

**MONTHLY WASHINGTON UPDATES**

May 25, 2017

**BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS**

***\*\*On May 23, the President's proposal for an FY 2018 budget was released. A separate analysis can be found [here](#)***

During the first week of May, Congress passed and the President signed into law H.R. 244, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017. This omnibus appropriations legislation funds the federal government through the end of FY 2017. The approximately \$1 trillion bipartisan agreement includes funding for many programs of importance to UCLA. The FY2017 Omnibus bill provides a total of \$1.1 trillion in discretionary budget authority, which includes \$15 billion in additional defense spending and \$1.2 billion for border security.

The Omnibus does include:

- Reinstatement of year-round Pell Grants
- \$2 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health
- \$50 million increase for the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative
- \$48 million increase for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
- \$15 million increase for the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E)
- \$8.7 million increase for the National Science Foundation
- \$2 million in additional funding each for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities

The Omnibus does not include:

- President Trump's request to cut FY2017 non-defense budget authority by \$18 billion
- President Trump's request for funding to construct a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border
- A policy rider that would restrict 'sanctuary cities' from receiving federal grants

Please [click here](#) to find a summary of the FY17 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

**CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

The House passed legislation on May 4, 2017 to repeal and replace the "Affordable Care Act" with the "American Health Care Act." The bill was approved 217-213, with no Democrats voting for the bill, and a number of Republicans opposing it as well. Every Republican in the CA Delegation voted for the bill and every Democrat voted against. The Senate is working on a companion bill now. The UCs opposed the House bill because it would mean severe cuts to

Medicaid, and drastically reduce the number of people in California with health insurance, and is actively monitoring the Senate activity.

### **Protecting Sensitive Locations Act**

Senator Kamala Harris, a member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, introduced a bill on April 5 to block immigration enforcement at “sensitive locations” which if passed, would codify into law what is current DHS policy. Senator Harris and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced legislation to prevent immigration enforcement officers from taking enforcement actions at sensitive locations like schools, hospitals, and religious institutions, except in very rare situations. The *Protecting Sensitive Locations Act* codifies the Department of Homeland Security’s existing policies and expands on those policies to ensure that immigrants are able to access education, criminal justice, and social services without fear of deportation.

### **Campus Accountability and Safety Act**

On April 5, legislation to combat sexual assault on college campuses—to protect students and strengthen institutional transparency and accountability—was reintroduced by a bipartisan group of Senators, led by Sens. Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Dean Heller (R-NV). [S. 856](#), the Campus Accountability and Safety Act (CASA), would require campuses to designate sexual assault response coordinators to assist survivors of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. These coordinators would manage support services and accommodations for survivors, at the direction of the survivors. Identical legislation ([H.R. 1949](#)) was introduced in the House of Representatives by Reps. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Pat Meehan (R-PA).

### **Education Legislation Update**

Many bills are being developed and introduced in the House and Senate that would amend the Higher Education Act (HEA), and there is an expectation—as Congress moves toward reauthorizing the HEA—that the individual bills would be consolidated into a final package. We are closely monitoring reauthorization of the HEA. Three bills of interest:

- **The POST GRAD Act**  
Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA) plans to reintroduce the Protecting Our Students by Terminating Graduate Rates that Add to Debt, or POST GRAD Act, to restore graduate students’ eligibility for Federal Direct Subsidized Loans, which will allow them to defer interest accumulating while in school. (UC Supports)
- **Perkins Loan Extension**  
Reps. Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Elisa Stefanik (R-NY) have developed legislation to extend the Perkins Loan Program for two years, allowing time for debate on how to amend the program during an official reauthorization of the HEA. (UC Supports)
- **Income-Sharing Agreements**  
Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Todd Young (R-IN) have reintroduced [S. 268](#), the Investing in Student Success Act, legislation that would create a new higher education financing option called “income share agreements” (ISAs). (UC has concerns)

## **POLICY AND REGULATORY UPDATE**

### **Department of ED Announces Changes to FAFSA Application Process Due to Suspension of IRS Data Retrieval Tool**

The Department of Education (ED) announced changes to the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application process in response to significant concerns expressed by institutions, students, and families regarding the suspension of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Data Retrieval Tool (DRT). The IRS and ED suspended the DRT, which allows students to automatically import tax information to the FAFSA, last month due to data security concerns. Effective immediately, colleges and universities can accept a signed 2015 tax return in lieu of using the IRS DRT or an IRS transcript. If the student, their parents, or spouse did not file a 2015 tax return, institutions will not be required to get documentation from the IRS to prove that they did not file. However, students must still submit a signed statement verifying that they were not required to file a 2015 income tax return, documentation of income in 2015, and a copy of W-2 forms from jobs held that year. The IRS DRT is expected to be down until the fall.

### **Guidance from the Department of Education on Restoration of Year-round Pell Grants to be issued on July 1. Availability for Summer 2017 uncertain**

Year-round Pell Grants were restored in the 2017 Omnibus Appropriations and we are awaiting new implementation guidelines from the Department of Education on implementation. Though the FY17 appropriation is for award year 2017-18, it is unclear if the Department of Education will be ready or able to provide these extra Pell Grants this summer or if the grants will first become available in 2018. Congress has directed the Department of Education to issue guidance on year-round Pell by July 1. UCLA Federal Relations will provide an update when it becomes available. The FY17 funding agreement also directs ED to permit borrowers consolidating their student loans to be able to choose from any of the federal loan servicers for their new consolidated loans. ED will develop common performance metrics to assist borrowers in the selection process.

### **State Department Considering Supplemental Questions for Visa Applicants**

OMB was asked by the State Department to do an Emergency Review re: Supplemental Questions for Visa Applicants. Among the new proposed and problematic criteria, visa applicants would be required to disclose their social media handles and document all travel history and source of funding for the last fifteen years. The notice vaguely indicates that “a subset of visa applicants” would be required to meet the new criteria in order to “more rigorously evaluate applicants for terrorism or other national security-related visa ineligibilities.” The Federal Register notice can be found online [here](#) and the associations’ comment letter can be found online [here](#).

## ADVOCACY UPDATE

### **Call to Action Campaign around Federal Funding for Research**

UCDC reached out to Members of the California Congressional delegation that voted in favor of the FY 2017 omnibus appropriations legislation to thank them for their support and to share with them [UC's FY 2018 funding priorities](#). In April, UCDC launched a [call-to-action campaign](#) which provided advocates with an opportunity to reach out to Members of Congress to express their support for federal investment in research. UC advocates sent more than 10,000 messages to Congress through the UC Advocacy Network (UCAN). The campaign will remain active on the UCAN website for the foreseeable future. A final thank you message was delivered to all advocates that sent a message to Congress.

### **UC Student Association (UCSA)**

UCSA, the official voice of more than 260,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students from all ten UC campuses, sponsored an advocacy trip to Washington April 3 – 6, focusing on federal investment in student financial aid and protection of undocumented students on college campuses. The delegation included students from UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis and UC Merced, along with UCSA leadership. They met with staff in more than two dozen Congressional offices. The group also met with non-elected officials at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Young Invincibles and the Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS).

### **New Technology Transfer Infographic and Fact Sheet from AAU and APLU**

AAU and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) have developed a new infographic and fact sheet on technology transfer, [How Tech Transfer Transforms Society](#). The document illustrates how university technology transfer and intellectual property protections have resulted in important products and processes used every day.

## UCLA FEDERAL ENGAGEMENTS

- **Dr. Yoram Cohen**, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering and **Dr. Georgia Kernell**, assistant professor of communications studies participated in the Annual Coalition for National Science Funding Capitol Hill Day. Dr. Cohen is with the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, the Director of Water Technology Research (WaTeR) and a co-founding member of the UCLA/National Science Foundation (NSF) Center for the Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology (CEIN). He is a recognized expert in water purification and desalination. Dr. Kernell attended with the American Political Science Association to share her expertise in political communication, party strategy and voter behavior.
- **Dr. Darnell Hunt**, Director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies and Professor of Sociology presented the 2017 Hollywood Diversity Report at the Congressional Multicultural Media Caucus Summit, held in conjunction with the National Urban League in Washington DC on May 25, 2017. The caucus is comprised of over 20 Congressional Members dedicated to issues related to the state of diversity and inclusion in the various media industries from film and television to theatre and print.