



AILA's Recommendations on FY2015 Appropriations

- **AILA RECOMMENDS CONGRESS REJECT ANY EFFORT TO ADD AN IMMIGRATION DETENTION BED QUOTA OR TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DETENTION BEDS AVAILABLE.** This year, American taxpayers will spend over \$2 billion to detain 34,000 immigrants per day—an arbitrary, congressionally-imposed figure not based on the demonstrated needs of the agency. In many situations detention is not needed to mitigate a person's risk factors—over half of immigrant detainees between 2009 and 2011 had no criminal history.
 - ▷ **FY2014 (current year) Omnibus Number of Detention Beds:** \$1.993—including 34,000 detention beds
 - ▷ **FY2015 President's Beds Request:** \$1.792 billion—including of 30,539 detention beds (a 3,500 bed reduction)
- **AILA RECOMMENDS CONGRESS INCREASE FUNDING FOR ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION AND PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO SHIFT FUNDING BETWEEN DETENTION BEDS AND ALTERNATIVES.** The United States spends about \$159 per day to detain one individual while other proven and much more cost-effective alternatives to detention (ATDs) are available, which cost between 70 cents and \$22 a day. ICE should have the discretion to redirect funds from detention beds to ATDs when demand for such programs is greater than the detention bed needs
 - ▷ **FY2014 (current year) Omnibus Funding for ATDs:** \$91,444,000
 - ▷ **FY2015 President's Request for ATDs:** \$94,106,000 (an increase of \$2.5 million)
- **AILA RECOMMENDS CONGRESS INCREASE FUNDING FOR IMMIGRATION JUDGES TO ADDRESS THE LARGE NUMBERS OF BACKLOGGED CASES.** As of February 2014, the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) had 363,239 backlogged cases. Immigration judges carry staggering caseloads that result in long delays for noncitizens moving through the removal process. The immigration court system has long been underfunded, understaffed and overwhelmed, factors which have led EOIR to face an insurmountable burden in providing fair and efficient immigration adjudications. The President's budget request for EOIR supports the hiring of 35 additional immigration judge teams to help adjudicate the massive case load. Given the important due process role immigration courts play, providing sufficient funding for EOIR is necessary.
 - ▷ **FY2014 (current year) Omnibus Funding for EOIR:** \$315,000,000
 - ▷ **FY2015 President's Request for EOIR:** \$351,072,000 (an increase of \$36 million)

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