

Amendment to the Chairman’s Mark

Offered by Representatives Van Hollen, Pascrell, Moore, Castor, McDermott, Jeffries, Pocan, Lujan Grisham, and Doggett

Make it in America with Investments in Economic Growth

1. Increase budget authority and outlays for Function 920 by the following amounts in billions of dollars to provide non-defense discretionary funding at the pre-sequester level set for fiscal year 2016 in the Budget Control Act of 2011 in order to support critical investments for economic growth and job creation, including in education, workforce training, scientific research, energy efficiency and clean energy, advanced manufacturing, public health and safety, and local communities.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BA	80.000								
Outlays	44.800	20.400	7.920	2.880	2.800				

2. Decrease budget authority and outlays for Function 970 to eliminate excess overseas contingency funding by the following amounts in billions of dollars.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
BA	13.333	13.333	13.333	13.333	13.333	13.335				
Outlays	8.213	11.240	12.386	12.866	13.200	13.201	4.987	1.960	0.813	0.333

3. Make all necessary and conforming changes to the Chairman’s mark.
4. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

To support a Make it in America agenda by adequately funding investments that will help create jobs and grow the economy, the resolution provides non-defense discretionary spending for fiscal year 2016 at the pre-sequester spending cap level set in the Budget Control Act of 2011. The resolution therefore rejects the Chairman’s mark that recklessly slashes this important funding well below even the low, post-sequester cap for 2016. Non-defense discretionary funding supports federal investments that greatly benefit economic growth, in addition to providing critical services. In the past, this funding has improved industrial productivity, helped develop internet technology, made possible life-saving medical research, and helped modernize vital infrastructure. The additional resources made available for 2016 by the resolution as reported can support important priorities, including the following:

- recognizing the importance of maintaining equity and educational services to those who need it the most by funding IDEA and Title I at the highest levels possible; supporting STEM education and workforce training to strengthen our national competitiveness; and supporting the comprehensive early childhood services provided Head Start, which not only helps children to succeed in school, but saves society money in the long-term. The benefits of these education investments include increased earnings, employment, and family stability, and decreased welfare dependency, crime costs, and grade repetition.
- preserving funding for basic and applied scientific research, which are essential to economic growth in communities across America, producing well-paying jobs and keeping our nation at the forefront of technological advancement;
- providing funding for cutting-edge research that delivers energy efficient products and systems to American households and businesses through advanced manufacturing and transforms science into breakthrough technologies that improve energy generation, storage and utilization, while protecting the environment;
- improving security and protecting public health and safety through funding for emergency preparedness, mitigation and response; and
- ensuring economic development and strengthening communities by leveraging public-private partnerships.

The increased funding for critical investments that spur economic growth and job creation is offset by reducing funding for Function 970. The amendment reduces funding for the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account from 2016 through 2021 by \$80 billion to better reflect anticipated troop levels deployed overseas. Force levels in Afghanistan will draw down from more than 30,000 today to 10,000 or less by the end of this year even if a security agreement with Afghanistan is signed. If an agreement is not signed, the Pentagon is already putting plans in place to ensure an orderly withdrawal of all troops by the end of this year.

This reduction also recognizes that the Pentagon and Congress have both abused the OCO account to skirt the discretionary funding caps and that greater discipline in preventing this abuse is needed. Through the OCO designation the Pentagon has funded billions of dollars of costs associated with active-duty end strength, flying hour requirements, and weapon system upgrades that normally would be funded within the “base” budget. This past year, Congress passed an appropriations bill that provided \$7 billion more than the Administration, and the military leadership, said they needed for OCO.