



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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FACT SHEET

ENHANCED BORDER AND IMMIGRATION SECURITY

Since retaking the majority in 2007, the Democratic Congress has strengthened homeland security, by making a priority of increased investments in the men and women who protect our borders and enforce our immigration laws, and the technology that helps them do it.



Border Security

The United States has more than 7,000 miles of border and more than 12,000 miles of coastline that must be secured to ensure the safety of the nation. Over the last three years, the Democratic Congress has increased U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) funding by over 23% - from \$8.2 billion to \$10.1 billion - and added an extra \$1 billion for border infrastructure and security activities as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. That investment has:

- Fully funded over 20,100 Border Patrol agents, an increase of 6,000, or more than 50 percent, since 2006 to patrol the Mexican and Canadian borders and the coastal waters surrounding Florida and Puerto Rico.
- Allowed for the completion of the Southwest border fence, with over 700 miles now under effective control, compared to 241 miles in FY 2005. Over the last three years, the Democratic Congress has invested \$1.2 billion to complete the border fence – over 20% more than the Republican Congress provided for that effort.
- Financed advanced new border control technology, including:
 - Cameras, radars, sensors, and command and control systems to help the Border Patrol continuously monitor the border. The Democratic Congress provided \$421 million – more than four times what the Republican Congress provided – for these tools, and required a high standard of oversight and accountability to ensure these advanced technologies will prove to be robust, reliable, and true force multipliers.
 - 3 new Predator-B unmanned aerial vehicles, for long-duration aerial surveillance of the areas between official ports of entry. CBP Air and Marine Division manages the largest law enforcement air force in the world, with 284 aircraft, including 6 Predator aircraft, patrolling the nation’s land and sea borders to stop terrorists and drug smugglers before they enter the United States.
 - 261 large-scale Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) systems, which use x-ray and gamma rays to quickly and efficiently examine shipping containers entering the country. With these scanners, CBP has conducted over 32 million examinations resulting in the seizure of 2.4 million pounds of narcotics, and over \$19.2 million in undeclared currency.

Customs and Border Protection Appropriations Level Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2010

	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10
Funding (in billions)	\$4.9	\$5.4	\$6.8	\$8.2	\$9.4	\$10.5*	\$10.1
Border Patrol agents	10,817	11,264	12,349	14,923	17,819	20,019	20,370

*FY 2009 includes \$680 million in ARRA funding.

Immigration Enforcement

More than 11 million illegal aliens live in the U.S. today, an estimate that has fallen by more than one million in recent years due to changing economic conditions and strengthened border security and enforcement. Nearly half of that population entered the country legally, but violated the terms of their stay. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the agency responsible for enforcing the nation's immigration laws. The Democratic Congress has increased ICE's budget 37% since 2007, the last year of Republican control of Congress, and restructured the agency's budget to target aliens with dangerous criminal convictions and those who pose the greatest risk to America and Americans.

- **Criminal Aliens:** Since taking control of Congress, Democrats have insisted that ICE's top priority is to identify individuals convicted of dangerous crimes and remove them from the country once an immigration court has ruled they should be deported. ICE's performance statistics bear this out: between 2002 and 2007, ICE increased criminal alien removals by only 7 percent per year but in 2008 criminal alien removals increased 12 percent, and another 19 percent in 2009. ICE estimates that up to 450,000 criminals eligible for deportation are in the criminal justice system each year. This year, over 25% of the ICE budget – \$1.5 billion – is dedicated to that purpose. Under the Republican Congress, ICE only had a small program aimed at identifying and removing criminal aliens, the Institutional Removal Program, which was funded at \$137.5 million in 2007.
 - **Secure Communities:** Over the last three years, the Democratic Congress has dedicated \$550 million for ICE to develop and implement a new system to streamline the identification of illegal aliens who have been convicted of serious crimes. Known as 'Secure Communities,' this program allows local law enforcement agencies to check the fingerprints of individuals booked on criminal charges against both national criminal and immigration databases. When individuals are identified as illegally present, ICE can take appropriate steps to ensure the most dangerous are deported upon completion of their jail sentences. The program is currently being deployed nation-wide.
- **Unique Identity:** Since 2008, the Democratic Congress has provided \$323 million – more than five times the amount previously provided by Republicans – for the Unique Identity initiative, under the US-VISIT (United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology) program, to ensure that unalterable biometric records collected by CBP, ICE, Coast Guard and other agencies can be matched against watchlist and criminal databases to provide near real-time identification of individuals who have criminal records, are fugitives, or the subjects of criminal or national security investigations. Democrats have also doubled funding, from \$15.8 million in 2008 to \$31 million in 2010, for the US-VISIT effort to review biographic, travel, and biometric information of foreign visitors to the U.S. to prevent overstays.
- **Alternatives to Detention:** To free up resources, like detention facilities, for where they are needed most, Congressional Democrats have expanded the ICE Alternatives to Detention Program, so that certain individuals in immigration proceedings can enter a supervisory or electronic monitoring program, instead of being physically incarcerated. In cases where it is appropriate, those alternative methods of tracking low-risk individuals cost less and allow for less disruption of family life. Since taking over the Congress, Democrats have increased Alternatives to Detention program funding by 70%, from \$43.6 million in 2007 to \$73.9 million this year, and also required ICE to develop a plan for nation-wide availability of the program.
- **E-Verify:** E-verify is an internet-based system that helps U.S. employers ensure they hire legal workers. The Democratic Congress provided \$297 million over the last three years to operate and improve E-Verify, including a 3-year program extension. That is more than double what the Republican Congress provided for the program.
- **State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP):** SCAAP assists state and local governments with the costs of jailing undocumented immigrants who have committed crimes not related to their immigration status. Since taking control of Congress, the Democratic majority has provided over \$1.5 billion for the program – more than 25% above what the Republican Congress provided over their last four budgets.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement Appropriations Level Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2010

	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10
Funding (in billions)	\$3.5	\$2.9*	\$3.5	\$4.0	\$4.7	\$5.1**	\$5.4

* Does not include funding for the Federal Air Marshals (FAMs) program, which is part of TSA but was funded in ICE for one year.

** Includes \$20 million in ARRA funding for tactical communications.