improvement through a Justice Department program called NCHIP. The budget also provides \$5 million in new funds for a National Instant Notification System (NIN) for the FBI to contact state and local law enforcement for gun sales denied by the NICS to felons and other prohibited purchasers. **Lowest acceptable level of funding is \$55 million,** \$50 million for NCHIP and \$5 million for NIN.

Non- Funding Budget Bill Item:

Drunk Driving -- .08 BAC (no funding required)

The Senate-passed FY 01 Transportation Appropriations bill contains a Lautenberg/Shelby amendment to help set a national impaired driving standard at .08 blood alcohol content (BAC). The House-passed bill does not contain a similar provision, although House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Wolfe (who is also the Chairman of the conference) is a strong supporter of the measure. The House Republican leadership will try to strip this provision in conference. Retaining this provision in the final bill should be a top Administration priority.