

*Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2018*

**Statement on Signing the Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019**

*September 28, 2018*

Today I signed into law important legislation to rebuild our military, protect our communities, and deliver a better future for all Americans.

The bill I signed today increases our defense spending to a record \$716 billion, which includes the largest pay raise for our warriors in nearly a decade. My administration has secured funding to order 93 new F-35 Lightning Joint Strike Fighters, 142 Apache and Black Hawk helicopters, and 13 Navy battle force ships—made right here in the U.S.A. This is the first time in more than a decade that our Defense Department has been given a full year of funding on time without relying on continuing resolutions.

The bill I signed today also secures additional funding for border security, including \$1.6 billion, annualized, to keep building the wall. Unfortunately, the radical Democrats refuse to support border security and want drugs and crime to pour into our country. It also provides an estimated \$1.5 billion to increase school safety; increases funding for school choice by \$42 million; increases funding for veterans vocational education and for the landmark Perkins Career and Technical Education legislation; and secures \$6.7 billion to address substance use and mental health, including opioid and heroin abuse.

America is being respected again, and our people are being protected again. I am pleased to have signed this bill into law.

NOTE: H.R. 6157, approved September 28, was assigned Public Law No. 115–245.

*Categories:* Bill Signings and Vetoes : Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019, signing statement.

*Subjects:* Armed Forces, U.S. : Funding; Defense and national security : Border security; Drug abuse and trafficking : Opioid epidemic, efforts to combat; Education : School security, improvement efforts; Health and medical care : Mental health programs and services; Legislation, enacted : Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019; Legislation, enacted : Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019; Veterans : Job training and education assistance.

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