

FACT SHEET

FY 2021 Family Planning: House Appropriations Committee's Bill

Flat funding, but strong language in support of Title X

On July 6, 2020, the House Appropriations Committee released its draft fiscal year (FY) 2021 spending bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Disappointingly, the bill would flat fund the Title X family planning program at \$286.5 million. However, the measure does include critical language to block the unlawful Title X program rule, allow entities that left the program due to the rule a way to reenter Title X, and mandate nondirective counseling, including referral upon request, for pregnant patients.

On July 7, 2020, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies approved the bill. The full House Appropriations Committee passed the measure 30-22 on July 13, 2020.

BASICS OF THE 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. The House of Representatives has planned to complete its appropriations work in July, while the Senate is unlikely to begin its work until late summer. The appropriations process is significantly delayed from previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education are considered under one appropriations bill, which is 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 recommended \$196.5 billion for the bill, an increase of \$2.4 billion over FY 2020 enacted levels.

FAMILY PLANNING IN THE HOUSE PROPOSAL

- The Labor-HHS subcommittee recommended flat funding of the program at \$286.5 million. For FY 2020, the committee had proposed \$400 million, but the committee was constrained by a variety of financial pressures for FY 2021.

- The committee draft also included essential language to block the Title X rule, provide a pathway for entities that left the program rather than comply with the rule a way to return, and mandate nondirective counseling, including referral upon request, for pregnant patients. The language specified that the program must operate under the regulations that were in place in January 2017, which included the Title X regulations that had governed the program effectively for decades as well as other protections finalized during the Obama administration. The committee included similar language in its FY 2020 proposed bill, but it was not enacted in the final spending package.
- The bill continued existing requirements for the Title X program that are standard in the appropriations bill. Those provisions are:
 - Title X funds may not be used for abortions
 - All pregnancy options counseling shall be nondirective
 - Title X funds may not be used to promote public support or opposition to legislative proposals or candidates for public office
- Funding for other key programs:¹
 - Increased funds for federally qualified health centers' Section 330 grants to \$1.65 billion, a \$25 million increase.
 - Increased funding for programs related to maternal and child health to \$981 million, an increase of \$37 million.
 - Increased funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program to \$2.41 billion, an increase of \$25 million.
 - Increased funding for the CDC's National Center on HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis Prevention to \$1.29 billion, an increase of \$14 million.
 - Flat funded the Social Services Block Grant at \$1.7 billion.
 - Flat funded the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program at \$101 million and eliminated funds for the abstinence-only sexual risk avoidance program.
- Disappointingly, the bill continued to include the Hyde Amendment, which perpetuates disparities in abortion access by limiting the use of federal funds to pay for abortion care. The bill marks the second year in a row that the House had a pro-choice majority but retained the Hyde amendment.

¹ All increases are given relative to the FY 2020 enacted level.