



UC DAVIS FEDERAL UPDATE

The Report on Congressional & Administration Activities
2018, Issue 1

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IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|---|
| WASHINGTON UPDATE | 1 |
| BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS | 1 |
| CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY | 2 |
| ADVOCACY UPDATE | 3 |
| FEDERAL CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT | 3 |
| QUESTIONS/ TRAVELING TO DC? | 3 |

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Following a three-day government shutdown that began at midnight on Jan. 19, Congress passed its fourth continuing resolution (CR) of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, keeping the government open through Feb. 8. Agreement on the final FY 2018 budget is complicated by two main factors: attempts to reach a deal on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and increasing the budget caps established in 2011 on defense and non-defense discretionary funding. The University of California's (UC) Office Federal Governmental Relations (FGR) remains actively engaged in budget and appropriations advocacy efforts and continues to advocate for the highest level of funding for the university's

priorities. Further details about the current CR are included below.

In addition to budget efforts, the university has been engaged in on going advocacy around the DACA program and efforts to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. More details about these and additional topics are below.

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

On Jan. 22, Congress passed – and President Trump signed – the fourth CR for FY 2018, keeping the government operating through Feb. 8. Passage of this CR followed a three-day federal government shutdown that started at midnight on Jan. 19. The Senate passed the CR ([H.R. 195](#)) in a vote of 81-18, while the House passed it in a vote of 266-150. Both California Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris voted against the CR, in part because it did not include protections for DACA recipients.

This CR includes funding for the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) for six years, and delays the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's medical device and Cadillac taxes for two additional years and the health insurance tax for one year.

Agreement on the final FY 2018 budget is complicated by two main factors: attempts to reach a deal on DACA and increasing the budget caps established in 2011 on defense and non-defense discretionary funding.

UC continues to advocate for parity in raising the defense and non-defense budget caps and for the highest funding for our priorities – directly with members and their staffs, as well as through our UC Advocacy Network. On Jan. 24, UC joined with 2,000 national, state and local organizations in a [letter](#) that urges Congress to reach a budget deal that provides balanced relief for the defense and non-defense caps.

To secure passage of the new CR, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) agreed that should the DACA issue not be resolved by the time the current CR expires on Feb. 8, and contingent on the government remaining open, he will allow a vote on legislation in the Senate that would address both DACA and border security.

As negotiations continue around a larger spending package for FY 2018, UC continues to advocate for our education, research and health care priorities, including a two-year postponement of Medicaid disproportionate share hospital cuts that went into effect via statute on Oct. 1 and the rescission of a nearly 30 percent cut in Medicare's payment rate for most Part B drugs purchased by 340B hospitals.

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

DACA

The federal government shutdown occurred in part due to congressional disagreement on how to address President Trump's rescission of the DACA program. With the government currently funded under a continuing resolution through Feb. 8, negotiations on immigration reform continue and are intensifying, with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell assuring Democratic senators that he would allow immigration legislation to reach the floor of the Senate for a vote. No agreement has been reached on which legislative initiative would receive consideration, and a bipartisan group of senators continue to work towards an agreement that balances protections for DACA recipients and increased border security.

On Jan. 25, the White House released a "[framework](#)" outlining the administration's priorities for an immigration reform package moving forward. The framework would provide a pathway to citizenship for approximately 1.8 million DACA-eligible undocumented immigrants (Dreamers) – including approximately 800,000 current DACA recipients – enhance border security and eliminate the visa lottery program, among other provisions. House and Senate Democrats have come out in opposition to the proposal due to its changes to the broader immigration system, including its restrictions on family-based migration.

The university continues to advocate for a permanent bipartisan solution that protects California and the nation's DACA recipients, and continues to engage the UC Advocacy Network in support of this goal, with advocates calling and writing legislators.

Higher Education Act Reauthorization

The chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Virginia Foxx (R-NC), announced that passing the House's version of Higher Education Act (HEA) reauthorization – known as the PROSPER Act – is a priority for her this spring. Negotiations in the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions continue, with four hearings on reauthorization conducted thus far, and the next scheduled for Feb. 6. The Feb. 6 hearing is titled "[Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Improving College Affordability](#)." UC FGR, in partnership with UC Office of the President, has developed advocacy materials outlining UC's

priorities for reauthorization of HEA and analyzing the potential impact of the PROSPER Act on UC and other institutions of higher education. This information has been broadly disseminated to legislators and association partners.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Transportation and Infrastructure

The UC Davis Institute for Transportation Studies was in Washington, DC during the week of January 8 and held research briefings at the House and the Senate titled: *Driverless, Shared, Electric: The Three Transportation Revolutions*. While in DC, they also met with three Congressional offices to discuss their research.

HEA Reauthorization

During the week of Jan. 29, UC Davis' Financial Aid Director, Deborah Agee, conducted an advocacy visit to Washington, DC. During this visit, Deborah met with members and staff from eight congressional and committee offices and discussed several issues including relating to the HEA including Pell Grants, in-school interest subsidy, Supplemental Educational Opportunity, GRAD PLUS loans, and Title VI.

FEDERAL CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

UC Davis did not host any members of Congress or their staffs during the month of January.

QUESTIONS/ TRAVELING TO DC?

For additional information, or should you have a question on any of the above or something relating to the Federal Government, please contact UC Davis Director of Federal Government Relations, Brandon Minto, at bjminto@ucdavis.edu or at 530-750-9080.

If you are taking a trip to DC, please let UC Davis GCR know! Please contact Brandon Minto at bjminto@ucdavis.edu or at 530-750-9080 and we will be happy to do whatever we can in support of your trip.