

NFPRHA Analysis

The Senate Labor-HHS Proposal for Fiscal Year 2023

On July 28, 2022, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its fiscal year (FY) 2023 funding bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS). The bill proposes substantial improvements in public health, including making a record-breaking \$512 million investment in the Title X family planning program and a first-of-its-kind federal abortion access fund.

BILL OVERVIEW

- The bill proposes \$216 billion in spending for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS). That amount is an increase compared to current funding but below the House's proposal for FY 2023.
- The proposal was released with all other Senate drafts for FY 2023. Senate Appropriations Chair Patrick Leahy (D-VT) announced that none of the drafts would receive committee mark-up or votes and would instead be used only to conference with the House.

POLICY PROPOSALS

- The bill and 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.
- The Senate Appropriations Committee removed the vast majority of restrictions on using federal funds for abortion, a significant victory for reproductive health, rights, and justice. In the Labor-HHS bill, this means it 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.

- The bill creates a brand-new Reproductive Health Care Access fund that would include \$350 million to assist people seeking abortion services and fund the procedure itself, associated costs for patients, and support for health care providers.
- The bill includes \$10 million for a new HHS Reproductive Health Ombudsman. It further directs the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to educate consumers about their rights regarding access to contraception and to hold insurers accountable when those rights are violated.

SPECIFIC FUNDING REQUESTS

Comparisons below are provided to the enacted FY 2022 appropriations bills signed into law in March 2022.

- \$512 million for the Title X family planning program, an increase of \$226 million.
- \$1.9 billion in discretionary funding for the Section 330 federally qualified health center program, an increase of \$170 million.
- \$952 million for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant program, an increase of \$204 million.
- \$1.5 billion for CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and TB prevention, a \$117 million increase.
- \$2.6 billion for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, an increase of \$136 million.
- \$1.7 billion for the Social Services Block Grant, the same as FY 2022.
- \$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.
- \$6 billion for WIC, the same as FY 2022.