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## DONALD TRUMP SEEKS BILLIONS IN NEW SPENDING FOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

*President's immigration-related requests amount to some \$7.5 billion in additional spending*

By Laura Meckler  
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WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump's budget calls for expanding every corner of immigration enforcement: more agents to track down people living in the U.S. illegally, more jail space to hold them and more judges to process their deportation cases.

Mr. Trump also wants to hire 20 lawyers to challenge the land rights of owners along the southern border who don't want to sell their land for the promised border wall, and \$4 billion to begin planning and building it.

All together, the president's immigration-related requests amount to some \$7.5 billion in additional spending alongside deep cuts in other domestic spending.

While there already has been much debate over the border wall, an equally fierce one is coming over Mr. Trump's request for billions of dollars to build up the bureaucracy needed to deport more people now living in the U.S. illegally.

On Thursday, some Republicans offered general support for the White House while withholding comment on the details.

"The additional funds for border security and interior enforcement show this president truly understands these pressing challenges," said Rep. Michael McCaul (R., Texas), chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee. "It is important to keep in mind that the president's budget proposals are just the beginning of the negotiation process with Congress," Mr. McCaul added.

Democrats are already vowing to fight the new spending.

"I couldn't be more disappointed that President Trump has used his first budget proposal to prioritize the border wall – his pet project – and a deportation force over critical support for state and local law enforcement," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D., Calif.).

During the Obama administration, officials argued that immigration enforcement should focus on serious criminals. They said agencies had scarce enforcement resources and therefore should direct them to deporting illegal immigrants who posed a public safety risk. Arresting an otherwise law-abiding undocumented immigrant, the officials said, didn't just eat up the time of the officer involved, but further clogged backlogged immigration courts.

The Trump budget seeks to change that equation with more money for virtually every aspect of the immigration-enforcement system. Between a special request for extra money this fiscal year and his budget proposal for next year, Mr. Trump is asking for \$2.6 billion to

detain more people awaiting deportation proceedings and more than \$450 million to hire more Border Patrol and immigration-enforcement officers.

There is also nearly \$80 million to hire 75 new immigration-judge teams, part of the Justice Department budget, as part of an effort to address a backlog in the immigration courts that consider deportation cases.

Those spending increases are accompanied by cuts elsewhere in these agencies. At the Homeland Security Department, the Trump budget request includes reductions to the Transportation Security Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Coast Guard, though administration officials wouldn't give totals.

The requests for new border building are far short of the \$21 billion that DHS has estimated would be needed for the physical barrier Mr. Trump envisions on the southern border. To complete the project, more money would be needed in future years.

Democrats continued to remind the president that he promised throughout his presidential campaign that Mexico would pay for the border-wall project, something Mexico says it won't do.

"I thought President Trump said Mexico was going to pay for this wall," Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D., Md.) said.

But some Republicans said the project is important enough to fund with U.S. tax dollars.

"We need to do what's necessary to protect the United States and we need to pay for that," said Rep. Raul Labrador (R., Idaho).