

NACo Legislative Bulletin

Executive Director: Larry E. Naake, Legislative Director: Edwin Rosado

September 30, 2011

- [Congress Passes 4-Day Continuing Resolution, House to Vote on Second CR Next Week](#)
- [House Appropriations Chairman Unveils Labor/HHS Funding Bill](#)
- [Senator Harkin to Unveil No Child Left Behind Bill](#)

Congress Passes 4-Day Continuing Resolution, House to Vote on Second CR Next Week

On September 29 the House approved H.R. 2017 as amended by the Senate. The measure funds the federal government through October 4. At that time the House is expected to vote on H.R. 2608, the continuing resolution that runs through November 18.

The need for the 4-day bill arose when the Senate approved a different version of H.R. 2608 than the House with compromise language on Disaster Relief Funding (DRF). The House version of H.R. 2608 had \$3.5 billion for the DRF with a portion of the funding offset by spending cuts elsewhere. The first offset would have rescinded \$1.5 billion from an Energy Department program that provides loan guarantees to automakers for the production of fuel-efficient vehicles, and an additional offset would have cut \$100 million from a loan-guarantee program that the solar-energy company Solyndra was slated to receive.

Senate Democrats vehemently objected to any proposal that included an offset for funding the DRF, and at the beginning of the week it appeared that federal funding for disaster assistance would run out for the very first time. However, FEMA notified Members of Congress that the DRF would be able to function until the end of the year with less funding. The Senate averted a showdown with the House by removing the \$1.6 billion in offsets that was included in the earlier House passed version of the bill and approved \$2.65 billion dollars for the nearly depleted account.

The House was not in session to approve the amended measure, so the Senate passed the 4-day measure, which also includes the DRF language, and the House leadership decided to hold a pro forma session to consider H.R. 2017 by voice vote.

Contact: [Dalen Harris](#) • 202/942-4236

House Appropriations Chairman Unveils Labor/HHS Funding Bill

On September 29, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers (R-Ky.) unveiled his draft of the FY2012 Labor, HHS and Education appropriations bill. The draft would provide overall funding of \$153.4 billion in discretionary programs, a decrease of \$4 billion from FY 2011. The Chairman has not scheduled a mark-up yet.

While the draft has some significant reductions in health programs of interest to counties, many other programs received either level funding or slight increases. Below are highlights of the Chairman's mark:

Health and Human Services Programs:

- \$2.6 billion for Community Health Centers, which includes a rescission of the \$1.2 billion in mandatory funding from the Affordable Care Act, but comes out as level funding;
- A rescission of \$1 billion from the Prevention and Public Health Fund,



CONTACTS

[Larry Naake](#)
NACo Executive Director
202-942-4201

[Edwin Rosado](#)
Legislative Director
202-942-4271

[Jeffrey D. Arnold](#)
Deputy Legislative Director
Telecommunications &
Technology
202-942-4286

[Paul Beddoe](#)
Associate Legislative Director
Health
202-942-4234

[Michael Belarmino](#)
Associate Legislative Director
Finance and
Intergovernmental Affairs
202-942-4254

[Daria Daniel](#)
Associate Legislative Director
Community and Economic
Development
202-942-4212

[Bob Fogel](#)
Senior Legislative Director
Transportation
202-942-4217

[Deseree Gardner](#)
Associate Legislative Director
Labor & Employment
202-942-4204

[Dalen A. Harris](#)
Associate Legislative Director
Justice and Public Affairs
Homeland Security and Large
Urban County Caucus
202-942-4236

[Erik Johnston](#)
Associate Legislative Director

which basically wipes out the program;

- \$3.4 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, a reduction of \$1.3 billion;
- \$2.3 billion for Ryan White AIDS programs;
- \$704 million for the Community Services Block Grant, a slight increase;
- Level funding for Senior Nutrition programs at \$819 million; and
- \$140 million for rural health programs, a slight increase.

Employment and Training Programs:

- The Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) received \$3.3 billion;
- Title I WIA Funding would receive \$2.6 billion, including Adult (\$770 million), Dislocated Worker (\$1 billion) and Youth (\$825 million) funding streams. This represents a continuation of current funding levels for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) formula programs;
- The bill also requires 95 percent of all WIA formula funding to be delivered directly to the point of service, the local workforce system, with a 5 percent set aside for state governors.

Education Programs:

- Title I basic grants for elementary and secondary education received \$15.5 billion, an increase of \$1 billion;
- Grants to states for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act received \$12.7 billion, an increase of \$1.2 billion;
- The maximum for Pell Grants will remain at \$5550 per grant; and
- Eliminates over 30 programs, including the Race to the Top competitive grants.

Contacts: [Paul Beddoe](#) (Health) • 202/942-4234; [Deseree Gardner](#) (Employment and Training) • 202/942-4204; [Marilina Sanz](#) (Human Services and Education) • 202/942-4260

Senator Harkin to Unveil No Child Left Behind Bill

Senate Health, Labor and Pensions Chairman Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) announced this week that he will introduce comprehensive legislation to overhaul No Child Left Behind when Congress returns next week. The Chairman has scheduled a mark-up of the legislation for October 18.

Contact: [Marilina Sanz](#) • 202/942-4260



About NACo

National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the U. S. NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money.

Executive Director: Larry E. Naake

National Association of Counties
25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20001 | Phone: 202.393.6226

www.naco.org | [NACo Staff Contact List](#)

*Agriculture and Rural Affairs
and Rural Action Caucus
202-942-4230*

[Marilina Sanz](#)
*Associate Legislative Director
Human Services and Education
202-942-4260*

[Julie Ufner](#)
*Associate Legislative Director
Environment, Energy and Land
Use
202-942-4269*

[Ryan Yates](#)
*Associate Legislative Director
Public Lands
202-942-4207*

[Matthew Fellows](#)
*Legislative Grassroots
Coordinator
202-942-4205*



Click [here](#) to unsubscribe.

25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001