

Reasons to Vote Against H.R. 7608

H.R. 7608 contains four appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21):

- State and Foreign Operations;
- Agriculture, Rural Development, and Food and Drug Administration;
- Interior and Environment; and
- Military Construction and Veterans Affairs

\$219.6 billion in discretionary spending + \$37.5 billion in “emergency” spending

*Instead of working to craft bipartisan legislation for FY21 that Members on both sides of the aisle can support and the President can sign into law, Democrats have chosen to play politics with the appropriations process. **The bills in this package spend billions of dollars on top of what the current budget agreement allows. Existing, bipartisan provisions are removed, and new, controversial policy measures are inserted.***

EXCESSIVE SPENDING

- Designates \$37.5 billion as “emergency” spending, which is additional funding on top of the budget caps in the Bipartisan Budget Act signed into law last year. Within the total,
 - \$15 billion is for the Democrats’ partisan infrastructure bill, mostly for the Environmental Protection Agency;
 - Another \$10 billion is for coronavirus relief, even though the Democrats passed a \$3 trillion supplemental bill in May that is going to be considered by the Senate in the next few weeks; and
 - \$12.5 billion is for veterans health care, even though it was known that additional funding would be needed when the budget caps were put in place.

PARTISAN RIDERS

JEOPARDIZES OUR NATION'S SECURITY

- Prohibits funds from being used for a border wall system along the southern border.
- Restricts the President's ability to transfer funds to address a national emergency.

REVERSES PROVISIONS THAT PROTECT LIFE

- Overturns the Administration's current Mexico City Policy, allowing foreign organizations to receive federal funds even if they perform abortions.
- Provides \$55.5 million for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), even though the Administration has determined that UNFPA participates in the management of a coercive abortion program.

STRIPS ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

- Removes conditions that promote transparency and accountability on the United Nations and international organizations, including the World Health Organization.
- Prevents the Administration from making much-needed reforms to programs that are plagued by improper payments - the Department of Agriculture reported overpayments of \$3.44 billion in 2019 alone.
- Permanently prevents this and any future Administration from making changes to welfare programs that simply require working age, non-disabled adults without children to go back to work in times of low unemployment.

THREATENS OUR CAPACITY TO PRODUCE ENERGY

- Recklessly limits America's domestic energy and mineral production by:
 - Restricting oil and gas production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;
 - Preventing new offshore energy exploration; and
 - Prohibiting the mining of metals in northern Minnesota.
- Underfunds the President's request by \$12 million for offshore and onshore conventional energy development.

FUNDS ILL-ADVISED ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND ADDS BURDENSOME REGULATIONS

- Directs \$500 million to international climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund, even though the benefits of this spending are questionable and the potential for fraud is high.
- Hurts job creators by directing the Environmental Protection Agency to overstep with cumbersome regulations by:
 - Failing to exempt farmers and livestock producers from burdensome greenhouse gas permitting and reporting requirements;
 - Undermining the Administration's ability to roll back Obama-era environmental regulations on methane, Mercury and Air Toxics Standards ("MATS"), and Waters of the U.S. ("WOTUS"); and
 - Prohibiting the Administration from finalizing guidance to prevent extreme delays on energy infrastructure projects.