

House Appropriations Committee

Chairman Hal Rogers

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

FY 2015 Omnibus – Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations

Bill stops new funding for ObamaCare, targets investments toward disease prevention and research, helps to prevent and respond to Ebola in the U.S.

The Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education portion of the Omnibus includes \$156.8 billion in discretionary funding, which is the same as the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$926 million below the President's budget request. The bill targets investments toward important core areas such as biomedical research and disease prevention, while preventing any new or additional spending on the flawed ObamaCare law.

In addition, this section of the bill includes \$2.7 billion in emergency funding to address the Ebola crisis, \$410 million below the President's request. This funding level is sufficient to meet all emergency and immediate needs to ensure U.S. hospitals and medical personnel are fully prepared to respond to and stop the spread of this dangerous virus within our country.

ObamaCare – The bill provides no new funding for ObamaCare, and holds the line on funding within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – the prime agency responsible for the law's implementation. In addition, the bill:

- Stops any taxpayer bailout of the Risk Corridor program;
- Blocks the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPH Fund) from being used as an ObamaCare slush fund;
- Directs the Inspectors General at HHS and the Treasury Department to report on improper payments of ObamaCare tax subsidies;
- Cuts the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), created by ObamaCare, by \$10 million; and
- Continues restrictions to stop HHS from using taxpayer dollars to lobby for ObamaCare.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) – The legislation includes \$3.6 billion for CMS management and operations, which is equal to the level put in place by sequestration and the same as the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. The bill continues to provide CMS and additional \$305 million for the timely processing and payment of benefits, and for the continuation of essential services for the growing 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 targets funding to critical disease prevention and bio-defense research activities. In total, the bill includes a program level of \$6.9 billion for the CDC, \$43 million above the fiscal year 2014 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; and
- \$1.3 billion for Public Health Preparedness and Response to help ensure 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.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) – The bill includes a program level of \$30 billion for the NIH, \$150 million above the fiscal year 2014 level. This funding will continue basic bio-medical research and translational research through programs like the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) and Institutional Development Award (IDeA) to help scientists discover cures. It includes specific increases for Alzheimer’s, cancer, and brain research, and \$12.6 million for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Act pediatric research initiative.

Prescription Drug Abuse – To combat the scourge of prescription drug abuse around the country, the bill provides \$20 million in increased funding for prescription drug abuse prevention within CDC and a \$12 million increase for state grants within Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to expand treatment services for opioid dependence.

Protecting Life – The bill contains several provisions to protect life, continues all longstanding restrictions on abortion funding that have been included in Appropriations legislation in prior years, and promotes abstinence education. Some of these items 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;
- New language allowing approximately \$12 million in unused abstinence education funds to be redistributed to states that desire more funding for these programs;
- New language directing the HHS Secretary to increase the transparency of abortion coverage within federal exchange health care plans, so that consumers can know which plans cover abortion services prior to purchase;
- New language directing the HHS Office for Civil Rights to quickly respond to claims filed by health care providers on the violation of conscience clause protections; and
- A ban on funding for any needle exchange program.

Social Security Administration (SSA) – The bill provides \$1.4 billion, a \$199 million increase over fiscal year 2014, for Program Integrity activities within the SSA. This includes funding for activities to ensure that disability and SSI benefits are properly paid.

Early Childhood Education and Care – Administration for Children and Families (ACF) – The bill provides \$17.8 billion in discretionary resources for the ACF, which is a \$108 million increase. This includes a \$75 million increase for activities within the Child Care and Development Block Grant to improve the quality and safety of infant and toddler care. The bill also continues increased funding provided in fiscal year 2014 for the expansion of the Early Head Start program, providing additional early education opportunities for toddlers from low-income families throughout the country.

Department of Education – The bill funds the Department of Education at \$70.5 billion. This is \$133 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted program level.

- **Title I Program** – These basic grants to local school districts to help children become proficient in reading and math are funded at \$14.4 billion, an increase of \$25 million above the 2014 level.
- **Pell Grants** – As per existing statute, the maximum Pell Grant award is increased to \$5,830, 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 – \$25 million above the 2014 level.
- **No Funding for Newly Proposed Administration Initiatives** – The bill does not include the creation of a new account to fund preschool grants, and eliminates the President’s controversial Race to the Top initiative.

Department of Labor (DoL) – The bill provides \$11.9 billion for the Department of Labor, a cut of \$99 million below the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. This funding includes:

- \$9.7 billion for the **Employment and Training Administration**, which is a decrease of \$651 million from the fiscal year 2014 enacted level;
- \$1.7 billion for the Office of **Job Corps**, which is equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level, to help unemployed, young Americans receive education, job training, and employment assistance;
- \$270 million for **Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)**, which is \$458,000 above the fiscal year 2014 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)**, which is equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level.

National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) – The bill includes \$274.2 million for the NLRB – equal to the fiscal year 2014 enacted level and \$3.6 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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