



# JOHNNY ISAKSON

UNITED STATES SENATOR · GEORGIA



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

## Isakson Fiscal Year 2016 Federal Requests

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., today announced the fiscal year 2016 requests for Georgia projects or programs that he has submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Isakson believes increased transparency and disclosure are essential to the process.

Requests are listed in alphabetical order. This list will be updated as Isakson submits additional requests to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

### **AGRICULTURE:**

- **Rural Utilities Service (RUS) electric loans, letter of support**  
[Click here to read Sen. Isakson's letter to the Committee](#)
- **Southeast Biocontainment Laboratory and Consolidated Poultry Research Facility, letter of support**  
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### **COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE:**

- **Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, letter of support**  
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- **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), letter of support**  
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- **Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS), letter of support**  
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### **DEFENSE**

- **A-10, letter of support**  
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- **F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, letter of support**  
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- **Joint Surveillance/Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS), report language request**  
We believe the Air Force needs to reconsider its current lengthy acquisition strategy and request that you include the following report language in the Fiscal Year 2016 Senate Defense Appropriations Committee report:

***Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System [JSTARS] Recapitalization*** – *The fiscal year 2016 budget request contains \$44,300,000 for Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System [JSTARS] Recapitalization. In fiscal year 2015, the Committee directed the Air Force to shorten the development phase and enter into JSTARS production sooner. This approach would significantly reduce development costs and support the conclusions of the Air Force’s Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) study, which determined that a business jet aircraft outfitted with existing ground moving target indicator (GMTI) radar and battle management command and control (BMC2) technology would meet or exceed the combatant commanders’ warfighting requirements at the lowest cost. The Department, however, lengthened the acquisition schedule by two years even though existing, mature technologies can more quickly and affordably be integrated onto a business jet. Therefore, the Committee encourages the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Air Force to realign this effort so that it is in accordance with the AoA and provide a briefing on an accelerated, more cost effect strategy to the congressional defense committees within 90 days of enactment of this Act.*

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- **Soldier Enhancement Program (SEP), Joint Test and Evaluation Program (JT&E), High Mobility Engineer Excavator (HMEE), letter of support**

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- **STARBASE Program, letter of support**

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- **Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program (TSCR), letter of support**

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- **Ukraine Freedom Support Act, letter of support**

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- **U.S.-Israeli Missile Defense, letter of support**

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## ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

- **Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF), letter of support**

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- **Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, letter of support**

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## FOREIGN OPERATIONS

- **International Basic Education, letter of support**

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- **International Development Account Global Health Programs and Maternal and Child Health Programs, report language request**

*The Committee notes that one newborn child dies every nine minutes from maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT). Tetanus in newborn children is easily prevented by a low cost vaccine for women of childbearing age. Kiwanis International has joined forces with UNICEF to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. This program will target some of the poorest, most underserved women and children in the world. USAID is also partnering with Kiwanis to expand U.S. efforts to eliminate MNT. The*

*Committee directs the U.S. Agency for International Development to provide robust support for programs to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus.*

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- **Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition programs, letter of support**

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- **President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, letter of support**

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- **UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), report language request**

We respectfully request that you include the following language in opposition to ATT funding in the Fiscal Year 2016 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill.

*Sec. \_\_ (a) IN GENERAL. – None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to fund a secretariat or any other international organization created to support the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, to sustain domestic prosecutions based on any charge related to the Treaty, or to the implement the Treaty until the Senate approves a resolution of ratification for the Treaty and the House and Senate adopt implementing legislation for the Treaty.*

*(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude the Department of Defense from assisting foreign countries in bringing their laws, regulations, and practice related to export control up to United States standards.*

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## **FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

- **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), letter of support**

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## **INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water Safe Revolving Fund (DWSRF), letter of support**

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- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Forest Legacy Program, letter of support**

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- **State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program, letter of support**

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## **LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES**

- **Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and the BioShield Special Reserve Fund, letter of support**

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- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), report language request**

*Fragile X (FX) and Fragile X-Associated Disorders (FXD) – The Committee commends CDC's efforts to identify and define the population impacted by FX and FXD with the goal of understanding the public health impact of these conditions. The Committee acknowledges significant progress made by*

the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities' (NCBDDD) Fragile X Clinical and Research Consortium in growing is FORWARD Database and its Patient Registry. The CDC is urged to continue this effort. The Committee also notes with approval the public-private partnership which resulted in the "Future of Fragile X: Setting the Public Health Research Agenda" meeting in 2014 and the resulting FOA which seeks to use longitudinal data to characterize the natural history of Fragile X to improve services and outcomes. The Committee hopes this will facilitate the development of outcome measures for new drug treatments under development. Given the connection between Fragile X (and the FX protein) and autism, the prospect of targeted treatments for both conditions, the overlapping public health impacts and current budgetary constraints, the Committee urges the NCBDDD to explore cross-divisional funding opportunities to accelerate data driven public health research to reduce the public health burden of both FX and autism.

*Reaching for the Stars* – The Committee urges CDC to build on established surveillance and research methods in order to develop a robust research infrastructure focused on CP across various geographic U.S. regions. Infrastructure of this type holds promise for answering questions about the causes of CP and for identifying opportunities for prevention.

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- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 317 Coalition, letter of support**

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- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Global Immunization Program, letter of support**

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- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Centers, letter of support**

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- **Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program, letter of support**

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- **Common Core State Standards, report language request**

We support eliminating further interference by the U.S. Department of Education with respect to state decisions on academic content standards by including the following language in the Fiscal Year 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill:

(a) In General.—Funds appropriated under this Act or any prior Act shall not be used by the Secretary of Education—

(1) to require a State or local education agency to develop or implement any set of academic content standards common to multiple States, including the Common Core State Standards developed under Common Core State Standards Initiative, or any other specified set or type of academic content standards selected by the Secretary, or assessments aligned with such standards, including as a condition of approval of a State plan submitted to the Secretary, an application for a waiver issued by such Secretary under section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7861), or as a condition of approval or competitive preference for an award of Federal funds under any grant, contract or cooperative agreement;

(2) to establish any criterion that specifies, defines, or prescribes the standards or measures that a State or local educational agency uses to establish, implement, or improve academic content standards, academic achievement standards, academic assessments, accountability systems, systems that measure student growth, measures of other academic indicators, or teacher and principal evaluation systems; or

(3) to award any grant, contract or cooperative agreement to a consortium of States that requires or specifically authorizes the development of assessments aligned with any set of academic content standards common to multiple States, including the Common Core State Standards developed under

the Common Core States Standards Initiative, or any other specified set or type of academic content standards selected by the Secretary.

(b) Rule of Construction. – Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to limit the discretion of an individual state or local education agency to use funds provided through a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement that does not otherwise violate subsection (a) for any purpose consistent with the terms of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, including the development or implementation of any set of content standards, assessments, or curricula that the State or local educational agency chooses to develop or implement without regard to a Federal requirement or incentive.

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- **Federal Impact Aid Program, letter of support**

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- **Fragile X (FX) Research, letter of support**

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- **National Institutes of Health (NIH), letter of support**

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- **National Institutes of Health, report language request**

*Minority Researchers* – The Committee prioritizes the NIH Director's effort to reverse the trend of underrepresentation of researchers from ethnically diverse backgrounds. The Committee encourages NIH to continue to prioritize newly established programs to enhance NIH-funded workforce diversity. Recognizing the historic role of minority-serving, graduate health professions schools in producing minority scientists, the Committee requests a report, within 90 days of the enactment of this law, on how these institutions are participating in the effort.

*Minority Participation in Precision Medicine Initiative* – The Committee is aware of the NCI Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP) national network, which provides access to cancer clinical trials to diverse populations in community-based healthcare practices across the United States. The Committee encourages NCI to incorporate NCORP minority/underserved community sites into the new Precision Medicine initiative as a means of ensuring that minorities are well represented in oncology clinical trials related to this effort.

*Fragile X* – The Committee commends NICHD for leading the effort to map the molecular, physiological, biological, and genetic connections between fragile X (FX), the fragile X protein, and autism. The fragile X gene and its protein continue to present important insight into discovering the root cause of autism and disease modifying treatments for FX and autism. The Committee urges the NIH to explore ways to utilize funding for FX and autism in tandem to accelerate the pace of research toward identification of the commonality between the two conditions and the development of disease modifying treatments that will reduce health burdens.

*Reaching for the Stars* – Over 800,000 Americans are impacted by Cerebral Palsy and it is the number one motor disability in children. Currently, there are no identified best practices at diagnosis of through life span, no organized standards of care, no CP registry, and no proven therapy protocols. The Committee urges NIH to work with scientists and stakeholders to develop a 5-year strategic plan for CP prevention, treatment, and cure through the life span with the goal of reducing the number of people impacted by CP overall, as well as improving the opportunity for recovery of those already diagnosed.

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- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), letter of support**

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**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

- **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Contract Tower Program, letter of support**  
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