FY 2019 Funding for Family Planning: Senate Proposal

Continued Commitment to the Family Planning Safety Net

On June 28, 2018, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed the appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies for fiscal year (FY) 2019 out of committee. The bill level funds the Title X family planning program at $286.5 million.

Basics of the FY 2019 Appropriations Process

Congress must pass, and the president must sign, a complete appropriations package or a continuing resolution by September 30 to avoid a government shutdown. For FY 2019, Congress is grouping many of the twelve appropriations bills into two- or three-bill packages, known as “minibuses,” to facilitate passage. Given that 2018 is an election year, many expect Congress to pass a continuing resolution for any remaining bills in September and put off a final decision until after the election.

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 Senate appropriators have committed $179.3 billion to these departments; the House has committed $177.1 billion, the same amount as FY 2018.

Family Planning in the Senate Proposal

The proposal level funds the Title X family planning program at $286.5 million.

The proposal does not include any new riders that would limit access to family planning services.

Funding for other key programs:
- Level funds federally qualified health centers’ Section 330 grants at $1.6 billion.
• Increases the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant to $678 million, a $26 million increase.
• Increases funds the CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STIs, and TB prevention to $1.13 billion, a $5 million increase.
• Level funds the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program at $2.3 billion.
• Level funds the Social Services Block Grant at $1.7 billion.
• Level funds the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program at $101 million.
• Increases funds for the abstinence-only sexual risk avoidance program to $35 million, a $10 million increase.

RECOMMENDED TALKING POINTS

NFPRHA is grateful for the Senate's continued commitment to fund the Title X family planning program, a critical public health program that has provided high-quality contraceptive care and related preventive health services to millions of low-income people for nearly half a century.

Years of stagnant funding mean that family planning providers are forced to do more with less as costs rise and the need for publicly funded family planning care continues to grow every year. Congress should be investing in federal programs like Title X that strengthen public health.