Senate Appropriations Committee Swings Into Action on FY2005 Appropriations Bills

Department of Justice

Under the bill, the Department of Justice would receive $20.4 billion in FY2005, $700 million above the FY2004 level and the administration’s request.

Office on Violence Against Women: Programs under the Violence Against Women Act would receive $410 million in FY2005, $22 million above FY2004 and $25 million more than the administration’s request.

VAWA programs would receive the following:

- $175.7 million for grants to combat violence against women, including $5 million for the National Institute of Justice, $10 million for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the Safe Start Program; and $10 million for transitional housing assistance;
- $11.9 million for Court Appointed Special Advocates;
- $2.3 million for training for judicial personnel;
- $994,000 for televised testimony;
- $64.5 million for grants to encourage arrests;
- $39.7 million for rural domestic violence assistance grants;
- $4.9 million for training programs;
- $3 million for a stalking database;
- $9.9 million to combat violence on college campuses;
- $39.7 million for civil legal assistance;
- $5 million for the elderly abuse grant program;
- $14.9 million for a Safe Haven program; and
- $7.5 million for education and training for disabled female victims.
According to the Senate Appropriations Committee report accompanying S. 2809, the FY2005 funding “will be used to develop and implement effective arrest and prosecution policies to prevent, identify, and respond to violent crimes against women, strengthen programs addressing stalking, and provide much needed victim’s services. This includes specialized domestic violence court advocates who obtain protection orders. In addition, programs should be strengthened to encourage reporting of domestic violence by providing assurances that law enforcement and attorney support systems would be available. This funding is to be distributed to States to significantly enhance the availability of services, prosecutors, and law-enforcement officials to women and children who are subjected to domestic violence.”

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