



CONGRESSMAN CURT WELDON

7th District Pennsylvania



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 9, 2000

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**OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. WELDON  
CHAIRMAN, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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I want to thank my good friend and ranking member, Owen Pickett, and all of our colleagues for joining us today to conduct the mark-up of the Research and Development Subcommittee portion of the fiscal year 2000 defense authorization bill. During preparation for this mark-up, I am pleased to state that I have received nothing but the strongest of bi-partisan support from the members of the Armed Services Committee, and this Subcommittee, as we worked our way through some difficult issues. Throughout this mark-up, we were able to “stay the course” in our goal to further defense research, development, and pursuit of advanced technologies for the future modernization of our armed forces. I appreciate the support of all of the members and look forward to your solid support as we move through the remainder of this legislative year.

Before we begin consideration of the bill, I want to say a few words on behalf of two of our valued leaders on the Subcommittee, Mr. Owen Pickett, and Chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, Mr. Herb Bateman, both of whom have announced their retirement after this year.

Now we will move on to the mark-up of the R&D portion of the defense request. You should have before you a package that includes copies of directive report language and bill language contained in TITLE II, and a list of program increase highlights that are reflected in my Chairman’s mark.

Primary goal of the Chairman’s Mark:

The fiscal year 2001 budget request includes the first increase in R&D over previous Department of Defense requests in five years. While the official statements from the Department represent this R&D request as sufficient to address all high priority needs of the services and other defense agencies, the committee notes large numbers of high priority unfunded R&D requirements among the \$15 billion in modernization shortfalls identified by the service chiefs.

The committee also notes that the lists of the four service chiefs do not address any of the important unfunded and underfunded programs under the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Special Operations Command, and other defense-wide agencies.

(MORE)

The R&D Subcommittee, with the strong support and substantial allocation provided by Chairman Floyd Spence, the recommended authorization for fiscal year 2001 TITLE II research and development funding is \$39.3 billion. This represents an increase of \$1.4 billion to the President's request. This important increase has been worked in full cooperation with Chairman Duncan Hunter and the Procurement Subcommittee, responsible for oversight of the EMD portion of TITLE II, and both subcommittees have made every effort to focus the much needed additional funds on the services unfunded requirements. The highlights before you show that the R&D Subcommittee areas of jurisdiction represents \$988 million of the total increase, including a portion of the Intelligence budget and the Procurement Subcommittee was responsible for \$420 million.

The R&D Subcommittee made every effort to address these critical unfunded and underfunded areas and dedicated over seventy-six percent of all additional funds under its jurisdiction to restore many of these unfunded priorities. Other important priorities supported by the services were also increased where they were found to be executable.

Other important interests of the R&D Subcommittee include:

- Identify new technology areas not addressed by the services near-term and legacy system improvements R&D investments, and direct funding to those areas where the services or agencies were structuring executable programs and could identify validated or emerging requirements.
- Strengthen the DOD and service science & technology programs.
- Support bi-partisan initiatives, to include counter-terrorism, cyber-warfare, defense against weapons of mass destruction, and theater and national missile defense.

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