

NFPRHA Analysis

The Senate Labor-HHS Proposal for Fiscal Year 2022

On October 18, 2021, the Senate Appropriations Committee released a draft fiscal year (FY) 2022 funding bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS). If enacted as written, the bill would promote substantial improvements in public health, including by making an unprecedented investment of \$500 million for the Title X family planning program.

BILL OVERVIEW

- The draft proposes \$221 billion in spending for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, of which \$118 billion is dedicated for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). That level is substantially above current funding of \$97 billion for HHS but below President Biden's proposal of \$132 billion.
- The committee released the draft bill but did not schedule any committee or subcommittee markups or votes. This draft will be used as part of negotiations with the House on a final FY 2022 spending package but will not be considered on its own on the Senate floor.

POLICY PROPOSALS

- The bill and accompanying explanatory statement (also called a report) include important language underscoring the purpose of the Title X family planning program to provide access to high-quality, medically accurate, and client-centered family planning and sexual health care to people who have low incomes and/or are un- or under-insured.
- In the Labor-HHS draft and the draft for the Financial Services and General Government bill, the Senate Appropriations Committee removed all restrictions on using federal funds for abortion, a significant victory for reproductive health, rights, and justice. In the Labor-HHS bill, this means the bill does not include the Hyde

amendment, which bars Labor-HHS funds from paying for abortions outside of very limited exceptions, and the Weldon amendment, which makes it easier for health care providers and institutions to refuse to provide or refer for abortions. However, the Senate did not make the same advancement as the House and remove abortion funding restrictions from all of the draft bills.

SPECIFIC FUNDING REQUESTS

Comparisons below are provided to the enacted FY 2021 appropriations bills signed into law in December 2020.

- \$500 million for the Title X family planning program, an increase of \$214 million.
- \$1.8 billion in discretionary funding for the Section 330 federally qualified health center program, an increase of \$110 million.
- \$858 million for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant program, an increase of \$145 million.
- \$1.4 billion for CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and TB prevention, a \$122 million increase.
- \$2.6 billion for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, an increase of \$131 million.
- \$1.7 billion for the Social Services Block Grant, level funding with FY 2021.
- \$130 million for the evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention program, an increase of \$29 million.
- No funds for abstinence-only programs, a reduction of \$35 million.