



**AAF: Calling Balls and Strikes on the First Minibus** (AG, CJS, E&W, Interior, MilCon-VA, THUD)

*Updated March 6, 2024 to reflect AAF's successful campaign to remove the woke earmark.*

**THE GOOD** — Contains protections for religious liberty, blocks intrusions on veterans' Second Amendment rights, prohibits selling Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to China, modernizes the Navy's shipyards, and funds nuclear energy.

- Prohibits the DOJ from investigating religious *institutions* on the basis of their religious beliefs and discriminating against students receiving financial aid on the basis of their beliefs, establishing a watered-down version of Roy Amendment protections.
- Protects veterans' rights to bear arms by prohibiting the Department of Veterans Affairs from reporting veterans to NICS without a judge's consent.
- Prohibits selling emergency SPR petroleum to China.
- Increases funding for the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan (SIOP), which modernizes the Navy's aging shipyards to ensure that the fleet is ready for action.
- \$1.7 billion for nuclear energy research and development.

**THE BAD** — No floor amendments, sidesteps regular order, misleading numbers.

- **The minibus sidesteps the Rules Committee and a floor amendment process.**
- Claims to cut the EPA by 10% or \$977 million.
  - Reality: This cut is largely backfilled by superfund taxes. Democrats claim that EPA is **only reduced by three percent** from last year's levels.
- Claims to cut the FBI budget by \$654 million.
  - Reality: \$621.9 million is achieved by defunding the FBI's new HQ.
  - The FBI sees a real cut of just \$32 million for salaries and personnel.

**THE UGLY** — Fails to support our allies, leaves COVID spending intact, excludes important conservative provisions, and contains an earmark promoting drag for kids.

- **No funding for lethal aid for Ukraine, Israel, or Taiwan.**
  - [AAF plan](#) would have sent aid to allies and cut spending.
- **Holds stable the IRA's Green New Deal Provisions:**
  - \$15 billion for "transformative investments in clean energy" in E&W.
  - \$3.5 billion for "the transition to a global clean energy economy" in Energy.
- **Democrats are bragging about rejecting "poison pill riders" from the House.**
  - Does not defund Critical Race Theory.
  - Does not prohibit the VA from violating federal law to offer abortions.
  - Does not prohibit funding for DOJ censoring lawful speech as misinformation.
  - Does not prohibit funding for ATF pistol brace rule.
  - Does not prohibit COVID-19 mask and vaccine mandates.
- **Woke Earmark: See more [here](#) and [here](#).**
  - ~~\$1 million for the renovation of the "William Way LGBT Community Center," which hosts kink parties and drag performances by young children.~~
  - There are still over 6,000 other earmarks in the bill.

**BOTTOMLINE** – These are just some of the good, bad, and ugly provisions across the 1,000+ pages of text and supplemental information of the half-trillion dollar package.