

UCLA FEDERAL RELATIONS - WASHINGTON UPDATES

May 16, 2017

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

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

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.

Protection 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

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Federal Funding

Last week, 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.

Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)

On Tuesday, May 16, the Coalition for National Science Funding will hold its 23rd Annual Capitol Hill Exhibition. In advance of the exhibition, delegates from UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Riverside and UC San Diego will meet with Congressional staff to discuss the importance of increased investments in the National Science Foundation's research and education programs.

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 the 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).

Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU)

Mary Luevano and Lisa Hasegawa from the Office of Government & Community Relations travelled to DC in April to represent UCLA at the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) Council on Government Affairs Spring meeting. They also met with staff from several Congressional offices including, Senator Feinstein, Rep. Steve Knight, Rep. Karen Bass, Rep. Maxine Waters, Rep. Judy Chu.

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 ENGAGEMENT

- Dr. Yoram Cohen, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering are participating in the Coalition for National Science Funding Annual Capitol Hill Exhibition. Professor Cohen is on the faculty of the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, a UCLA Luskin Scholar, Director of UCLA Water Technology Research (WaTeR), and a member and Theme Leader at the UCLA Center for Environmental Implications of

Nanotechnology (CEIN). He is also a co-founding member of the UCLA/National Science Foundation (NSF) Center for the Environmental Implications of Nanotechnology (CEIN) and is a recognized expert in water purification and desalination.

- Dr. Georgia Kernell, assistant professor of communications studies is also participating in CNSF day with the American Political Science Association to share her expertise in political communication, party strategy and voter behavior with participants.
- Dr. Darnell Hunt, Director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies and Professor of Sociology is presenting the 2017 Hollywood Diversity Report at the Congressional Multicultural Media Caucus Summit. 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. Promoting multicultural media and multi-interest participation serves as the core theme of the caucus. The Congressional Multicultural Media Caucus will hold this event in conjunction with the National Urban League in Washington DC on May 25, 2017.