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## Highlights of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017

The Intelligence Authorization Act for 2017 (FY17 IAA) is included as Division N of H.R. 244, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017. After months of continuous negotiations, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have reached final agreement on this crucial legislation.

The FY17 IAA passed the House three times in the 114th Congress, twice by large margins on suspension (H.R. 5077 and H.R. 6393) and the third time by unanimous consent (H.R. 6480). The key differences between the final version and H.R. 6480 are the deletion of two provisions (Sections 312 and 615) and modifications made to provisions related to intelligence community personnel caps (Sections 103 and 306). The final version also includes minor changes to conform with appropriations and to reflect passage later in the fiscal year.

As with its predecessors, the final IAA authorizes appropriations for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. government for fiscal year 2017. The legislation does not include any provisions related to surveillance authorities. Specifically, the bill:

- Sustains critical capabilities to fight terrorism and counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Enhances efforts against nation-state competitors, particularly by increasing scrutiny of Russian activities including the Kremlin's covert influence efforts and its compliance with the Open Skies Treaty.
- Requires declassification reviews of intelligence on past terrorist activities of individuals transferred out of Guantanamo Bay.
- Prevents the executive branch from charging greater reproduction fees for mandatory declassification reviews than it would charge for Freedom of Information Act requests.
- Clarifies eligibility for death benefits for Central Intelligence Agency personnel.
- Improves Intelligence Community reporting to Congress.

The terrorist threat facing America remains high, particularly from ISIS and al-Qa'ida. This bill provides urgent funds and authorities to help thwart potential attacks and deny these terrorists safe haven in Iraq, Syria, North Africa, and elsewhere. The bill also provides the means to counter significant threats from nation-state actors, especially in cyberspace, space, and undersea, and to bolster our counter-proliferation and counterintelligence capabilities. In addition to supporting the Intelligence Community's critical mission to protect the United States, the FY17 IAA also serves as one of the most important and effective mechanisms Congress has to conduct rigorous and continuous oversight of the Intelligence Community.

Ultimately, this bill ensures that the dedicated men and women of our Intelligence Community have the funding, authorities, and support they need to carry out their mission and keep us safe, while maintaining accountability and strict oversight of intelligence programs and activities.

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House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence