

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

Website address: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

FY 2014 Omnibus – Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations

Bill halts new funding and slices into existing funds for ObamaCare, targets investments to disease prevention and research

The Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education portion of the Omnibus includes \$156.8 billion in discretionary funding, which is \$100 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level, and approximately \$9 billion below the President’s budget request for these programs. The bill halts any new funding for ObamaCare – and goes even further by slicing into existing ObamaCare funding – to prevent the unnecessary spending of taxpayer dollars on this flawed law. The legislation also seeks to focus tax dollars on programs that are critical to the health and well-being of Americans, including disease prevention and research programs and bio-defense efforts.

ObamaCare – The bill provides no new funding for ObamaCare, and holds the line on ObamaCare funding in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – the prime agency responsible for its implementation. In addition, the bill slices into existing ObamaCare funding, including:

- Reducing the Prevention and Public Health “slush” Fund by \$1 billion to prevent the Secretary of HHS from raiding these funds for ObamaCare exchanges;
- Reducing the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), created by ObamaCare, by \$10 million; and
- Continuing restrictions on using federal grant money to lobby, which will stop HHS from directing taxpayer money to lobbying efforts for ObamaCare.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) – The legislation includes \$3.7 billion for CMS management and operations, which is equal to the level put in place by the sequester and \$195 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. Additionally, the bill provides \$305 million for CMS to allow for the timely processing and payment of benefits, and the continuation of essential services for the increasing number of Americans who rely on traditional Medicare programs. These additional funds are prohibited from being used for ObamaCare.

Biodefense - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – The legislation includes a program level of \$6.9 billion for the CDC, \$567 million above the fiscal year 2013 program level. This includes:

- \$30 million to support the Advanced Molecular Detection initiative to enhance CDC’s ability to find and stop deadly infectious disease outbreaks;
- \$160 million for the Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant, which allows each state to address its most critical public health needs;
- \$1.3 billion for Public Health Preparedness and Response to help ensure the readiness of the Strategic National Stockpile, and provide ample resources for State and Local Preparedness programs. These

critical programs provide supplies and resources for a quick and effective response in the event of a bio-terror attack or pandemic disease emergency; and

- \$255 million – \$5 million above the request – for Project BioShield to support biodefense efforts.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) – The bill includes \$29.9 billion for the NIH, \$1 billion above the fiscal year 2013 level. This funding will continue support for basic bio-medical research and translational research through the programs like the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) and Institutional Development Award (IDeA) to support scientists as they conduct research to discover cures. Further, it provides full support for the NIH Office of Science Education and programs like the Science Education and Partnership Awards (SEPA) to support bio-medical research for the future.

Social Security Administration (SSA) – The bill includes \$11.7 billion to administer SSA activities, which is a \$265 million increase above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This level is sufficient to allow the SSA to continue prompt processing of Social Security checks and claims, and will help ensure that all eligible recipients get their benefits on time and in the proper amount. Within the total, the bill devotes \$1.2 billion to program integrity activities to ensure that disability and other benefits are properly paid.

Protecting Life – The bill continues several provisions to protect life, including a ban on funding for any needle exchange programs, and continuations of all longstanding restrictions on abortion funding that have been included in the legislation in prior years. Some of these include:

- A provision to prevent HHS from discriminating against health care providers who refuse to provide, pay for, or refer for abortions;
- A ban on federal funding for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or endangerment of the life of the mother ;
- A ban on creating embryos for research purposes, or federal funding of research in which embryos are destroyed; and
- An increase in funding for abstinence education to \$5 million.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) – The bill provides \$30.9 billion for ACF, which is \$782 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. The bill restores cuts caused by sequestration by providing \$3.4 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) program, and \$8.6 billion for Head Start. In addition, the legislation includes \$2.3 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, and \$710 million for the Community Services Block Grant program.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) – The bill funds SAMHSA at \$3.6 billion, which is a \$144 million increase over the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This includes \$75 million for criminal justice activities, including drug courts. The Substance Abuse Block Grant is funded at \$1.8 billion, a \$110 million increase over the fiscal year 2013 post-sequester level.

Administration for Community Living (ACL) – The bill provides \$1.6 billion for the ACL – \$54 million over the fiscal year 2013 enacted level – to fund programs for the elderly and the disabled. This includes a \$41 million increase for the elderly nutrition programs, including the Home-Delivered Meals (“Meals on Wheels”) program.

Department of Education – The bill funds the Department of Education at \$70.6 billion. This is \$739 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level.

- **Title I Program** – These basic grants to local school districts that aim to help children become proficient in reading and math are funded at \$14.4 billion, an increase of \$629 million above the 2013 post-sequestration level.

- **Pell Grants** – As per existing statute, the maximum Pell Grant award is increased to \$5,730, funded by a combination of discretionary and mandatory funds. This funding increase is outside of the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee.
- **Special Education** – Special Education grants to states are funded at \$11.5 billion in the legislation – \$498 million above the 2013 post-sequestration level.
- **School Safety** – The bill includes \$90 million for grants to improve school safety.
- **No Funding for Newly-Proposed Administration Initiatives** – The bill denies the Administration’s Preschool Development Grants and Race to the Top College Affordability programs. Instead, the bill makes targeted investments in an existing program for states to improve access to high-quality, early childhood education.

Department of Labor (DoL) – The bill provides \$12 billion for the Department of Labor, a cut of \$449 million below the fiscal year 2013 enacted level. This funding includes:

- \$10.4 billion for the **Employment Training Administration** – a decrease of \$562 million from the fiscal year 2013 enacted level;
- \$1.7 billion for the Office of **Job Corps** – \$14 million less than the fiscal year 2013 enacted level but approximately \$75 million above the sequester level – to help unemployed, young Americans receive education, job training, and employment assistance;
- \$269.5 million for **Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)** – \$5.1 million above the fiscal year 2013 enacted level, including \$14 million for the Transition Assistance Program to help new veterans receive training for civilian employment and job search assistance; and
- \$375.9 million for the **Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)**, virtually equal to fiscal year 2013 enacted level and \$4.8 million below the President’s budget request.

National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) – The bill includes \$274.2 million for the NLRB – a decrease of \$4 million below last year’s level and \$10.8 million below the President’s budget request. In addition, the legislation continues a provision intended to stop the NLRB’s harmful anti-business regulations related to the implementation of “e-Card Check,” which could promote coercion in union elections.

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