



COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

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SUMMARY

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES FISCAL YEAR 2020 CONFERENCE REPORT

Washington, D.C. –The fiscal year 2020 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations bill provides a total of \$184.884 billion in discretionary budget authority – \$4.911 billion more than the fiscal year 2019 level, \$41.2 billion more than the President's budget request, and \$4.7 billion more than the Senate bill. The total funding includes \$183.042 billion in discretionary funding as well as \$1.842 billion in cap adjustment funding to prevent waste, fraud, abuse and improper payments in the Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security programs.

Key Points & Highlights

Gun Research: For the first time in decades, the bill includes \$25 million the CDC and NIH to research gun violence. In 2017, gun violence killed nearly 40,000 people in the United States.

Medical Research: The agreement provides \$41.459 billion for the National Institutes of Health, including \$492 million from the 21st Century Cures Act, representing an increase of \$2.375 billion over the fiscal year 2019 level and \$7.3 billion above the President's request. It provides an additional \$350 million for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias research, \$2.818 billion in all. It also includes increases of \$71 million for the BRAIN Initiative and \$50 million for research to combat antimicrobial resistance. Every NIH Institute and Center receives increased funding to support investments that advance science and speed the development of new therapies, diagnostics and preventive measures, improving the health of all Americans. The bill also provides \$225 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Non-recurring Expenses Fund to support improvements to its Bethesda campus.

Opioids & Substance Use: The bill provides \$3.8 billion in HHS to address opioid abuse, including: \$1.5 billion to states to address the opioid epidemic and mental health; \$476 million for opioid overdose surveillance and prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); \$90 million to address the needs of children affected by the opioid crisis; and \$100 million to help affected rural communities.

Mental Health: The bill includes increased funding to improve mental health access, including \$200 million for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, a \$50 million increase; \$16.2 million for suicide prevention; \$7 million for infant and early childhood mental health; and \$102 million—a \$30 million increase—for Project AWARE, which will expand efforts to identify and help children and youth in need of mental health care.

Infectious Diseases: The agreement provides \$173 million, a \$75 million increase, for Global Health Security to support CDC efforts to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. The bill provides \$85 million, a \$35 million increase above fiscal year 2019, for the Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund to ensure CDC can respond to future infectious disease emergencies, either at home or abroad. The fund serves as an immediate source of funding for infectious disease crises, including Ebola preparedness and response activities.

Ending the HIV Epidemic: The bill includes \$260 million for the Administration's request for a new domestic HIV/AIDS elimination initiative. This includes \$140 million within CDC's Domestic HIV/AIDS Prevention and Research programs to develop and deploy innovative data management solutions, increase access to PrEP, and better detect and respond to HIV clusters. It also includes \$120 million within the Health Resources and Services Administration's Community Health Centers and Ryan White programs to increase investments in high need communities, as well as a new program through Community Health Centers that will provide PrEP to protect people at highest risk for getting HIV.

Tobacco Cessation: The bill provides \$230 million, an increase of \$20 million, for CDC to use evidence-based strategies to address the public health risk caused by the dramatic increase in youth use of e-cigarettes. These additional resources will increase flexibility within the National Tobacco Control Program to ensure State and local health departments can direct resources to stem the tide of youth use of e-cigarettes. Given the dramatic increase in the use of e-cigarettes and the recent nationwide outbreak of vaping-related lung injuries, which is responsible for 48 deaths and 2,291 hospitalizations from all 50 states, this investment is being made at a critical time.

Suicide Prevention: The bill provides \$10 million for a new CDC initiative to focus prevention efforts on vulnerable populations that have been identified at higher risk for suicidal behaviors. A leading cause of death in the U.S., suicide was responsible for more than 47,000 deaths in 2017.

Head Start: The bill provides \$10.61 billion, \$550 million more than fiscal year 2019, for Head Start. The increase includes \$250 million for quality improvements to help programs better respond to local needs and fund staff training for trauma-informed care and identification of families struggling with addiction and hardship. It also includes \$100 million for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships and Early Head Start expansions, increasing access to several thousand more families with very young children. Early Head Start serves low-income infants

and toddlers and their families, providing comprehensive services at a critical time in child development.

Child Care: The bill provides \$5.82 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, \$550 million more than fiscal year 2019. The additional funding will mean as many as 44,000 more children served by the program in FY 2020. The increase will also help states continue to improve the quality and affordability of local child care programs, as well as to expand access so that more parents can go to work knowing their children are safe and learning the skills they need to succeed later in life.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): The bill provides \$3.74 billion for LIHEAP, a \$50 million increase. This builds upon the \$250 million increase in fiscal year 2018, which was the first increase in the program since 2009.

Healthcare Workforce Programs: The bill includes \$1.2 billion for healthcare workforce programs, an increase of \$103 million, rejecting the President's proposal to slash \$895 million from programs that train and expand access to physicians, nurses and other health care professionals nationwide. This includes \$27 million to establish the Mental and Substance Use Disorder Workforce Training Demonstration, as well as \$15 million to establish a new Loan Repayment Program for the Substance Use Disorder Treatment Workforce. The bill also includes increases for the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education program (+\$15 million) and the National Health Service Corps (+\$15 million).

Maternal Mortality: The bill includes \$53 million, an increase of \$3 million, in the Health Resources and Services Administration and CDC for the initiative aimed at reducing the nation's alarmingly high maternal mortality rate. More women in the U.S. die from pregnancy-related complications than in any other developed nation, and the maternal mortality rate rose by 26 percent from 2000 to 2014. This initiative will fund improved surveillance and help expand programs that are proven to be successful at reducing maternal mortality.

Expanding Support for Older Americans and Individuals with Disabilities: The bill includes \$2.12 billion for the Administration for Community Living programs, an increase of \$54 million above the fiscal year 2019 level. This includes \$1.5 billion (+\$41 million) to support family caregivers, home and community based supportive services, and state nutrition programs. For nutrition services, when combined with state and local contributions, this federal funding is projected to provide over 225 million meals to more than 2 million older Americans in a variety of community settings.

Support for Public Schools: The bill includes \$16.3 billion, an increase of \$450 million more than the fiscal year 2019 level, for the Title I-A grants to local educational agencies program. Title I-A grants assist half of the nation's schools in their efforts to raise student achievement for 25 million low-income students. These programs provide extra academic support to help students, particularly those in high-poverty schools, meet college and career-ready state academic standards, including through preschool programs for eligible children. The agreement also includes an increase of \$400 million—\$12.8 billion in all—for special education. The president requested no increase for these key programs.

College Affordability: The bill increases the Pell Grant maximum award by \$150, to \$6,345 when combined with mandatory funding, for roughly 7 million students from low and middle income families. The growth in the maximum award builds on increases of \$175 in fiscal year 2018 and \$100 in fiscal year 2019. The president did not request an increase in the maximum award. The bill also includes roughly \$250 million in additional investments in Federal Work Study, grant aid and other preparation and higher education support programs that the president proposed to cut.

Workforce Development and Training: The bill rejects the Administration’s proposed \$1.3 billion cut to DOL’s Employment and Training Administration and includes \$9.3 billion, which is a \$178 million, or approximately 2 percent, increase. The bill includes \$2.82 billion, an increase of \$30 million for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Training formula grants to states to support the national system of education, skills training, and employment services for workers. The bill provides \$175 million for the Registered Apprenticeship Program, an increase of \$15 million over fiscal year 2019, and rejects the President’s proposal to create a lower quality, non-registered apprenticeship program that would open the door to unqualified employers to develop low wage, lower quality programs. It includes \$311 million for Veterans Training Programs, an increase of \$11 million, to provide veterans the supportive services they need to re-enter the labor force, including job training and placement, career counseling, resume preparation and other supportive services. The bill also includes \$40 million for a new Strengthening Community College Training Grants program to better align workforce development efforts in in-demand industries with postsecondary education.

Worker Protection Programs: The bill makes significant investments in agencies that help workers receive the pay they earn; ensure that employers provide safe and healthful working conditions; and strengthen trading partner commitments to comply with labor rights under free trade agreements and preference programs. The Wage and Hour division receives \$242 million, an increase of \$13 million more than fiscal year 2019’s level—the largest increase in a decade. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration receives \$582 million, an increase of \$24 million—also the largest increase in a decade. Finally, the International Labor Affairs Bureau receives \$96 million, an increase of \$78 million more than the President’s request and \$10 million above fiscal year 2019’s—the largest increase in almost two decades.

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS): The bill rejects the president’s proposal to eliminate CNCS, and instead includes \$1.1 billion, an increase of \$21 million more than fiscal year 2019, to expand investments that help thousands of nonprofits, schools, faith-based groups, and local governments meet pressing local needs through service and social innovation.

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