

# PRESS RELEASE

## House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Chairwoman, Debbie Wasserman Schultz

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Fiscal Responsibility, Security and Life Safety, Accountability Embody Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2008**

*“This bill holds the Legislative Branch accountable.”*

*-Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz*

Washington, D.C. – Today, Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz introduced the fiscal year 2008 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill which emphasizes fiscal responsibility, security and life safety, and accountability. The bill provides \$3.1 Billion for the Legislative Branch, an increase of \$122 million or 4.1 percent over the fiscal year 2007 enacted level, including the recent supplemental.

“This bill makes it clear that the legislative branch will be held to the same level of fiscal accountability and safety as we expect from other branches of the federal government,” said Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz. “This bill prioritizes the safety of the Capitol, its workforce, and its visitors while increasing oversight and practicing fiscal responsibility.”

Highlights of the legislation include:

- Improves security of the Capitol and those that work and visit here by increasing funding for the Capitol Police by \$30.4 million (or 11.9%), \$5 million of which funds an upgraded communication system.
- Provides for greater workplace safety by increasing the Office of Compliance budget by \$700,000 (or 22.7%).
- Increases oversight by establishing a statutory Inspector General (with 7 full-time employees) within the AOC.
- Fiscally responsible: Increase of only 3% overall, (\$90 million) compared to the 12% (\$360 million) increase in the request.

“This bill is both fiscally prudent while at the same time expanding programs which are needed to improve the efficiency and safety of the Capitol,” said Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz. “In areas needing additional supervision, such as the AOC, we are increasing oversight, which in turn will help to reign in spending.

“I want to thank Chairman Obey for his continued commitment to improve the workplace conditions and safety for employees in the Capitol and Legislative Branch agencies and for his vigilance as we seek to bring greater accountability to the Legislative Branch,” said Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz.

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