
WASHINGTON UPDATES

July – August 2017

This monthly report is intended to provide the UCLA community with updates on Federal legislative, regulatory and funding issues affecting our campus. The Federal Relations team in UCLA's Office of Government and Community Relations monitors policy and funding issues in order to strategically advocate on behalf of the University. We also manage relationships with Federal officials and their staffs, and support the campus community on engaging with elected and administration officials. If you are interested in getting more involved in our Federal advocacy efforts, please contact the UCLA Federal Government Relations staff listed [here](#).

The policy issues covered in this edition include:

- Affordable Care Act repeal
- Facilities and Administrative research costs
- Immigration legislation
- Federal Student Aid
- Veterans Education Assistance
- Federal Budget & Appropriations

UCLA's FEDERAL ENGAGEMENTS

- On July 25th, Chancellor Gene Block, was a featured panelist for the [Council on Competitiveness](#), [Advancing U.S. Bioscience and Biomanufacturing Briefing](#). The Council on Competitiveness held this Capitol Hill briefing on the critical role of bioscience in strengthening U.S. manufacturing. Members of Congress on the program included Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS), Co-Founder, Senate Competitiveness Caucus, Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Congressman Randy Hultgren (IL-14).
- On July 19th, Dr. Gaurav Sant, Associate Professor and Henry Samueli Fellow with the School of Engineering and Applied Science, testified at a hearing of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee entitled "[Energy Innovation: Letting Technology Lead](#)".

UCLA ADVOCACY

- Through the UC's federal budget call to action, we engaged nearly 100 advocates to take action in support of funding for research in higher education through writing letters to their Members of Congress through the UC Advocacy Network (UCAN).
- The Office of the External Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Association (USAC) mobilized over 100 students to make over 400 calls to Members of Congress through three phone banking sessions focused on preventing defunding of sanctuary cities, supporting the continuation of DACA, and prioritizing funding for higher education and research.

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Efforts to Repeal and Replace the Affordable Care Act

On July 28, efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) coverage provisions and replace them with a pared down version of their earlier Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA) bill failed to pass the Senate. Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Susan Collins (R-ME) voted against the bill, thereby making it impossible to secure the 51 votes required for a budget reconciliation bill.

Had the "skinny" repeal passed, the ACA's individual and employer-sponsored coverage mandates, along with the medical device tax, would have been eliminated. Additionally, the Prevention and Public Health Fund would have ceased to operate after FY 2018, and Planned Parenthood would have been defunded for one year. Following the Senate's vote, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) has expressed his desire to hold hearings in the HELP Committee with health insurance and health policy experts in an effort to devise bipartisan legislation that could stabilize state health insurance marketplaces. President Trump is deciding whether to support Congressional appropriations of around \$7 billion in funds for FY 2018 for the purpose of helping state marketplace insurance issuers defray the costs of covering higher at-risk individuals.

Update on Proposal to Cap NIH Research F&A Costs at 10 Percent

In a promising sign that our [advocacy](#) is working, the House FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill included statutory language (Section 228) that prohibits implementation of the 10 percent Facilities & Administrative (F&A) cap as proposed by the administration. The bill also increased NIH research funding to \$35.2 billion, which is \$1.1 billion more than FY 2017 – rather than the administration's proposal to cut NIH research by more than \$7 billion.

UCLA FGR will continue to engage with Congress to explain how F&A reimbursements are critical to campus research projects. Together with other institutions of higher education, we are seeking language similar to Section 228 in the Senate version of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Dream Act/Hope Act

Congress was also active on immigration this past month, with the Senate re-introducing a bipartisan Dream Act, and the House introducing the American Hope Act. Additionally, President Trump announced his support for the RAISE (Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment) Act when it was reintroduced in the House.

On July 20, Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced the bipartisan [Dream Act of 2017](#), the most recent iteration of legislation that aims to allow undocumented immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children to – after meeting certain requirements – apply for permanent residency status, and eventually obtain citizenship. California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris have signed on to the legislation as cosponsors. UCLA recognizes the vital importance of codifying and improving important programs such as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy – and the UC system has supported each iteration of similar Dream Act legislation to date. The American Hope Act was also introduced in the house and the goal of the bill is to give those with DACA and others who arrived in the United States

as children a path to permanent legal status and eventual citizenship. The bill, if enacted, gives immigrants who arrived in the U.S. before their 18th birthday and before December 31, 2016 an opportunity to apply for legal status if they meet certain requirements.

RAISE Act

Originally introduced in February 2017, the [RAISE \(Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment\) Act](#) bill was revised and reintroduced on August 2nd, co-sponsored by Republican senators Tom Cotton and David Perdue, and is being supported by the White House. The bill seeks to reduce levels of legal immigration to the United States by 50% by halving the number of green cards issued. The bill would also impose a cap of 50,000 refugee admissions a year and would end the visa diversity lottery.

Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension

The UC system signed onto a letter sponsored by the American Council on Education (ACE) in support of the [Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2017](#). The act, sponsored by Reps. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and Mark Pocan (D-WI), would extend by two years the Perkins Loan program, which is set to expire September 30, 2017. The program provides low-interest loans to both undergraduate and graduate students, and revenue from loan repayment is used to issue new loans to additional students.

UC maintains a revolving Perkins Loan fund of \$35 million, which is used to provide more than 18,000 undergraduate and graduate students with an average award of \$1,500 per year of attendance, and is an important component of a robust financial aid portfolio. UCLA will continue to advocate with the California congressional delegation and other members of Congress to promote the reauthorization of this program.

Pell Indexation

On July 18, UC President Janet Napolitano – on behalf of the UC system – joined in signing a [letter](#) to Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI), House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), urging congressional leadership to promote legislation that would index Pell Grants to inflation indefinitely.

In the FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill that passed out of the full Committee on July 24, members of the committee did not provide for an increase in the maximum Pell Grant award, which remained fixed at \$5,920 for the 2018-19 academic year. UCLA FGR will continue to advocate for full funding of the Pell Grant program, steady increases in the maximum Pell Grant award to ensure the value of Pell Grants do not deteriorate further.

Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act

Congress has approved legislation to expand veterans' access to higher education through the [Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017](#), which was sent to President Trump for signature on Aug. 2. The legislation removes a 15-year time limit on tuition assistance, and expands benefits to reservists deploying on active duty, Purple Heart recipients and surviving family members of veterans who perish in the line of duty. The House and the Senate passed the bill and President Trump is expected to sign the bill into law.

POLICY AND REGULATORY UPDATE

H-1B Visas

On July 24, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that it would resume “premium processing” of H-1B skilled-worker visa applications for special categories of applicants – including institutions of higher education – effective immediately. As UCLA follows an academic calendar, an expedited visa approval process is important to ensure that international faculty and researchers can begin their instruction and research at the beginning of the academic year. In April, immediately after DHS suspended the program, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) joined a bipartisan letter sent by Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and John Cornyn (R-TX) urging the department to resume the services for U.S. colleges and universities.

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget and Appropriations

On July 19, the House Budget Committee passed the FY 2018 budget resolution, H.Con.Res.71. The resolution has not been scheduled for a floor vote. The Senate has not acted on an FY 2018 budget resolution.

Although the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have been busy, to date, no FY 2018 appropriations legislation has been signed into law. The House has passed all 12 bills out of committee, and on July 27, the House passed four bills packaged in a “minibus” – including the FY 2018 Defense; Energy and Water; Legislative Branch; and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. The Senate has passed six bills out of committee: Agriculture; Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water; Legislative Branch; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; Transportation-HUD.

Below are updates on UC priorities within the FY 2018 appropriations bills, as considered in the House and the Senate so far:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

Department of Education

- **Pell Grants:** The House committee bill proposes funding the program at \$22.49 billion in FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017, and \$50 million higher than in the President’s FY 2018 request. The proposed rescission of \$3.27 billion in previously appropriated funds, combined with the \$1.31 billion rescission from FY 2017, would reduce the Pell surplus from \$8.5 billion to \$4 billion.

The House committee bill puts the continued viability of the Pell Grant program at risk, as a surge of Pell-eligible students could rapidly deplete the program’s funds. For FY 2018, the maximum Pell Grant award will remain at \$5,920 for the 2018-19 academic year, ending a practice of adjusting Pell Grants annually for inflation, as called for under current law.

- **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG):** The House committee bill proposes funding the program at \$733 million in FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017, which rejects the President’s FY 2018 request’s recommendation to eliminate the program.

- **Federal Work-Study:** The House committee bill proposes funding the program at \$990 million in FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017, and \$490 million higher than in the President's FY 2018 request.
- **TRIO Programs:** The House committee bill proposes funding the program at \$1.01 billion in FY 2018, \$60 million higher than the enacted FY 2017 level, and \$202 million higher than in the President's FY 2018 request.
- **GEAR UP:** The House committee bill proposes funding the program at \$350 million for FY 2018, \$10 million higher than the enacted FY 2017 level, and \$131 million higher than in the President's FY 2018 request.

• **Aid for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) – Title V**

Part A—Strengthening Hispanic-Serving Institutions: The House committee bill proposes funding the program at \$117 million in FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017, and the same level proposed in the President's FY 2018 request.

Part B—Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans: The House committee bill proposes funding the program at \$9.7 million in FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017, and the same level proposed in the President's FY 2018 request.

- **Teacher Preparation and Teacher Quality Programs:** The House committee bill and President's FY 2018 request propose the elimination of this program, which received \$43 million in FY 2017.
- **Title VI International Education Programs:** The House committee bill proposes funding the program at \$65 million for FY 2018, \$7 million lower than the enacted FY 2017 level, which rejects the President's FY 2018 request's recommendation to eliminate the program.
- **Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN):** The House committee bill and President's FY 2018 request propose funding the program at \$5.8 million for FY 2018, \$22.2 million lower than in the enacted FY 2017 level.
- **Institute of Education Sciences:** The House committee bill proposes funding the program at \$605 million in FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017, and \$12 million lower than in the President's FY 2018 request.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH): The House Appropriations Committee proposes funding the NIH at \$35.2 billion in FY 2018, \$1.1 billion more than the enacted FY 2017 level, and \$5.3 billion higher than in the FY 2018 President's request. The legislation contains a general provision (bill language) that prohibits implementation of the 10 percent Facilities and Administration (F&A) costs cap as proposed by the administration:

SEC. 228. In making Federal financial assistance, the NIH shall continue to apply the provisions relating to indirect costs in part 75 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, including with respect to the approval of deviations from negotiated rates, to the same extent and in the same manner as the NIH applied such provisions in the third quarter of fiscal year 2017. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by the NIH to develop or implement a modified approach to such provisions, or to intentionally or substantially expand the fiscal effect of the approval of such deviations from negotiated rates beyond the proportional effect of such approvals in such quarter.

HHS, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- **Title VII Health Professions Training:** The House committee bill proposes funding these training programs at \$237 million, \$72.2 million lower than the enacted FY 2017 level, and \$232.4 million higher than in the President's FY 2018 request.
- **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development:** The House committee bill proposes funding these development programs at \$211 million, \$18 million lower than the enacted FY 2017 level, and \$128 million higher than in the President's FY 2018 request.

HHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- **CDC:** The House committee bill proposes funding CDC at \$7.05 billion in FY 2018, \$200 million lower than the enacted FY 2017 level, and \$2 billion higher than in the President's FY 2018 request.
- **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH):** The House committee bill proposes funding NIOSH at \$325 million in FY 2018, \$10.2 million lower than the enacted FY 2017 level, and \$125 million higher than in the President's FY 2018 request.
- **NIOSH Education and Research Centers (ERCs):** The House committee bill proposes funding the program at \$29 million for FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017, which rejects the President's FY 2018 request's recommendation to eliminate the program.
- **NIOSH Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Program:** The House Appropriations Committee proposes funding the program at \$25.5 million for FY 2018, the same level as was enacted in FY 2017, which rejects the President's FY 2018 request's recommendation to eliminate the program.

HHS, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ): The House Appropriations Committee proposes funding the program at \$300 million for FY 2018, \$24 million lower than the enacted FY 2017 level, which rejects the President's FY 2018 request's recommendation to eliminate the programs.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- **NASA Science Mission Directorate:** The House committee bill provides \$5.859 billion for the Science Mission Directorate, which is \$94 million more than the FY 2017 enacted level and \$147 million more than the FY 2018 President's request. The Senate committee bill provides \$5.572 billion for the Science Mission Directorate, \$193 million below FY 2017 and \$140 million below the President's request.
- **NASA Space Technology Programs:** The House committee bill provides \$687 million for Space Technology programs, which is equal to the FY 2017 enacted level and \$8 million more than the FY 2018 President's request. The Senate committee bill provides \$700 million for Space Technology, \$13 million more than FY 2017 and \$21 million more than the President's request.
- **Space Grant College and Fellowship Program:** The House and Senate committee bills both provide \$40 million for the Space Grant program, which is equal to the FY 2017 enacted level. The program is proposed to be eliminated in the President's FY 2018 request.

National Science Foundation (NSF): The House committee bill provides \$7.34 billion for the NSF, which is \$133 million lower than the FY 2017 enacted level and \$147 million more than the FY 2018 President’s request. Research and Related Activities would be flat funded, and a \$131 million cut below FY 2017 is recommended for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction. The Senate committee bill provides \$7.31 billion for the NSF, \$163 million below FY 2017 and \$118 million more than the President’s request. Research and Related Activities would be cut by \$116 million below FY 2017, and Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction received a \$26 million cut.

Department of Commerce, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR):** The House committee bill provides \$448.8 million for OAR, which is \$28.9 million lower than the FY 2017 enacted level and \$98.8 million more than the FY 2018 President’s request. The Senate committee bill provides \$477.7 million for OAR, equal to the FY 2017 enacted level and \$127.7 million more than the President’s request.
- **National Sea Grant College Program, OAR:** The House committee bill provides \$63 million for the Sea Grant program, which is equal to the FY 2017 enacted level. The program is proposed to be eliminated in the President’s FY 2018 request. The Senate committee bill increases the Sea Grant program by an additional \$2 million, to \$65 million.
- **Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS):** The House committee bill provides \$31 million for the IOOS, \$300 thousand more than FY 2017, and \$1.6 million more than the FY 2018 President’s request. The Senate committee bill provides \$33.7 million for the IOOS, \$3 million more than FY 2017, and \$4.3 million more than the President’s FY 2018 request.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEFENSE

Department of Defense (DOD) *The House Appropriations Committee-passed bill was included in the House “minibus” appropriations package.*

- **Defense Basic Research (6.1):** The House bill provides \$2.28 billion for 6.1 Basic Research, a \$4 million increase over FY 2017, and \$51 million more than was requested in the President’s FY 2018 request.
- **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA):** The House bill provides \$3.07 billion for DARPA, a \$180 million increase over FY 2017, and \$100 million less than the President’s FY 2018 request.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Department of Energy (DOE) *The House Appropriations Committee-passed bill was included in the House “minibus” appropriations package.*

- **Office of Science:** The House bill provides \$5.392 billion, which is equal to the FY 2017 enacted level and \$919 million more than the President’s FY 2018 request. Separate from the House “minibus” appropriation package, the Senate-passed bill provides \$5.55 billion, an increase of \$158 million over FY 2017 and \$1.08 billion more than the President’s request.

- **Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E):** The House bill would eliminate ARPA-E as was proposed in the President’s FY 2018 request. Separate from the House “minibus” appropriation package, the Senate-passed bill provides \$330 million, which is \$24 million above the FY 2017 enacted level.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- **Research, Development and Innovation, Science and Technology Directorate:** The House committee bill provides \$343 million for DHS research, science and technology programs, which is the same as the President’s FY 2018 request and \$87.1 million below the FY 2017 enacted level.
- **University Programs, Science and Technology Directorate:** The House committee bill provides \$40.5 million for DHS University Programs, which is the same as the FY 2017 enacted level and \$10.8 million above the President’s FY 2018 request.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

- **USGS Earthquake Hazards Program (EHP):** The House committee bill provides \$64.3 million for the Earthquake Hazards Program (E), which is the same as the FY 2017 enacted level and \$12.9 million above the President’s FY 2018 request. The bill includes \$10.2 million to continue development of the Earthquake Early Warning System.
- **USGS Global Seismographic Network (GSN):** The House committee bill provides \$6.65 million for the GSN program, which is equal to the FY 2017 level and \$1.75 million more than the President’s FY 2018 request.
- **USGS Water Resources Research Institutes, Water Resources Research Program:** The House committee bill provides \$6.5 million for the Water Resources Research program, which is equal to the FY 2017 enacted level. The program was proposed to be eliminated in the President’s FY 2018 request.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): The House committee bill provides \$145 million for the NEH, which is \$4.85 million less than the FY 2017 enacted level. The program was proposed to be eliminated in the President’s FY 2018 request.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA): The House committee bill provides \$145 million for the NEA, which is \$4.85 million less than the FY 2017 enacted level. The program was proposed to be eliminated in the President’s FY 2018 request.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- **Office of Science and Technology:** The House committee bill provides \$629.2 million for EPA science and technology programs, which is \$84.6 million less than the FY 2017 enacted level and \$178.4 million more than proposed in the President’s FY 2018 request.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

- **New Partnerships for US and Developing Nation Universities:** The House committee bill provides \$35 million for the New Partnerships, which is equal to the FY 2017 enacted level. The President's FY 2018 request did not provide information on this program.
- **Feed the Future Food Security Innovation Labs:** The House committee bill provides \$60 million for the Feed the Future Innovation labs, which is \$10 million more than the FY 2017 enacted level. The President's FY 2018 request did not provide information on this program.
- **Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN):** The House committee bill provides \$28 million for the HESN Program. The final FY 2017 funding level has not yet been determined, and the President's FY 2018 request did not provide information on this program.

<p>SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES</p>
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Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI):** The House and Senate committee bills both provide \$375 million for AFRI, which is equal to the FY 2017 enacted level and \$25 million more than the FY 2018 President's request.
- **USDA Capacity Grants programs – Hatch Act, Smith-Lever 3(b)-3(c) and McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry:** The House and Senate committee bills each provide funding consistent with FY 2017 enacted levels for USDA capacity programs: \$244 million for Hatch, \$300 million for Smith-Lever and \$34 million for McIntire-Stennis. The President's request proposes small cuts for the first two programs and a \$5 million cut for McIntire-Stennis.
- **USDA Crop Protection/Pest Management (CP/PM) and Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4):** The House and Senate committee bills provide \$20 million for the CP/PM and \$11.9 million for the IR-4 programs, the same as in FY 2017. The President's request would provide the same amount for IR-4, and a \$5.4 million cut for CP/PM.
- **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP):** The House and Senate committee bills provide \$68 million for EFNEP, which is the same as the President's FY 2018 request and equal to the FY 2017 level.