

# *House Appropriations Committee*

*Chairman Hal Rogers*

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

## **FY 2016 Omnibus – Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations**

*Bill targets investments toward disease prevention and research and important education programs, puts limits on Obamacare*

The Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), and Education portion of the Omnibus prioritizes investments in core areas such as biomedical research and disease prevention – including additional funding for the National Institute of Health and the Centers for Disease Control – and important education programs. The legislation also prevents any new or additional spending on the flawed ObamaCare law.

In total, the LHHS bill includes \$162.1 billion in base discretionary funding, \$5.4 billion above the 2015 enacted level and \$5.5 billion below the President’s budget request.

**ObamaCare** – The bill provides no new funding for ObamaCare. Specifically, 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.
- **Cuts** the **Independent Payment Advisory Board** (IPAB), created by ObamaCare, by \$15 million.
- **Restricts** HHS from using taxpayer dollars to lobby for ObamaCare.
- Directs the Inspectors General at HHS and the Treasury Department to report on improper payments of ObamaCare tax subsidies.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)** – The bill includes a program level of \$32 billion for the NIH, \$2 billion above the 2015 enacted level. It includes specific increases for Alzheimer’s disease research, brain research, antibiotic research, and the Precision Medicine Initiative. Plus, it provides a general increase to all NIH Institutes and Centers to continue basic bio-medical research and translational research through programs like the Clinical and Translational Science Awards and Institutional Development Award program to help scientists discover cures. It continues support for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Act pediatric research initiative.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Bio-Defense** – The legislation prioritizes funding on critical disease prevention and bio-defense research activities to protect against and prevent infectious diseases, and to prepare for potential bio-terror attacks. In total, the bill includes a program level of \$7.2 billion for the CDC, \$300 million above the fiscal year 2015 program level. This includes:

- \$70 million to increase the efforts to combat prescription drug overdose abuse with evidence based activities.
- \$160 million to support the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and \$170 million to enhance CDC's ability to address these preventable chronic diseases.
- \$160 million for the Preventive Health & Health Services Block Grant, which allows each state to address its most critical public health needs.
- \$1.405 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.
- The bill also provides funds to allow CDC to modernize state and regional labs and work with states to combat antibiotic resistance.

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** – The legislation includes \$3.67 billion for CMS management and operations, which is equal to the 2015 enacted level. The bill continues to provide CMS an 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.

**Social Security Administration (SSA)** – The bill provides \$1.4 billion, a \$30 million increase over fiscal year 2015, for Program Integrity activities within the SSA. This includes targeted funding to ensure that disability and Supplemental Security Income benefits are properly paid and to reduce fraud and abuse.

**Early Childhood Education and Care – Administration for Children and Families (ACF)** – The bill includes \$18.8 billion for the ACF, which is more than a \$1 billion increase over the 2015 enacted level. This includes a \$326 million increase for activities within the Child Care and Development Block Grant to improve the quality and safety of infant and toddler care, and a \$570 million increase for the Head Start program, providing early education opportunities for low-income families throughout the country.

**Department of Education** – The bill funds the Department of Education at \$68 billion, a \$1.2 billion increase above the fiscal year 2015 level. The legislation prioritizes this funding to support programs that are important to local communities.

- **Title I Program** – \$14.9 billion is included for grants to local school districts to help children become proficient in reading and math, an increase of \$500 million above the 2015 level.
- **Pell Grants** – The legislation meets existing requirements to expand the maximum Pell Grant award to \$5,915, funded by a combination of discretionary and mandatory funds.
- **Special Education** – Special Education grants to states are funded at \$11.9 billion in the legislation – \$415 million above the 2015 level – to help local communities meet the educational needs of all children with disabilities.

**Department of Labor (DOL)** – The bill provides \$12.18 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of Labor, \$234.6 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. This funding includes:

- \$10.06 billion for the **Employment and Training Administration**, an increase of \$339 million above the 2015 enacted level, to provide states and local communities with grants and other funding for job training, employment programs, and unemployment insurance.
- \$1.69 billion for the Office of **Job Corps** to help unemployed, young Americans receive education, job training, and employment assistance.
- \$271.1 million for **Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS)**, \$1.1 million above the fiscal year 2015 enacted level. This includes \$14.1 million for the Transition Assistance Program to help new veterans receive training for civilian employment and job search assistance.
- \$375.9 million for the **Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)**. The bill includes provisions to conduct a comprehensive, scientific study on the implementation of MSHA's new coal dust regulations.

**Policy Provisions** – The bill includes numerous policy provisions to promote good government, protect life, and restrict the Administration's regulatory overreach. Some of these provisions include:

- Continuation of an annual 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.
- A directive to stop the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's anti-business end-run around the rulemaking process – requiring public comment and transparency.
- Provisions to roll back DOL regulations that make it harder for employers to use the H-2B program.
- A provision to stop the NLRB's harmful anti-business agenda by prohibiting electronic voting regulations that could promote coercive tactics and privacy violations in union elections.

**For the full Committee Report on the Labor, HHS, and Education portion of the Omnibus, including a detailed funding table, please visit: <http://1.usa.gov/1I93mds>.**

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