

FY 2018 Funding for Family Planning: Senate Proposal

Level Funding Fails to Account for Increasing Need

On September 7, 2017, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed an appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies for fiscal year (FY) 2018. The bill included substantially more funding for public health than did the House's proposal but still fails to meet the needs of communities across the country.

Basics of the FY 2018 Appropriations Process

- The Senate passed a continuing resolution on September 7 and the House is expected to pass it soon. That measure funds the government through December 8, 2017, by which point a deal for the rest of the year or another short-term CR will be required.
- House appropriators proposed large cuts to non-defense programs and increases for defense programs. These assumptions violate the caps set by the Budget Control Act, setting the stage for a lengthy debate moving forward. The Senate has considered each bill independently but has avoided that substantial imbalance in its process.
- The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education are considered under one appropriations bill, known as "Labor-HHS." This measure is typically the most controversial and very rarely passes both the House and Senate as a stand-alone bill. This year House appropriators have committed just \$156 billion to these departments - \$5 billion less than FY 2017. Senate appropriators provided for an increase in funding to \$164 billion.

Family Planning in the Senate Proposal

- The Senate level-funded Title X at \$286.5 million, while the House eliminated the program.
- The Senate did not include the new and dangerous riders in the House bill that would eliminate the ability of Planned Parenthood to participate in Title X and other discretionary programs, ban all research that involves fetal tissue from an abortion, and dramatically expand the Weldon Amendment, which allows health care providers to opt-out of providing abortion care.
- The Senate also:
 - Level funds federally qualified health centers' Section 330 grants at \$1.5 billion.
 - Level funds the CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STIs, and TB prevention at \$1.1 billion.
 - Level funds the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program at \$2.3 billion.
 - Increases funds for the Rural Health program to \$160.5 million.
 - Level funds the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program at \$108 million and increases funding for the abstinence-only Sexual Risk Avoidance program to \$25 million.
 - Level funds the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant at \$642 million.
 - Level funds the Social Services Block Grant at \$1.7 billion.