



West Virginia Wins in Legislative Branch; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration & Related Agencies; and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs & Related Agencies FY25 Appropriations Markup

Maintaining Regular Order in the Appropriations Process

A member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Manchin was proud to join his colleagues in marking up and reporting the first three Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Appropriations bills out of committee: the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act; the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration & Related Agencies Appropriations Act; and the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs & Related Agencies Appropriations Act. 2024 was the first time since 2018 that the Senate reported all 12 annual appropriations bills to the full Senate, and this markup is the first step towards accomplishing the same for Fiscal Year 2025.

Keeping America Safe & Protecting Our National Security

Senator Manchin is proud to be a member of the **Military Construction and Veterans Affairs** subcommittee, which funds the Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction projects within the Department of Defense. The FY25 bill provides **\$357** billion in funding, including **\$19.3** billion for Military Construction and **\$339.5** billion for Department of Veterans Affairs programs.

- **West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) Squadron Operations Building:** Senator Manchin secured \$32 million in Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) to construct a Squadron Operations facility at McLaughlin Air National Guard Base in Charleston, which will provide space for training, control, and operations of the West Virginia National Guard's new C-130J-30 aircraft fleet.
- **Other WVNG Priorities:** The bill includes additional funding for multiple military construction projects and programs run by the WVNG, including \$12.6 million for additional CDS projects at Camp Dawson, Bluefield, and Joint Forces Headquarters in Charleston.
- **Woody Williams Committal Shelter:** Includes \$5 million for the renovation of a committal shelter at the Donnel Kinnard Veterans Cemetery in Dunbar, West Virginia, fulfilling West Virginia Medal of Honor Recipient Woody Williams' final request.
- **VA Medical Services:** Funds VA medical services at \$112.5 billion, benefiting the four VA Medical Centers in West Virginia located in Beckley, Clarksburg, Huntington, and Martinsburg.
- **Opioid Safety Initiatives:** Fully funds the President's budget request of \$713 million for Opioid Prevention and Treatment Programs at the VA. Also maintains language expressing concern about the continued use of opioids in the veteran population, and directs the VA to provide a report on veterans' access to non-opioid pain relief.
- **Rural Health & Transportation:** Maintains language requiring VA medical centers to reduce barriers to accessing healthcare for veterans in rural areas. This includes \$15 million set aside for Highly Rural Transportation Grants.

Fighting for Rural West Virginia & Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

Senator Manchin is also proud to be a member of the **Agriculture and Rural Development** subcommittee, which funds the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), nutrition assistance programs, programs that support economic & community development in underserved rural communities, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FY25 bill provides **\$211 billion** in funding.

- **Congressionally Directed Spending:** Includes \$10.9 million Senator Manchin secured for 9 USDA community facilities projects, including new fire stations in Ravenswood and Moorefield, a health and wellness center in Welch, and public safety and firefighting equipment in Clarksburg and Mannington.
- **Appalachian Crop Research:** Provides strong funding for West Virginia food producers, including the continuation of research into Appalachian Honeybees, maintains funding for the National Center for Cool and Cold-Water Aquaculture in Leestown, and reserves \$800,000 for the Appalachian Fruit Research Station in Kearneysville, West Virginia to study and expand native fruit tree breeding.
- **Rural Definition:** Includes language requiring the USDA Rural Development office to implement a new rural definition that would better capture the mountainous and rugged terrain of Appalachia.
- **West Virginia Apples:** Requires the USDA to study the surplus of apples in West Virginia resulting from insufficient storage capacity, and analyze any notable increases in foreign apple imports into the United States.
- **Drug Abuse Prevention:** Includes language reflective of Senator Manchin's *FREED of Opioids Act*, requiring the FDA to study the problematic methods the FDA uses to approve opioids. Additionally, includes language requiring the FDA to review current opioid prescribing practices.
- **FDA Conflicts of Interest:** Requires the FDA to review their conflict of interest policies to ensure the FDA is receiving the best, impartial expert advice and providing maximum transparency to the public.
- **Rural Broadband:** \$135 million for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program, including \$75 million for the Re-Connect program, which facilitates broadband deployment in places like rural West Virginia without sufficient access to high-speed internet.
- **Food Security and Child Nutrition:** Provides full funding for critical nutrition programs long championed by Senator Manchin, including \$123.2 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and \$7.69 million for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- **Domestic Pharmaceutical Manufacturing:** Includes language requiring the FDA to assess the domestic manufacturing capacity of essential medicines, and identify opportunities to develop and manufacture them in the United States to reduce our reliance on foreign supply chains.