



THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR FEDERAL POLICY RESEARCH
4114 Davis Place, NW, Suite 114, Washington, DC 20007
202-321-6229 sullivan@calinst.org www.calinst.org

Special Report: Summary of Continuing Resolution to Fund the Government through September 2017

May 2017

This week, the House and Senate considered H.R. 244, a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government through September 30, 2017. The legislation provides an annualized total of \$1.07 trillion in base spending for FY 2017. The bill passed the House with a 309-118 vote on Wednesday and passed the Senate with a 79-18 vote on Thursday. President Trump is expected to sign the bill on Friday to avoid a government shutdown, which would occur at midnight in the absence of a deal. Below are highlights from the legislation.

Agriculture

- The CR funds the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** at \$2.8 billion, which is \$42 million more than the FY 2016 level. Of that increase, \$36 million is for implementation of the **Food Safety Modernization Act**.
- The CR fully funds nutrition programs, including expected participation in the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** at \$78.5 billion and expected participation in the **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** at 6.35 billion. The bill also maintains \$19 million for commodity purchases under **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**.
- Agriculture research programs, including the **Agricultural Research Service** and the **National Institute of Food and Agriculture**, were allocated \$2.89 billion in the CR. The funding was targeted for research activities such as mitigating crop disease, improving food safety, and stopping antimicrobial resistance.

- The CR includes over \$1 billion for **food safety and inspection programs** to maintain over 8,000 inspection personnel for meat, poultry, and egg products at roughly 6,400 facilities across the U.S. This is an increase of \$17.2 million above the FY 2016 level.
- The legislation maintains funding levels for **Community Development Block Grants**, which provides funding for programs such as Meals on Wheels.
- The CR provides over \$1 billion for **conservation programs** that help landowners conserve and protect their land.
- The **Rental Assistance Program** is funded in the CR at \$1.4 billion, which is \$15 million more than the FY 2016 level, ensuring that all rental agreements under the program that expire in 2017 will be renewed.
- The CR does not include the additional farm payments sought by cotton and dairy farmers, but does require Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to submit a report within 60 days detailing ways Congress and the administration can help cotton farmers. It also instructs Secretary Perdue to use administrative and budget tools to assist dairy farmers.

Interior and Environment

- The CR provides \$8.06 billion for the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, which is a \$81.4 million or roughly one percent reduction from FY 2016. The funding covers all current EPA staff positions.
- Set at FY 2016 levels, the EPA will receive \$1.4 billion for **clean water programs** and \$863 million for **drinking water programs**, which support everything from rural water systems to technical cleanup assistance.
- The CR includes \$1.1 billion for the **U.S. Geological Survey** (\$23 million above the FY 2016 enacted level), which is targeted to programs such as the groundwater monitoring network and mapping activities.
- The bill includes \$1.5 billion for the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, which is an \$11 million increase above the FY 2016 enacted level. The legislation prioritizes funding to reduce the endangered species delisting backlog and maintenance backlog, to fight invasive species, to prevent illegal wildlife trafficking, and to prevent the closure of fish

hatcheries.

- The CR allocates \$2.9 billion for the **National Park Service**, an \$81 million or three percent increase above the FY 2016 level. This funding provides targeted increases for park operations and maintenance to help reduce the maintenance backlog, and addresses other priorities related to the Park Service's centennial anniversary.
- The CR includes \$5.6 billion for the **U.S. Forest Service**, more than half of which (\$3.2 billion) is targeted to wildland fire prevention and suppression.
- The **Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Education** are funded at \$2.9 billion (up \$69 million from FY 2016), which includes necessary increases for schools, law enforcement, road maintenance, and economic development.

Energy and Water

- The CR provides \$1.156 billion for water and related resources to address water storage and conveyance, power and environmental compliance, and restoration activities in the West. Within this amount, \$90 million will be used to implement drought-related provisions of the **Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act**, including \$67 million for WIIN water storage projects, \$10 million for the WIIN water recycling grant program, \$6 million for the WIIN desalination grant program, and \$7 million for the WIIN operational review and listed species actions.
- The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) **nuclear weapons security** programs are funded at \$12.9 billion, which is a \$142 million increase above FY 2016.
- The CR includes a \$49 million increase from FY 2016 for the **Army Corps of Engineers**, for a total of \$6.04 billion, to fund activities that will have an immediate impact on public safety, job creation, and economic growth such as projects aimed at improving the functionality of U.S. ports and waterways.
- **DOE energy programs** are funded at \$11.28 billion, which is a \$257 million increase from FY 2016. This funding includes \$1.02 billion for nuclear energy research, development, and demonstration activities and \$230 million for electric grid security research and development.

- The CR allocates \$5.4 billion for science research at the **Office of Science**, which supports 22,000 researchers at 17 national laboratories and over 300 universities.

Transportation

- The CR does not include the potential rider that would have prohibited the federal government from reimbursing California for incurred costs of the high-speed rail project, effectively ending the project. **California's high-speed rail project** will continue to receive \$100 million in federal funding under the deal.
- The **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** is funded in the CR at \$16.41 billion, which represents an increase of \$127 million above the FY 2016 level, providing full funding for all air traffic control personnel, including controllers, engineers, maintenance technicians, safety inspectors, and operational support personnel.
- The CR includes \$43.2 billion for the **Federal-Aid Highway program**, \$905 million more than fiscal year 2016. This level is consistent with increases from the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015.

Homeland Security

- In total, \$1.1 billion of the \$3 billion requested in President Trump's March 16, 2017, budget amendment is included, which represents the largest increase to border security technologies and infrastructure improvement in more than a decade.
- **U.S. Customs and Border Protection** is funded at \$11.4 billion in discretionary appropriations, which is an increase of \$137 million above the FY 2016 enacted level. The CR also provides an additional \$772 million as requested by President Trump in his March 2017 budget amendment for improvements to and maintenance of existing infrastructure, technology investments, and increased Border Patrol agent hiring. None of this funding will go toward the construction of a wall along the southern border.
- The CR provides \$6.4 billion for **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)** including \$617 million for additional detention beds and transportation and removal costs. This is a \$550 million increase from the FY 2016 enacted level.

- **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** is funded at \$7.8 billion in the CR, which is an increase of \$331 million above the FY 2016 enacted level, to enhance aviation security and reduce wait times at the nation's airports.
- Funding for the **National Protection and Programs Directorate**, which deals with cybersecurity and communication protection, was increased by \$183 million from FY 2016 levels for a total of \$1.8 billion to enhance critical infrastructure and stop cyberattacks.
- The bill contains \$10.5 billion for the **U.S. Coast Guard**, which represents a decrease of \$467.3 million below the FY 2016 enacted level.
- The CR sustains FY 2016 levels for the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** disaster relief account at \$7.3 billion and FEMA grants at \$2.7 billion.

Defense

- In total, the CR increases Department of Defense funding by \$19.9 billion compared to the FY 2016 level for a total of \$593 billion. The increases are largely allocated to personnel, equipment procurement, and operation and maintenance.
- The CR fully funds a 2.1 percent pay raise for the military personnel, the largest military pay raise in six years.

Justice

- Overall, the **Department of Justice (DOJ)** is funded by the CR at \$29 billion, a reduction of \$143 million below the FY 2016 enacted level.
- Funding for the **Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)** increased by \$277 million above the FY 2016 enacted level for a total of \$8.8 billion. This funding will maintain all critical functions of the FBI, with increases targeted to anti-cybercrime, counterintelligence, anti-violent crime, and counterterrorism programs. An additional \$420 million was allocated to the FBI for critical infrastructure projects.

- The CR includes \$2.1 billion for the **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)**, which is a \$23 million increase from the FY 2016 enacted level. This includes more than \$1 billion (a more than \$650 million increase from FY 2016) to fight the opioid crisis to support everything from drug courts and treatment programs to prescription drug monitoring efforts.
- **Federal Prisoner Detention** was allocated \$1.5 billion under the CR, which will be used for short-term detention space to hold federal detainees and is consistent with the President Trump's FY 2018 initial budget request.
- Funding for the **Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)** was increased by \$20 million, for a total of \$440 million to provide 10 additional immigration judge teams to process immigration reviews more quickly and reduce the backlog of pending cases. The bill also requires monthly reporting on immigration judge performance.

Education

- Overall, the bill funds the **Department of Education** at \$68 billion, which is \$1.2 billion below the FY 2016 enacted level.
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** special education grants to states are funded at \$12 billion. This is a \$59 million increase over the FY 2016 enacted level.
- The CR increases the **maximum Pell Grant award** to \$5,935 through a combination of discretionary and mandatory funds.
- A newly authorized grant program called **Student Support and Academic Achievement State Grants** is allocated \$400 million in the CR to provide flexible funds to states and school districts to expand access to a well-rounded education, improve school conditions, and improve the use of technology.
- The CR provides over \$1.3 billion for **Impact Aid**, an increase of \$23 million above the fiscal year 2016 enacted level.