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Analysis of the FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

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Government Relations for Research & Education

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Executive Summary

This week, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees concluded negotiations on an omnibus appropriations bill (H.R. 2029) to fund federal government agencies for the remainder of fiscal year (FY) 2016. The final bill provides significant increases to federal investments in research, education, and healthcare programs important to research universities and non-profit research institutions. The House and Senate are expected to vote on and pass the bill over the next few days, and the President will then sign the bill into law.

The bill includes funding for all 12 annual appropriations bills and upholds the \$1.067 trillion spending cap for FY 2016 agreed to in the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015*. The two-year budget agreement enacted in November 2015 increased discretionary spending in FY 2016 by \$50 billion, divided equally between defense and non-defense spending. The final bill includes \$548 billion in defense spending and \$518 billion in non-defense spending. The bill also provides \$74 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funding. The budget agreement averted a government shutdown and created a path forward for the Republican-controlled Congress to negotiate a final spending bill with Congressional Democrats and the Obama Administration.

With an additional \$50 billion at play, all 12 annual appropriations bills received funding increases above the House and Senate passed bills, including the more controversial bills, such as Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Interior and Environment. The biggest gains are for research agencies that enjoy bipartisan support:

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) would receive \$32.1 billion, an increase of \$2 billion, or 6.6 percent, above the FY 2015 enacted level.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) would receive \$19.3 billion, an increase of \$1.27 billion, or 7.1 percent, above the FY 2015 enacted level.
- The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science would receive \$5.35 billion, an increase of \$279 million, or 5.5 percent, above the FY 2015 enacted level.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) would receive \$7.46 billion, an increase of \$119 million, or 1.6 percent, above the FY 2015 enacted level.
- The Department of Defense (DOD) basic research account would receive \$2.3 billion, a 1.4 percent increase over last year. Applied research and advanced technology development would be increased by 9.0 percent and 7.4 percent respectively.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) would receive \$350 million, an increase of \$25 million, or 7.7 percent above the FY 2015 enacted level. The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) would receive \$1.356 billion, an increase of \$178 million, or 15.1 percent, over the FY 2015 enacted level. The Department of Education (ED) would enjoy a \$1.2 billion increase over FY 2015 levels.
- Within ED, the Institute of Education Sciences would receive nearly an 8 percent increase above last year's level. The omnibus would avoid steep cuts to ED that had been proposed earlier this year in both the House and Senate FY 2016 appropriations bills.

Details of the major federal research, education, and healthcare programs funded in the omnibus bill follow. While the omnibus would provide budgetary certainty for the remainder of the fiscal year and

the two-year budget deal provides a budgetary framework, a budget battle may still be unavoidable in FY 2017 for a couple of key reasons: The FY 2017 budget discussions will occur during a Presidential election year when Congress traditionally has a difficult time moving legislation, and the FY 2017 budget cap only increases discretionary spending by \$3 billion, or 0.3 percent, above FY 2016. In essence, funding for federal programs in FY 2017 will remain flat, and any significant increase in one program would require cutting another program. Messaging and policy debates featured in the 2016 Presidential and Congressional races will undoubtedly spill over into the FY 2017 appropriations discussions, ensuring the road to final approval could potentially be even more deadlocked than usual.

As part of the omnibus negotiations, Congress also negotiated a \$680 billion tax cut bill, which includes the extension of tax breaks relevant to universities and research. An overview of these provisions is included at the end of this report.

Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The omnibus would provide NOAA a total of \$5.7 billion for fiscal year (FY) 2016, which is an increase of \$316.6 million or 5.8 percent above the FY 2015 enacted level.

The Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) operations and research account, the main extramural funding arm of the agency, would receive a total of \$461.9 million, an increase of 6.7 percent above the FY 2015 enacted amount. Within OAR, the Competitive Climate Research Program would be maintained at the 2015 level of \$60 million, despite proposed cuts from both House and Senate Appropriators. The Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) program would receive a 14.3 percent increase from last year, consistent with the House proposed level of \$32 million and \$13 million over the President's request. Senate CJS report language encouraging NOAA to consider "how additional cooperative institutes could strengthen NOAA's ability to improve coastal sustainability and resilience and better prepare coastal communities to make smart land-use decisions" would be incorporated. In addition, within OAR, \$10 million would be dedicated for marine aquaculture research with universities. The legislation also would adopt the House proposal regarding the Joint Technology Transfer Initiative, providing \$6 million in total, and directing the Agency to submit an implementation and spending plan to Congress within 60 days.

Congress continues to support coastal resilience efforts at NOAA, which are primarily funded through two programs at the National Ocean Service (NOS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). While the Administration proposed consolidating these two programs to NOS, Congress would maintain the two separate programs. Specifically, Congress would provide \$10 million for NMFS Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants within the operations and research Habitat Conservation and Restoration account. NOS's Coastal Management Grants account would receive \$75 million, which is \$4 million above FY 2015, but \$40 million below the President's request; this account includes the Regional Coastal Resilience competitive grants program.

The National Ocean Service (NOS) operations and research would receive a total of \$500 million, representing a 3.9 percent increase above the FY 2015 level but \$47 million below the President's request. Within NOS, the Navigation, Observations, and Positioning account would receive level funding for a total of \$205 million. The NOS Coastal Science and Assessment account would receive a small increase above its FY 2015 enacted level, and would receive \$81.6 million for FY 2016. This includes level funding of \$9 million for Competitive External Research. In addition, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System would receive \$23 million, an increase above the FY 2015 enacted level and the President's request of \$21.3 million.

The bill would provide an increase of 6.2 percent for the National Environmental, Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) procurement, acquisitions, and construction (PAC), totaling \$2.4 billion, the same as the President's request. Within the NESDIS PAC account, a total of \$370 million is included for the Polar Follow-on mission.

In addition, the omnibus would provide \$80 million in competitive awards for new Ocean Survey vessel construction to support climate and oceanographic research, as well as the National Weather Service,

and mapping efforts. The legislation indicates that “funding for vessel outfitting and sensor development is expected to be requested in subsequent fiscal years.”

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
NOAA, total	5,448,973	5,167,261	5,381,567	5,765,579	316,606 (5.8%)
Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF)	3,202,398	3,295,541	3,242,723	3,453,477	251,079 (7.8%)
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	432,900	409,704	436,042	461,898	28,998 (6.7%)
<i>Competitive Climate Research Program</i>	60,000	40,000	55,000	60,000	--
<i>National Sea Grant College Program</i>	62,800	62,800	62,800	64,000	1,200 (1.9%)
<i>Ocean Exploration & Research</i>	28,000	32,000	22,344	32,000	4,000 (14.35)
National Weather Service (NWS)	954,153	967,563	977,032	988,834	34,681 (3.6%)
National Ocean Service (NOS)	481,107	466,500	497,370	500,100	18,883 (3.9%)
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	822,138	828,743	830,572	849,497	27,359 (3.3%)
NOAA-Wide Program Support	247,900	438,331	460,285	252,931	5,031 (2.0%)
<i>NOAA Education Program</i>	27,600	16,431	26,631	26,631	969 (-3.5%)
Procurement, Acquisitions, and Construction (PAC)	2,179,225	1,973,034	2,079,494	2,413,416	234,191 (10.7%)
National Environmental, Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS)	2,034,544	1,802,640	1,918,400	2,161,572	127,028 (6.2%)

Sources: Division B, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2016
<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD003.pdf>; FY 2015 enacted figures taken from FY 2016 NOAA Budget Request
http://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/~nbo/fy16_bluebook/FY2016BudgetSummary-web.pdf.

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The Omnibus bill would provide \$964 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which is \$100.1 million or 11.6 percent above FY 2015. The explanatory report highlights ongoing NIST priority areas including cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, forensic sciences, resiliency, and materials research.

While the explanatory statement does not mention the Centers of Excellence Program, through House and Senate report language, NIST is encouraged to continue the Centers of Excellence in future fiscal years with photonics and regenerative medicine highlighted as key areas. Also included in the explanatory report is support at the requested level of funding for Disaster Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure, the Materials Genome Initiative, and Quantum-Based Sensors and Measurements. The explanatory statement adopts Senate report language to integrate the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace (NSTIC) into The National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence, which cumulatively would receive \$31.5 million in funding. Forensics research would be level funded at \$3 million and House report language ending NIST support for the Forensic Science Advisory Committees is not adopted.

The bill would provide \$25 million to support the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI). While this is the first time funding has been included at NIST for NNMI, this amount is far below the President's budget request of \$143.6 million. In addition, the activities of the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech) program would be consolidated with NNMI. Of the \$25 million provided for NNMI, up to \$5 million may be used for coordination activities across federal agencies. NIST is directed to follow the *Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act of 2014*, requiring open competition to select the focus areas of the industry-led institutes. The bill would provide \$130 million for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), level with FY 2015 funding.

National Institute of Standards and Technology

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
NIST, total	863,900	855,000	893,000	964,000	100,100 (11.6%)
<i>Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership</i>	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	--
<i>Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech)</i>	8,100	N/A	15,000	--	-15,000 (100%)
<i>National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI)</i>	--	N/A	--*	25,000	25,000

*The Senate would have provided \$5 million for NNMI coordination within the AMTech account.

Source: Division B, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016
<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD003.pdf>.

Economic Development Administration

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) would receive \$261 million for FY 2016, which is \$11 million above the FY 2015 enacted level, but \$12 million below the President's request. Unlike the FY 2016 House and Senate appropriations bills, the omnibus agreement would provide additional support for the Regional Innovation Program (RIP), which in FY 2015, provided support for i6 Challenge grants and Cluster Grants for Seed Capital Funds, and in previous years had funded Science and Research Park Development Grants. The omnibus bill would provide \$5 million above the FY 2015 enacted level for RIP, but \$15 million below the President's request. The explanatory statement would accept direction from both House and Senate Committee reports that direct EDA to prioritize RIP grants that support the development of university-based, high-tech business incubators for the commercialization of new technologies.

Also of interest to the university community, the omnibus agreement would provide \$35 million for the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, which is \$10 million below the FY 2015 enacted level. EAA awards provide support for the planning and implementation of regional economic development strategies. The bill would also designate \$100 million for the Public Works program, which provides funding for the construction of new infrastructure aimed at helping communities compete in the 21st Century global economy. This is an increase of \$1 million over the FY 2015 enacted level. Both EAA and Public Works commonly support university-driven projects that demonstrate the capacity to stimulate regional economic development and competitiveness.

Economic Development Administration

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
EDA, total	250,000	250,000	250,000	261,000	11,000 (4.4%)
Economic Development Assistance Programs	213,000	213,000	213,000	222,000	9,000 (4.2%)
<i>Public Works</i>	99,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	1,000 (1%)
<i>Economic Adjustment Assistance Program</i>	45,000	32,500	48,000	35,000	10,000 (22.2%)
<i>Regional Innovation Program</i>	10,000	11,000	10,000	15,000	5,000 (50%)
<i>Partnership Planning</i>	30,000	30,000	30,000	32,000	2,000 (6.7%)

<i>Technical Assistance Program</i>	11,000	10,500	11,000	10,500	500 (4.6%)
<i>Research and Evaluation</i>	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	--
Salaries and Expenses	37,000	37,000	37,000	39,000	2,000 (5.4%)

Source: Division B, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016
<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD003.pdf>.

Department of Defense

Similar to last year, the Department of Defense (DOD) science and technology programs (6.1-6.3) overall would fare better under the omnibus than proposed in the President's request. Once again, Members of Congress recognize the importance of sustaining investments in research and development for the military and our nation's defense, even under tight fiscal constraints.

Of significance to the university and research community, the omnibus would reject the President's proposed reduction to the basic research (6.1) accounts for FY 2016, providing \$2.3 billion for basic research across DOD, a 1.4 percent increase over last year's level and \$220 million over the President's request. Further, the omnibus would provide both the applied research (6.2) and advanced technology development (6.3) activities with significant increases of 9.0 percent and 7.4 percent respectively over the FY 2015 enacted levels and respectively \$311 million and \$475 million higher than the President's request.

Overall, for DOD research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) programs, covering the DOD 6.1-6.7 budget activities, the bill would provide \$69.8 billion, a 9.5 percent increase over the FY 2015 enacted level and nearly level with the President's request.

The omnibus would distribute increases above the President's request for basic research fairly evenly across several accounts within the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Defense-Wide. Of note, the Defense Research Sciences accounts, which fund basic research activities and grants within the Army, Navy, and Air Force, would be provided increases ranging from \$40 million to \$55 million over the President's request, which had proposed deep cuts to these accounts. For the Army and Navy, these increases would also be above the FY 2015 level (3.0 percent and 1.9 percent respectively). However, the Air Force would still face a cut relative to FY 2015 of 4.1 percent. Other basic research increases in the bill would go to the Defense-Wide Basic Research Initiatives account, including the Minerva program and National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellowship (NSSEFF) program, which would be funded at \$72 million, 62 percent or \$28 million above the FY 2015 level and \$30 million over the President's request. Naval University Research Initiatives, which include the Multi-disciplinary University Research Initiatives (MURI) program, would receive \$146 million, \$12 million or 9.2 percent over the FY 2015 level and \$30 million over the President's request. Additional areas of emphasis in the bill include Historically Black Colleges and Universities and minority-serving institutions as well as the National Defense Education Program for STEM education.

The Omnibus includes \$2.89 billion for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to support high-risk, high-reward research. This level is approximately \$200 million below the FY 2015 level and approximately \$800 million below the President's request with noted reductions in information and communication, tactical, and electronics technologies as well as advanced aerospace systems. The DARPA basic research account was fully funded at the requested level, essentially flat with FY 2015.

The Defense Rapid Innovation Program would be funded at \$250 million for the quick development of defense technologies until 2023. In addition, the omnibus would provide \$100 million for a new program called the Technology Offset Initiative, which is part of the emerging Defense Innovation Initiative by the Secretary of Defense. The initiative is expected to be used to progress advanced

research and development concepts to field offset technologies in the 2025 timeframe. The initiative's funding would be available for transfer within RDT&E as determined by the Secretary of Defense. Beyond core defense science and technology programs, the Defense Health Program RDT&E account would be increased by 22.6 percent above the FY 2015 enacted level to approximately \$2.1 billion, \$1.14 billion above the President's request. Since the early 1990s, Congress has increased the DOD health budget to support competitive health and biomedical research programs, offsetting restrictions on biomedical research funding through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) would receive \$852.4 million, \$40 million above the FY 2015 level, including \$278.7 million for the Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP), \$125 million for Peer-reviewed traumatic brain injury and psychological health research, and \$120 million for breast cancer research among many other topics. Notably, within CDMRP, the FY 2016 appropriations bill would fund a new \$5 million peer-reviewed tick-borne disease research program. Further, new topics to PRMRP would include: antimicrobial resistance, constrictive bronchiolitis, emerging infectious diseases, influenza, non-opioid pain management, Rett syndrome, tuberculosis, and vaccine development for infectious disease.

Similar to other sections of the omnibus, House and Senate committee report language not explicitly addressed in the omnibus explanatory statement would be approved. Several provisions of interest to the research community have been previously reported by Lewis-Burke.

Department of Defense

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2106 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
RDT&E, Total	63,713,275	66,150,652	70,324,687	69,784,665	6,071,390 (9.5%)
S&T, Total	12,414,410	12,673,250	12,820,451	13,272,806	858,396 (6.9%)
6.1 (Basic), Total	2,278,135	2,100,429	2,317,429	2,309,429	31,294 (1.4%)
6.2 (Applied), Total	4,605,390	4,837,882	4,925,156	5,023,982	418,592 (9.0%)
6.3 (Advanced Technology Development), Total	5,530,885	5,734,939	5,577,866	5,939,395	408,510 (7.4%)
Army RDT&E	6,675,565	7,372,047	7,096,935	7,565,327	889,762 (13.3%)
Army Basic	460,526	425,079	470,079	469,079	8,553 (1.9%)
Army Applied	981,661	964,685	1,071,685	1,092,885	111,224 (11.3%)
Army ATD	1,113,541	1,020,147	1,057,247	1,127,347	13,806 (1.2%)

Navy RDT&E	15,958,460	17,237,724	18,236,645	18,117,677	2,159,217 (13.5%)
Navy Basic	650,195	586,928	671,928	671,928	21,733 (3.3%)
Navy Applied	870,383	896,277	949,170	986,577	116,194 (13.4%)
Navy ATD	635,714	692,694	665,364	698,895	63,181 (9.9%)
Air Force RDT&E	23,643,983	23,163,152	25,874,116	25,217,148	1,573,165 (6.7%)
AF Basic	551,008	485,253	540,253	530,253	-20,755 (3.8%)
AF Applied	1,101,133	1,225,342	1,228,342	1,241,942	140,809 (12.8%)
AF ATD	630,317	693,785	707,285	711,285	80,968 (12.8%)
Defense Wide RDT&E	17,225,889	18,207,171	18,926,433	17,225,889	--
DW Basic	616,406	603,169	635,169	638,169	21,763 (3.5%)
DW Applied	1,652,213	1,751,578	1,675,959	1,702,578	50,365 (3.0%)
DW ATD	3,151,313	3,328,313	3,147,970	3,401,868	250,555 (8.0%)
Defense Health RDT&E	1,730,709	1,567,201	1,798,633	2,121,933	391,224 (22.6%)

Source: Division C, Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD004.pdf>.

Department of Education

The omnibus bill would provide \$71.7 billion for the Department of Education (ED) in FY 2015, which is \$1.2 billion above the FY 2015 enacted level. In general, appropriations in the omnibus bill would be generous to education programs, which have experienced cuts over the past few years. The omnibus would avoid steep cuts that had been proposed earlier this year in both the House and Senate FY 2016 appropriations bills.

Within federal student aid, the omnibus would include \$4,860 in discretionary funding for Pell Grants. This funding, plus an automatic increase in mandatory funding, would increase the individual maximum award to an estimated \$5,915, a \$140 increase over FY 2015. While the Pell Grant would receive a slight increase for FY 2016, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) and Federal Work Study would be flat funded at \$733 million and \$990 million, respectively. No new funding was included for the Perkins Loan program, which expired on September 30, 2015, pending a two year extension which is currently before Congress. In keeping with increased scrutiny on the Office of Federal Student Aid, the legislation also includes new language that would require ED to allocate new student loan accounts based on loan servicer performance and capacity to ensure high-quality loan servicing for borrowers as well as responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Consistent with past appropriations bills passed by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees earlier this year, Congress remains unsupportive of many signature Obama Administration programs. As such, the omnibus would not provide any funding for the Race to the Top program, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), or First in the World. The explanatory report also expresses support for ED's decision to move away from the proposed Postsecondary Institutional Ratings System.

The Federal TRIO programs would receive a slight increase to \$900 million, an increase of \$60 million over FY 2015. Within TRIO, the agreement would provide funding for Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers competitions in FY 2016, in addition to increased funding for current programs. Congress would instruct ED to invite applications to the FY 2016 competitions of Talent Search and Educational Opportunity Centers as soon as possible. GEAR UP would also receive an increase to \$323 million, an increase of \$21 million from FY 2015.

Despite widespread concerns in the higher education community about the future of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), it would be funded at \$618 million, a \$44 million increase over FY 2015. Within IES, Research, Development and Dissemination would receive an increase of \$15 million, with flat funding for Research in Special Education and Regional Education Laboratories.

The omnibus would also provide \$107 million for the Office of Civil Rights (OCR), a \$7 million increase from FY 2015. OCR carries out the Title IX investigations regarding sexual assaults on college campuses. Issues of campus safety are expected to continue to be at the top of the federal policy agenda in the coming year.

Department of Education

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
ED, total*	70,470,650	64,224,007	65,500,000	71,698,533	1,227,883 (1.7%)
Elementary and Secondary Education					
School Improvement Grants	505,756	0	450,000	450,000	-55,756 (11.0%)
Innovation and Improvement					
Investing in Innovation	120,000	0	0	120,000	--
Math and Science Partnerships	152,717	0	141,299	152,717	--
Promise Neighborhoods	56,754	56,745	37,000	73,254	16,500 (29.1%)
Student Financial Assistance					
Pell Grant†	5,775	5,915	5,915	5,915	140 (2.4%)
SEOG	733,130	733,130	704,000	733,130	--
Federal Work Study	989,728	989,728	950,000	989,728	--
Higher Education					
Aid for Hispanic Serving Institutions (Title V)	100,231	100,231	97,224	107,795	7,504 (7.5%)
International Education and Foreign Language Studies (Title VI)	72,164	72,164	46,945	72,164	--
FIPSE	67,775	0	0	0	-67,775 (100%)
<i>First in the World</i>	60,000	0	0	0	-60,000 (100%)
TRIO	839,752	900,000	839,752	900,000	60,248 (7.2%)
GEAR UP	301,639	322,754	301,639	322,754	21,115 (7.0%)
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN)	29,293	25,075	20,000	29,293	--
Institute of Education Sciences, total					
Research, Development, and Dissemination	179,860	93,144	177,860	195,000	15,140 (8.4%)
Research in Special Education	54,000	35,978	48,000	54,000	--
Regional Education Laboratories	54,423	--	53,823	54,423	--
Special Education					

State Grants	2,214,465	2,575,817	2,314,465	2,629,465	415,000 (18.7%)
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* Values for the Department of Education, total, are reported on page 148 of the Omnibus explanatory text.

† The Pell Grant value is reported as the maximum grant available to a Pell eligible student and includes discretionary as well as mandatory funding.

Source: Division H, Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD009.pdf>.

Department of Energy

The final omnibus appropriations bill would provide \$29.72 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE), which is \$1.8 billion (6.4 percent) above the FY 2015 enacted level. Of the \$1.8 billion increase, \$968 million (54 percent) would go to defense-related programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and nuclear environmental clean-up activities and \$832 million (46 percent) would go to basic and applied energy research programs. This would represent a more balanced increase in funding for DOE defense and non-defense activities than in prior years, which used to favor increases in nuclear weapons programs at the expense of basic and applied energy programs.

Office of Science and ARPA-E

The DOE Office of Science would receive \$5.35 billion, an increase of \$279 million (5.5 percent) above FY 2015. In addition, ARPA-E would see a slight increase of \$11 million (3.9 percent) compared to FY 2015 for a total of \$291 million.

Five of the six Office of Science program areas would see an increase above FY 2015. While the sixth area, Fusion Energy Sciences, would be below FY 2015 funding levels, domestic fusion research would see an increase above last year. The largest funding increase is for Basic Energy Sciences, which would receive \$1.849 billion or \$116 million (6.6 percent) above FY 2015, equal to the President's request. This funding amount includes \$24 million and \$15 million for the Batteries and Energy Storage and Fuels from Sunlight Innovation Hubs, respectively. There is no funding specified for Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs), but a House provision prohibiting new EFRCs is not approved by the omnibus. The bill would also provide \$12 million as requested for the computational materials science program, which would fund the three existing awards at \$8 million and provide an additional \$4 million for up to two new awards in FY 2016. The bill also includes three congressional adds that were not part of the budget request: \$10 million for the design of a second target station at the Spallation Neutron Source at Oak Ridge National Lab in Tennessee; \$5 million for research and development to upgrade the Advanced Light Source at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab in California; and \$3 million for a university competitive solicitation to develop nanostructured catalysts that can be used to synthesize fertilizer and ammonia without any secondary greenhouse gases.

Advanced Scientific Computing would see the largest percentage increase. The bill would fund this program at \$621 million, which is an increase of \$80 million or 14.7 percent over FY 2015 and even with the President's request. The increase is primarily to support the exascale initiative and facility upgrades at the leadership computing facilities at Oak Ridge, Argonne, and Lawrence Berkeley National Labs. The bill also includes \$10 million for the Computational Sciences Graduate Fellowship program.

In the final bill, all of the House proposed cuts to climate change research are reversed. The Biological and Environmental Research program would receive \$609 million, an increase of \$17 million (2.8 percent) above FY 2015 but \$3 million below the President's request. The omnibus would include \$75 million to fund the three Bioenergy Research Centers and \$18 million for a new climate model development and validation initiative to design the next generation climate models with greater accuracy. Fusion Energy Sciences would receive \$438 million, a decrease of \$29.5 million (6.3 percent) below FY 2015 but \$18 million above the budget request. In stark contrast to the proposed cuts in the budget request, the domestic research program would see an increase of \$2.5 million for a total of \$323

million, while funding for ITER, the international fusion project, would be cut \$35 million to a total of \$115 million. Without significant improvements to its project management and a realistic budget and schedule estimate, Congress may decide to terminate this program next year.

High Energy Physics would receive \$795 million, an increase of \$29 million (3.7 percent) above FY 2015 and \$7 million above the request. Additional funding would be provided to advance two major construction projects: \$26 million (an increase of \$12 million above FY 2015) for the Long Baseline Neutrino Facility at Fermilab in Illinois and the Sanford Underground Research Facility in South Dakota and \$40.1 million (an increase of \$15 million above FY 2015) for the Muon to Electron Conversion Experiment at Fermilab. Nuclear Physics would receive \$617 million, an increase of \$22 million (3.6 percent) above FY 2015. This increase would primarily fund the operations of the newly upgraded Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility at Thomas Jefferson Lab in Virginia and the construction of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams at Michigan State University.

Applied Energy Programs

The final bill would also provide \$11 billion for applied energy programs, an increase of \$794 million (7.2 percent) above FY 2015. All of DOE's applied energy programs would receive an increase above FY 2015. The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) would receive \$2.073 billion, an increase of \$136 million (6.5 percent) above FY 2015 although far below the budget request's proposed \$2.7 billion. Omnibus funding for EERE includes \$70 million for five Clean Energy Manufacturing Innovation Institutes and \$20 million for the Manufacturing Demonstration Facility at Oak Ridge National Lab.

Consistent with an all-of-the-above energy strategy, the bill also provides significant increases to nuclear and fossil energy programs. The nuclear energy program would be funded at \$986 million, an increase of \$73 million over FY 2015 (7.9 percent). This funding includes \$85 million for research and development activities for used nuclear fuel disposition options, including the behavior of spent fuel in long-term storage, in transport, and in various geologic media. The bill does not include funding to re-open the Yucca Mountain nuclear repository in Nevada. The fossil energy program would receive \$632 million, an increase of \$61 million (10.6 percent) above FY 2015. Additional funding is provided for carbon capture and storage activities for coal and natural gas-fired plants, methane hydrates research, and the exploration and production of unconventional natural gas and other petroleum resources.

With increased attention on electric grid reliability and security issues, the bill would also provide an increase of \$59 million (40.1 percent) for a total of \$206 million to the Office of Electricity and Energy Reliability for grid modernization activities. The bill would more than double funding for smart grid research and development as well as increasing funding for energy storage technologies and cybersecurity of the grid.

Nuclear Security Programs

Congress would match the President's budget request for NNSA, providing \$12.527 billion, an increase of \$1.119 billion (9.8 percent) above FY 2015. Within NNSA, the omnibus includes \$8.847 billion, an increase of \$660 million (8 percent) above FY 2015, for nuclear weapons programs. Unlike previous years, the bill increases funding for research, development, testing, and evaluation activities in support

for nuclear weapons science and engineering for a total of \$1.819 billion, an increase of \$52 million (2.9 percent) . This includes \$65 million for exascale computing activities. In addition, the bill, for the first time, would establish a line item that specifies and protects university funding in support of science-based stockpile stewardship activities. The bill would provide \$50 million for these academic alliances and partnerships.

The core nonproliferation program would receive \$1.706 billion, an increase of \$65 million (3.9 percent) above FY 2015. The largest increase in funding is for nonproliferation research and development to develop next-generation monitoring and verification technologies to detect nuclear activities and support future arms control agreements.

Department of Energy
(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
DOE, total	27,916,797	27,305,845	29,429,115	29,717,278	1,800,481 (6.5%)
Office of Science	5,071,000	5,100,000	5,143,877	5,350,200	279,200 (5.5%)
Advanced Scientific Computing Research	541,000	537,539	620,994	621,000	80,000 (14.8%)
Basic Energy Sciences	1,733,200	1,770,306	1,844,300	1,849,000	115,800 (6.7%)
Biological and Environmental Research	592,000	538,000	610,000	609,000	17,000 (2.9%)
Fusion Energy Sciences	467,500	467,600	270,168	438,000	-29,500 (6.3%)
High Energy Physics	766,000	776,000	788,100	795,000	29,000 (3.8%)
Nuclear Physics	595,500	616,165	591,500	617,100	21,600 (3.6%)
Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists	19,500	20,500	19,500	19,500	--
Science Laboratories Infrastructure	79,600	89,890	113,600	113,600	34,000 (42.7%)
ARPA-E	280,000	280,000	291,000	291,000	11,000 (3.9%)
EERE	1,923,935	1,657,774	1,950,000	2,073,000	149,065 (7.8%)
Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology	97,000	94,083	97,000	100,950	3,950 (4.1%)
Bioenergy Technologies	225,000	165,300	225,000	225,000	--
Solar Energy	233,000	151,600	241,600	241,600	8,600 (3.7%)
Wind Energy	107,000	90,450	46,000	95,450	-11,550 (10.8%)

Geothermal Technology	55,000	46,000	71,000	71,000	16,000 (29.1%)
Water Power	61,000	38,700	65,000	70,000	9,000 (14.8%)
Vehicle Technologies	280,000	255,400	292,000	310,000	30,000 (10.7%)
Building Technologies	172,000	150,362	178,000	200,500	28,500 (16.6%)
Advanced Manufacturing Technologies	200,000	205,000	214,000	228,500	28,500 (14.3%)
Electricity Delivery/Energy Reliability	147,306	187,500	152,306	206,000	58,694 (39.9%)
Nuclear Energy	833,500	936,161	950,161	986,161	152,661 (18.3%)
Fossil Energy R&D	571,000	605,000	610,000	632,000	61,000 (10.7%)
DOE National Nuclear Security Administration	11,407,295	12,329,000	12,263,276	12,526,512	1,119,217 (9.8%)
Weapons Activities	8,186,657	8,713,000	8,882,364	8,846,948	660,291 (8.1%)
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	1,616,638	1,907,606	1,705,912	1,940,302	323,664 (20.0%)

Source: Division D, Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016
<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD005.pdf>.

Department of Health and Human Services

The omnibus includes a two-year delay in the “Cadillac tax,” which is an excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage enacted in the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)*. Other ACA-related tax provisions in the bill include a delay on the annual fee on health insurance providers and a two-year deal on medical device tax. The omnibus would provide level funding for management and operations at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which is on the frontline of implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Despite efforts from the academic medical community, the omnibus did not include language regarding hospital outpatient department site neutral payment policy. Section 603 of the two-year budget deal passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in November bars hospitals from receiving payment under the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (PPS) for an “off campus hospital outpatient department” acquired after enactment of the law, but instead would be reimbursed under Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC PPS) or the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS). Over the past several weeks, the community worked to have language included to allow for hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs) already under development at time of enactment to be grandfathered, but was unsuccessful.

Overall, omnibus language for HHS continues to focus on the Obama Administration’s global security agenda, which includes antimicrobial resistance and efforts to address infectious diseases, such as Ebola. Through the omnibus, Congress acknowledges the importance of coordination among HHS agencies, as well as cross-departmental collaboration with the Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, among others.

National Institutes of Health

The omnibus would provide \$32.084 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is a \$2 billion (6.6 percent) increase above the FY 2015 enacted level. This matches the level included in the Senate version of the FY 2016 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill and is the largest funding increase for the agency since its budget doubling ended in 2003. It is also the first time since the doubling ended that the amount recommended by the biomedical research community was adopted by Congress in the final appropriations bill.

Within NIH, the omnibus would provide \$200 million for the Precision Medicine Initiative (PMI), including \$130 million to the Common Fund to support the PMI Cohort Program and \$70 million to the National Cancer Institute. Also included is a \$350 million increase for a total of \$936 million to support Alzheimer’s disease research within the National Institute on Aging. Additionally, the omnibus bill would provide an \$85 million increase for the BRAIN Initiative for a total of \$150 million in FY 2016, and \$100 million increase for research to combat antibiotic resistance, bringing that program total to \$461 million. Of note, the omnibus bill would hold the extramural salary cap at Executive Level II (\$183,300), despite the House proposal to lower it to Executive Level III.

The omnibus also would provide \$500 million for the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) program, which is \$25 million (5.3 percent) above the FY 2015 enacted level. The explanatory statement accompanying the bill states support for using CTSA to build networking capacity and support for

innovative collaborative projects, such as multi-site clinical studies. Also within the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, the bill would provide \$25.8 million for the Cures Acceleration Network (CAN), which is a \$16 million increase.

Additionally, the bill would provide \$165 million for the National Children’s Study Follow-on and requires that NIH submit a spend plan on the next phase of the study. The Common Fund overall would receive \$675.6 million, which includes \$12.6 million to support pediatric research as authorized by the Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act.

The bill also would provide \$320.8 million for the Institutional Development Award (IDeA), for a \$47 million (17.2 percent) increase above the FY 2015 level, which is more than proposed in either the House or Senate bills. In the explanatory statement accompanying the bill, Congress restates its directive that the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) provide a plan to update eligibility criteria for the IDeA program. The report also suggests the new criteria should specifically incorporate the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) states into the IDeA program’s criteria. The bill also would require that NIH engage the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive study of policies affecting the next generation of researchers.

In the explanatory statement accompanying the bill, Congress directs NIH to address specific concerns, some of which are outlined below:

- Antimicrobial Resistance – The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is directed to work with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) to develop a joint plan to address antimicrobial resistance and to work with the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response on the five-year spending plan for the medical countermeasure enterprise.
- National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) – The statement notes that the bill includes direct funding to the National Library of Medicine for NCBI to “meet the challenge of collecting, organizing, analyzing, and disseminating the increasing amounts of data related to molecular biology and genomics and to support the deposit of manuscripts in PubMed Central under the NIH Public Access Policy.” The report states that the direct funding should improve transparency and enhance NCBI’s ability to provide an integrated, genomic resource for researchers at NIH and elsewhere.
- Prioritization of Funding – As in previous years, the explanatory statement states that Congress expects NIH to consider the burden of disease when setting priorities and that NIH prioritize funds on medical research over outreach and education. The report also states that NIH provide an update in the FY 2017 budget request on how it plans to use the NIH five-year strategic plan (just released on December 16) as part of its resource allocation process.
- New Initiatives – The explanatory statement requests that NIH provide a table in the FY 2017 budget request of current and future year funding levels for Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD), BRAIN, Big Data, PMI, CTSA, CAN, antimicrobial resistance, Accelerating Medicines Partnership, Human Microbiome Project, High-Risk High-Reward Programs, biomedical workforce activities, and any new initiatives proposed in 2017. The table should include planned budget level, list of participating institutes and centers, linkage to the NIH strategic plan, and percentage of funds focused on basic science.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
NIH, total	30,084,000	31,184,000	32,084,000	32,084,000	2,000,000 (6.6%)
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4,950,396	5,081,812	5,204,058	5,214,701	264,305 (5.3%)
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	2,997,670	3,035,062	3,135,519	3,115,538	117,868 (3.9%)
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)	399,886	404,847	415,169	415,582	15,696 (3.9%)
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	1,899,681	1,921,388	1,975,162	1,968,357	68,676 (3.6%)
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)	1,605,205	1,656,334	1,694,758	1,696,139	90,934 (5.7%)
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	4,358,841	4,512,918	4,710,342	4,629,928	271,087 (6.2%)
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	2,371,476	2,439,437	2,511,431	2,512,073	140,597 (5.9%)
<i>Institutional Development Award (IDeA)</i>	273,300	311,865	300,000	320,000	47,000 (17.2%)
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)	1,286,571	1,305,586	1,345,355	1,339,802	53,231 (4.1%)
National Eye Institute	684,191	698,108	709,549	715,903	31,712 (4.6%)
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	667,502	675,783	695,900	693,702	26,200 (3.9%)
National Institute on Aging (NIA)	1,199,468	1,518,421	1,548,494	1,600,191	400,723 (33.4%)
National Institute on Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)	521,665	528,137	544,274	542,141	20,476 (3.9%)
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders (NIDCD)	405,302	412,366	424,860	423,031	17,729 (4.4%)
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	1,463,036	1,512,401	1,520,260	1,548,390	85,354 (5.8%)
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	1,028,514	1,050,875	1,069,086	1,077,488	48,974 (4.8%)

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	447,408	456,012	469,355	467,700	20,292 (4.5%)
National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)	140,953	142,701	147,508	146,485	5,532 (3.9%)
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	499,356	505,551	526,166	518,956	19,600 (3.9%)
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)	330,192	338,360	344,299	346,795	16,603 (5.0%)
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)	269,154	272,493	287,379	279,718	10,564 (3.9%)
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)	124,681	127,585	130,162	130,789	6,108 (4.9%)
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	635,230	643,111	699,319	685,417	50,187 (7.9%)
Cures Acceleration Network (CAN)	9,835	9,947	2,583	25,835	16,000 (162.7%)
John E. Fogarty International Center (FIC)	67,786	68,627	70,944	70,447	2,661 (3.9%)
National Library of Medicine (NLM)	336,939	341,119	402,251	394,664	57,725 (17.1%)
Office of the Director	1,413,734	1,552,326	1,523,537	1,571,200	157,466 (11.1%)
<i>Common Fund</i>	533,039	675,639	544,077	675,639	142,600 (26.8%)
Buildings and Facilities	128,863	132,640	128,863	128,863	--

Source: Division H, Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD009.pdf>.

Other HHS Agencies

For FY 2016, the omnibus would provide \$6.38 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which is \$37 million or 0.6 percent above the FY 2015 enacted level. Within the bill, \$262.4 million would be provided for Title VII health professions programs, which is \$8 million above the FY 2015 enacted level. This includes \$30 million for Area Health Education Research Centers (AHECs) and \$14 million for the Health Careers Opportunity Program, both of which were eliminated in the President's FY 2016 budget request.

Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs would receive \$229.47 million in FY 2016, which is \$2.1 million below the FY 2015 enacted level. This decrease for Title VIII funding is a result of moving the Title VIII nursing Comprehensive Geriatric Education program to Title VII, where it is combined with the Geriatric program, which received a \$4.5 million increase. The Advanced Nursing Education program

received a \$1 million increase above the FY 2015 level and the Loan Repayment and Scholarship program received about a \$1.3 million increase. All other programs were funded at FY 2015 levels.

Within the Maternal and Child Health Program at HRSA, the omnibus would provide the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program no less than \$28.99 million for FY 2016. However, the omnibus language emphasized that funding should be used to initiate programs in states that do not already have an established program, but have a high incidence of Autism Spectrum Disorders. The LEND program is currently open and seeking applications for funding, which are due on February 5.

Continuing Congress' interest in HRSA's oversight of the 340B program, the omnibus contains language for HRSA to provide a briefing to both the House and Senate. The purpose of the briefing is to update appropriators on the status of 340B guidance, covered entities, and the secure website.

Despite facing elimination in the House appropriations bill and significant cuts in the Senate bill, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) received \$334 million in the omnibus, which is \$29.698 million below the FY 2015 enacted level. AHRQ is the HHS agency responsible for producing evidence to make healthcare "safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable." Language in the omnibus expresses Congress' expectation that AHRQ will focus on its traditional mission, such as improving patient safety and preventing healthcare associated infections. The omnibus includes \$47 million for investigator-initiated research; however, language in the bill stresses that this funding should not be targeted to any specific area of health research but should instead encourage unsolicited ideas from the research community on a variety of topics.

The omnibus would provide \$7.23 billion for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) activities. This amount includes \$25.5 million for Prevention Research Centers (PRCs). The omnibus directs CDC to support states in the use of evidence-based approaches to stop the spread of drug resistant bacteria and preserve existing antibiotics. In addition, the omnibus directs the CDC to work with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and other government agencies to support collaborations between entities on the forefront off activities that would support the federal strategy on antibiotic resistance.

Department of Health and Human Services

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
HHS, total	691,695,040	728,860,777	728,082,729	732,212,371	40,517,331 (5.9%)
HRSA	6,347,284	6,048,000	6,241,000	6,384,058	36,774 (0.6%)
<i>Title VII</i>	254,978	246,048	230,340	262,423	7,445 (2.9%)
<i>Title VIII</i>	231,622	231,622	220,630	229,472	-2,150 (-0.9)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)	3,619,712	3,642,710	3,460,484	3,779,936	160,224 (4.4%)
<i>Center for Mental Health Services</i>	1,078,975	1,073,975	1,054,340	1,166,987	88,012 (8.2%)
<i>Center for Substance Abuse Treatment</i>	2,183,858	2,196,856	2,054,116	2,195,424	11,566 (0.5%)
<i>Center for Substance Abuse Prevention</i>	175,219	181,660	169,297	211,219	36,000 (20.5%)
CDC	6,925,776	7,065,461	6,710,614	7,233,403	307,627 (4.4%)
<i>Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion</i>	1,199,220	1,097,482	1,052,922	1,177,096	-22,124 (-1.8%)
<i>National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)</i>	334,863	341,100	305,887	339,121	4,258 (1.3%)
<i>Environmental Health</i>	179,404	160,580	145,286	182,303	2,899 (1.6%)
AHRQ	363,698	--	236,001	334,000	-29,698 (-8.2%)
Administration on Community Living (ACL)	1,700,956	1,962,058	1,888,139	1,992,550	291,594 (17.1%)
Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT	60,367	60,367	60,367	60,367	--
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)	30,566,591	32,221,741	31,720,000	32,757,934	2,191,343 (7.2%)

Source: Division H, Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD009.pdf>.

Department of Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate would receive \$786.9 million in FY 2016, which is \$317 million less than the FY 2015 enacted level. However, a majority of this reduction is due to the funds no longer needed for the National Bio-Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). The Research, Development, and Innovation (RD&I) account, which funds a significant amount of the agency's research activities, would receive \$435 million, a decrease of \$22.6 million below FY 2015. Congress does not allocate specific funding levels for the research thrusts within RD&I (Apex R&D; Border Security; Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives Defense; Counter Terrorist R&D; Cyber Security; and Disaster Resilience).

The University Programs Office, which funds DHS' Centers of Excellence, would receive \$39.7 million, which is the same amount as FY 2015. This would provide funding for all existing centers and reject cuts to the program proposed in the President's budget request each year. Furthermore, the bill notes that DHS lacks a mechanism to monitor and coordinate research and development (R&D) activities across the agency. The report language gives credit to DHS in its attempt to tackle this concern through the recent establishment of Integrated Product Teams (IPTs) -- review boards comprised of agency officials charged with identifying and helping to address technological gaps through agency research. However, the report encourages DHS to report to Congress within 30 days on the success of early IPTs and other technology assessments endeavors.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program would receive \$100 million for hazard mitigation planning and projects, which is an increase of \$75 million over FY 2015.

Department of Homeland Security

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
Science and Technology Directorate	1,103,908	786,938	764,866	786,938	316,970 (8%)
<i>University Programs</i>	39,724	39,724	39,000	39,724	--

Source: Division F, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD007.pdf>.

Department of Justice

The US Department of Justice (DOJ) would receive \$29.09 billion for FY 2016, a 7.6 percent increase above the FY 2015 enacted level. Unlike the FY 2016 House appropriations bill, which proposed to eliminate the Research, Evaluation, and Statistics account and allow DOJ to “set-aside” funding for flagship research programs at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the omnibus would provide support for these programs. Specifically, the bill would increase funding for the agency’s core research programs by \$5 million and maintain level funding for NIJ and BJS.

Department of Justice

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
DOJ, total	27,030,158	27,883,115	27,827,770	29,089,808	2,059,650 (7.6%)
Research, Evaluation, and Statistics	111,000	N/A	117,000	116,000	5,000 (4.5%)
<i>National Institute of Justice</i>	36,000	N/A	36,000	36,000	--
<i>Bureau of Justice Statistics</i>	41,000	N/A	41,000	41,000	--
Juvenile Justice Programs	251,500	183,500	294,500	270,160	18,660 (7.4%)
Community Oriented Policing Services	208,000	235,000	212,000	212,000	4,000 (1.9%)
Office of Violence Against Women	430,000	474,000	479,000	480,000	50,000 (11.6%)

Source: Division B, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016.

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD003.pdf>.

Department of State/USAID

The FY 2016 omnibus appropriations bill includes \$52.8 billion in total funding for international affairs programs at the Department of State, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and related agencies. This figure includes \$14.95 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations / Global War on Terrorism (OCO/GWOT) funding, which is an increase of \$5.6 billion over FY 2015. Educational and Cultural Exchange programs through the Department of State would receive \$590.9 million, essentially flat with the FY 2015 level. Within this amount, the Department is directed to allocate at least \$236 million to the Fulbright Program.

Global health programs remain a priority for Congress, as the omnibus would provide a total of \$8.5 billion in FY 2016. This amount is slightly (less than 1 percent) higher than the FY 2015 enacted level. While there is limited language in the explanatory statement specific to science, technology, and innovation programs at USAID and the Department of State, the Secretary of State is directed to include the funding levels for the Feed the Future Innovation Labs provided in the FY 2017 President's budget request. There is also language encouraging new partnerships between higher education institutions in the United States and developing countries for institutional capacity building, which are directed to be awarded on an "open and competitive basis."

International Affairs (Including Department of State and USAID)

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
International Affairs, Total (Including OCO)	51,950,281	47,834,000	48,005,900	52,833,900	883,619 (1.7%)
Title I (Dept of State and Related Agencies)	14,069,383	9,573,022	14,196,188	11,187,376	2,882,007 (20.5%)
Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs	589,900	582,531	590,900	590,900	1,000 (0.2%)
USAID Operating Expenses	1,090,836	1,058,110	1,143,614	1,143,614	52,778 (4.8%)
Development Assistance, Total	2,507,001	2,507,001	2,637,854	2,708,971	201,970 (8.1%)
Global Health Programs, Total	8,453,950	8,453,950	8,468,000	8,503,450	49,500 (0.6%)

Source: Division K, Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD012.pdf>.

Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would not experience the funding increases that the omnibus would provide to other agencies; although it would avoid steep cuts that had been proposed in both the House and Senate FY 2016 appropriations bills. Overall, EPA would receive \$8.139 billion, which is equal to the FY 2015 enacted level. EPA has been the focus of intense Congressional scrutiny for recent regulatory actions related to the Clean Power Plan. In addition to no funding increases for EPA accounts, the omnibus also includes language to “reign in regulatory overreach at the EPA.”¹

The Science and Technology account would be funded at \$734.6 million, which is also level funding with FY 2015. Within this account, Research on National Priorities would be increased by \$10 million over FY 2015, including \$4.1 million for extramural research grants independent of the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program to support water quality and availability research by not-for-profit organizations. Priority would be given to research proposals that include a national scope and a 25 percent match. The explanatory statement instructs EPA to “strive to award grants in as large an amount as is possible to achieve the most scientifically significant research.”² The increase in National Priorities would fund research on oil and gas development in the Appalachian Basin as proposed in the House bill at \$3 million and research on vehicle engine emissions certification at \$7 million. Research on Sustainable and Healthy Communities would be reduced by \$10 million.

The agreement would include Senate language ordering EPA to wrap up research on hydraulic fracturing in FY 2016, noting that no future funding will be provided in this area.

Unlike previous years, Congress would not restore funding for the STAR and Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) fellowship programs, which were again proposed for consolidation in the President’s FY 2016 budget request.

Environmental Protection Agency (In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
EPA, total	8,139,887	7,422,157	7,597,357	8,139,887	--
Science and Technology	734,648	704,918	703,958	734,648	--

Source: Division G, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD008.pdf>.

¹ House Appropriations FY 2016 Omnibus – Interior & Environment Appropriations Summary, 2016, p. 2, http://appropriations.house.gov/uploadedfiles/12.15.15_fy_2016_omnibus_-_interior_-_summary.pdf.

² Division G, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016, p. 34, <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD008.pdf>.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA would receive a large increase under the omnibus to \$19.285 billion, 7.1 percent over the FY 2015 level and higher than the President's FY 2016 budget request and the levels proposed in the Senate and House Committee versions of the bill. A substantial portion of the increase would go to human spaceflight programs, including Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion development as well as to the Commercial Crew Program, a top priority for the Administration. However, NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) would also receive a significant increase of \$345 million or 6.6 percent over FY 2015 and \$301 million more than the President's request.

The bulk of the increased funding for Science in the bill would go to Planetary Science and Earth Science. The omnibus would provide \$1.631 billion for Planetary Science, \$193.2 million or 13.4 percent above the FY 2015 level, and \$270 million over the President's request. The increased funds would include \$250 million for the development of the Mars 2020 rover--\$26 million above the request—and \$189 million for a Discovery-class mission to be announced in FY 2017, \$33 million above the request. The explanatory statement notes that this mission should align with decadal survey priorities. The report also outlines strong support for a mission to Europa, a major priority for Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman John Culberson (R-TX). The bill would provide \$175 million—\$75 million over the FY 2015 level and \$145 million over the request—for a Jupiter Europa clipper probe containing an orbiter and a lander that carry competitively selected instruments with a target launch date of 2022. The explanatory statement also includes \$197 million for Planetary Science Technology, \$55.3 million above the President's request, of which \$25 million is set aside for technology development that will enable future landings on icy solar system bodies such as Europa. In addition, \$6.1 million is included for Asteroid Impact and Deflection Assessment within Near Earth Object Observations.

Earth Science would receive \$1.921 billion, \$148.5 million or 8.4 percent above the FY 2015 level but \$26.3 million below the Administration's request. Although the omnibus includes the higher \$100 million Senate-proposed funding level for the development of Landsat 9 to enable a target launch date of 2020, the agreement does not approve the Administration's plan to create a Sustainable Land Imaging system and would provide no funding for the proposed Thermal Infrared Free-Flyer component. The agreement would also provide \$75 million for Pre-Aerosol, Clouds and Ocean (PACE) mission, \$22 million above the request and in-line with the Senate recommendation.

With regards to Astrophysics, the omnibus would provide \$730.6 million, an increase of \$45.8 million or 6.7 percent over the FY 2015 level and \$21.5 million over the request. The bill, as in years previous, would fully fund the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), directing \$85.2 million to the mission, equal to the President's request and the level proposed in the House report. The explanatory statement expresses Congress's support for NASA's decision to not place SOFIA under senior review in 2016. Additionally, the omnibus would provide \$90 million for the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST), the same amount included in the Senate committee report and \$76 million over the request.

NASA's top science priority, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), would be fully supported at the requested level of \$620 million. The explanatory statement includes no direction on Heliophysics, but all language from the House and Senate committee reports would be approved, including Senate

language providing \$230.4 million for Solar Probe Plus as well as Senate language expressing strong support for NASA's Explorer missions within both the Heliophysics and Astrophysics divisions that would direct NASA to increase the frequency of Explorer Announcements of Opportunity from once every three years to once every two years. With regards to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education projects in SMD, the omnibus would provide \$37 million for Education and Public Outreach (EPO), \$5 million below the FY 2015 and Senate-proposed level but \$17 million above the President's request and \$5 million above the House-proposed level. EPO projects for all of SMD would be managed within the Astrophysics Division as requested by the Administration, although the funding would be provided as a separate line outside the Astrophysics budget.

The omnibus would allocate \$640 million for Aeronautics, a decrease of \$11 million or 1.7 percent below 2015 spending levels but still \$68.6 million over the President's request. Funding for the Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) would be increased to \$686.5 million, \$90.5 million or 15.2 percent above the FY 2015 level but 38.3 million below the request. However, the explanatory statement would direct STMD to set aside \$133 million for development of the RESTORE-L mission, an in-orbit satellite refueling platform. Funding for RESTORE-L has previously been located in NASA's Space Operations account and represents a transfer of responsibility to STMD that is not accompanied with additional funding. Considering the RESTORE-L set aside, the rest of Space Technology would be decreased by \$42.5 million or 7 percent below the FY 2015 level. House language proposing \$25 million for icy satellite surface technology would not be approved as this funding is included under Planetary Science Technology. The omnibus would include up to \$20 million for nuclear propulsion technologies and \$15 million for flight opportunities.

Education would be funded at \$115 million, a decrease of \$4 million or 3.4 percent below FY 2015 spending levels and \$26.1 million over the request. As in previous years, the omnibus would reject cuts to Space Grants and EPSCoR, providing funding at FY 2015 levels.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

(in thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
NASA, total	18,010,200	18,529,100	18,289,500	19,285,000	1,274,800 (7.1%)
Science	5,244,700	5,237,500	5,295,000	5,589,400	344,700 (6.6%)
Earth Science	1,772,500	1,682,900	1,931,600	1,921,000	148,500 (8.4%)
Planetary Science	1,437,800	1,557,000	1,321,000	1,631,000	193,200 (13.4%)
<i>Planetary Science Research</i>	255,800	277,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Discovery</i>	255,000	175,000	N/A	189,000	-66,000 (25.9%)
<i>New Frontiers</i>	286,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Mars Exploration</i>	305,000	448,000	N/A	N/A	N/A

<i>Outer Planets</i>	181,000	226,000	N/A	261,000	80,000 (44.2%)
<i>Planetary Science Technology</i>	155,000	172,000	N/A	197,000	42,000 (27.1%)
Astrophysics	684,800	735,600	730,600	730,600	45,800 (6.7%)
James Webb Space Telescope	645,400	620,000	620,000	620,000	-25,400 (3.9%)
Heliophysics	662,200	642,000	649,800	649,800	-12,400 (1.9%)
Education and Public Outreach†	42,000	32,000	42,000	37,000	-5,000 (11.9%)
Aeronautics	651,000	600,000	524,700	640,000	-11,000 (1.7%)
Space Technology	596,000	625,000	600,000	686,500	90,500 (15.2%)
Exploration	4,356,700	4,759,300	3,831,200	4,030,000	-326,700 (7.5%)
Human Exploration Capabilities	3,245,300	3,409,300	3,510,000	3,680,000	434,700 (13.4%)
Commercial Spaceflight*	805,000	1,000,000	--	--	N/A
Exploration Research and Development	306,400	350,000	321,200	350,000	43,600 (14.2%)
Space Operations	3,827,800	3,957,300	4,756,400	5,029,200	1,201,400 (31.4%)
Commercial Spaceflight*	--	--	900,000	1,243,800	438,800 (54.5%)
Education	119,000	119,000	108,000	115,000	-4,000 (3.4%)
Aerospace Research & Career Dev.	58,000	58,000	58,000	58,000	--
<i>Space Grant</i>	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	--
<i>EPSCoR</i>	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	--
STEM Education & Accountability	61,000	61,000	50,000	57,000	-4,000 (6.6%)
Safety, Security, and Mission Services	2,758,900	2,768,600	2,784,000	2,768,600	9,700 (0.4%)
Construction and Environmental Compliance and Restoration	419,100	425,000	352,800	388,900	-30,200 (7.2%)
Office of Inspector General	37,000	37,400	37,400	37,400	400 (1.1%)

*In FY 2016, funding for Commercial Spaceflight would be moved from the Exploration account to the Space Operations account.

†In FY 2015 and in the House FY 2016 proposal, funding for EPO activities in SMD was provided within the Astrophysics account rather than through its own budget line.

Source: Division B, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016
<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD003.pdf>.

National Science Foundation

With bipartisan support, the National Science Foundation (NSF) would receive funding above FY 2015 levels for all accounts. The omnibus would provide NSF with \$7.463 billion overall, which is \$119.3 million or 1.6 percent above FY 2015. This increase would be higher than either number proposed in the House or Senate FY 2016 appropriations bills, but would fall short of the President's requested increase of \$379 million. The Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account, which funds all of NSF's research directorates, would receive an increase of \$100.0 million or 1.7 percent over the FY 2015 level.

The agreement does not include controversial language from the House appropriations committee report that would have shifted substantial amounts of funding from the Geosciences (GEO) and Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorates to the other four research directorates (Biological Sciences, Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and Engineering). Instead, the omnibus would direct NSF to keep SBE flat at the FY 2015 level while not providing direction on funding levels for the other directorates. It would also modify House language related to transparency to encourage NSF to continue its efforts implementing transparency processes such as articulating in abstracts how projects serve the national interest. In addition, the agreement would modify House language on replicability of scientific research, directing NSF to provide periodic updates on its efforts in this area.

Within R&RA, several topics are called out for specific funding levels. As in previous years, the omnibus is strongly supportive of NSF's participation in the Administration's BRAIN initiative. Overall, the agreement would provide \$147 million to NSF's Understanding the Brain (UtB) initiative, \$3 million above the budget request and \$40 million above the FY 2015 level. The \$3 million increase above the budget request would specifically be provided for NSF participation in the interagency National Brain Observatory, as proposed in the House committee report. The agreement would also adopt House report language on the Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences recommendation to reduce academic fleet operations and maintenance costs. The omnibus would clarify that NSF should, "work with the community to identify alternative operating options for global class vessels with unique marine seismology capabilities." The agreement would additionally provide \$160 million for cybersecurity research, which is \$37 million above the FY 2015 level and \$36 million above the budget request for the NSF Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace initiative. The agreement would provide at least \$160 million for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), the same as the FY 2015 level and \$10 million below the request.

The omnibus would provide \$200.3 million for the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction Account (MREFC) as requested by the President. The explanatory statement would direct NSF to submit a report on the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) within 180 days of bill enactment that would include new estimates of cost to complete construction and lifecycle costs, as well as new procedures to ensure proper use of funds, and a plan to ensure greater oversight of NEON and other large facility projects going forward.

The bill would support the Education and Human Resources (EHR) account at \$880 million, \$14 million or 1.6 percent above the FY 2015 amount. This is far less than the President's proposed increase of \$96 million. The explanatory statement would maintain funding for broadening participation programs and increase funding for Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) by \$6.5 million above the FY 2015 level

(\$2.5 million more than the budget request proposed). Within this amount the agreement would direct \$5 million to providing out-of-classroom educational experiences to increase minority interest in STEM. The bill would also include \$50 million for CyberCorps: Scholarships for Service (\$5 million above the request and the FY 2015 level), including \$7.5 million for community college recipients as proposed in the Senate committee report.

In addition to items specifically called out in the explanatory statement, all language from the House and Senate committee reports that is not specifically addressed in the explanatory statement would be approved, including items related to astronomy, high performance computing, advanced technological education, ocean drilling, advanced manufacturing, risk and resilience, dyslexia, Innovation Corps, and other areas.

National Science Foundation

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
NSF, total	7,344,205	7,394,205	7,343,775	7,463,485	119,280 (1.6%)
Research & Related Activities	5,933,645	5,983,645	5,933,645	6,033,645	100,000 (1.7%)
Education & Human Resources	866,000	866,000	866,000	880,000	14,000 (1.6%)
MREFC	200,760	200,030	200,310	200,310	-450 (0.2%)
Agency Operations and Award Management	325,000	325,000	325,000	330,000	5,000 (1.5%)
NSB	4,370	4,370	4,370	4,370	--
Office of Inspector General	14,430	15,160	14,450	15,160	730 (5.1%)

Source: Division B, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 2016
<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD003.pdf>.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) research programs would fare well in the final FY 2016 appropriations omnibus bill, and several programs would receive an increase. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) would be funded at \$1.326 billion, an increase of \$37 million (2.9 percent) over the FY 2015 enacted level. Within NIFA, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) would be funded at \$350 million, a significant increase of \$25 million (7.7 percent). Notably, the bill includes a provision (Section 732) exempting AFRI through FY 2016 from the 1:1 matching requirements that were mandated in the 2014 Farm Bill.

The bill would also support key formula funding for land-grant institutions, providing \$243.7 million for formula assistance under the Hatch Act and \$300 million for cooperative extension activities under the Smith-Lever Act 3(b) and 3(c) programs.

Additionally, within the explanatory statement for NIFA there is language specifying that “not less than 15 percent of the competitive research grant funds be used for USDA’s agricultural research enhancement awards program, including USDA-EPSCoR.”

For the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the bill would provide \$1.356 billion, an increase of \$178 million (15.4 percent) over the FY 2015 enacted level. Included in this would be \$212 million for ARS Buildings and Facilities to fund priorities outlined in the April 2012 USDA ARS Capital Investment Strategy. This amount is a significant increase over the FY 2015 level of \$45 million.

Additional funding details can be found in the chart below.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
USDA, Research, Education, Economics					
Agricultural Research Service (ARS)	1,177,625	1,167,454	1,136,825	1,355,926	178,301 (15.1%)
National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)	1,289,465	1,284,461	1,293,687	1,326,476	37,011 (2.9%)
<i>AFRI</i>	325,000	335,000	325,000	350,000	25,000 (7.7%)
<i>Innovation Institutes</i>	--	--	--	--	--
<i>Hatch Act</i>	243,701	243,701	243,701	243,701	--
<i>Hispanic Serving Institutions Education Grants</i>	9,219	9,219	9,219	9,219	--
<i>Smith-Lever Act 3(b) and 3(c)</i>	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	--
Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	1,016,474	1,011,557	1,013,621	1,014,871	-1,603 (0.2%)

Source: Division A, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD002.pdf>.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

The Food and Drug Administration would receive \$2.73 billion in discretionary funding; this represents an increase of \$132 million over the FY 2015 enacted level. The increase would include the following: \$104.5 million for food safety activities; \$8.7 million for the Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB) initiative; \$2.5 million for the Orphan Product Development Grants Program; and \$2.4 million for the Precision Medicine Initiative, one quarter the amount requested by the President for FDA's role in this effort. Total funding for the FDA, including user fees, would be \$4.7 billion.

The omnibus also includes a notable policy provision requiring that the FDA refrain from reviewing any applications for tools related to editing the DNA of human embryos until safety and ethical issues can be resolved. While the NIH prohibits the federal funding of research with that goal, this additional provision would suppress the review of applications of this research funded through the private sector as well.

Food and Drug Administration

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
FDA, Total	4,499,648	4,558,007	4,568,451	4,738,272	238,624 (5.3%)
FDA, Discretionary	2,597,324	2,627,322	2,637,766	2,729,596	132,272 (5.1%)

Source: Division A, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD002.pdf>.

U.S. Geological Survey

The Omnibus would provide \$1.062 billion for U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) surveys, investigations, and research. This is an increase of \$17 million, or 1.6 percent above the FY 2015 enacted level.

For Natural Hazards, the bill would provide \$138.8 million, which is an increase of \$3.6 million or 2.7 percent above the FY 2015 enacted level. Within the Natural Hazards account, the omnibus bill would provide \$60.5 million for Earthquake Hazards, which includes \$8.2 million “to transition the earthquake early warning demonstration project into an operational capability for the West Coast.”³

The bill would provide funding for the Water Resources Research Institutes at the FY 2015 enacted level of \$6.5 million.

U.S. Geological Survey

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
USGS, total	1,045,000	1,045,000	1,058,503	1,062,000	17,000 (1.6%)
Natural Hazards	135,186	135,186	138,286	138,839	3,653 (2.7%)
<i>Earthquake Hazards</i>	59,503	59,503	59,803	60,503	1,000 (1.7%)
<i>Global Seismographic Network</i>	4,853	4,853	6,453	6,453	1,600 (33.0%)
Ecosystems	157,041	154,041	158,041	158,041	1,000 (0.6%)
Climate and Land Use Change	135,975	138,975	135,975	139,975	4,000 (2.9%)
Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health	92,271	92,271	95,511	94,511	2,240 (2.4%)
Water Resources	211,267	211,267	212,608	213,052	1,785 (0.8%)
<i>Water Resources Research Act</i>	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	--
Core Science Systems	107,228	107,228	112,050	111,550	4,322 (4.0%)
Facilities	100,421	100,421	100,421	100,421	--

Source: Division G, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD008.pdf>.

³ Division G, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016, p. 22, <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD008.pdf>.

Cultural Agencies: NEA, NEH, and IMLS

National Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts

Both the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) would be funded at \$147.9 million by the omnibus. This represents a \$1.9 million or 1.3 percent increase above the FY 2015 level for both Endowments and is the same as the President's request.

Language in the explanatory report commends NEA and NEH for their partnerships with the states. It also notes Congress' support of NEA's and NEH's recent work with veterans' groups, specifically NEA's work with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to incorporate art therapy in health treatments, and NEH's funding of projects that benefit Wounded Warriors.

The bill would provide funding for the "The Common Good," NEH's new initiative, at the President's requested level of \$5.5 million. This initiative was introduced by NEH Chairman Bro Adams earlier this year and includes several programs focused on bringing the humanities into the public square. As additional resources would be provided for "The Common Good," Congress has approved the Administration's request to phase out the "Bridging Cultures: Understanding the U.S. and the World" initiative.

National Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts

(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
NEH, total	146,021	146,021	146,021	147,942	1,921 (1.3%)
Research Programs	14,784	14,536	14,784	14,536	-248 (1.7%)
Education Programs	13,265	13,040	13,265	13,040	-225 (1.7%)
Federal/State Partnerships	42,528	43,040	42,528	43,040	512 (1.2%)
NEA, total	146,021	146,021	146,021	147,949	1,928 (1.3%)
Grants	69,980	69,980	69,980	71,020	1,040 (1.5%)
State and Regional Partnerships	46,653	46,653	46,653	47,346	693 (1.5%)

Source: Division G, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD008.pdf>.

Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) would receive \$230 million from the omnibus agreement. This is \$2.1 million over the FY 2015 enacted funding.

Institute of Museum and Library Services
(In thousands)

	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 House	FY 2016 Senate	FY 2016 Omnibus	FY 2016 Omnibus vs. FY 2015
IMLS, total	227,860	227,860	227,860	230,000	2,140 (0.9%)

Source: Division H, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/RU/RU00/20151216/104298/HMTG-114-RU00-20151216-SD009.pdf>.

Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015

On December 17, the House passed a \$680 billion package of tax extenders and modifications – the *Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015*. The bill was negotiated and introduced simultaneously with the FY 2016 omnibus and is expected to be considered and passed by the Senate on December 18. Of relevance to higher education and research institutions, the tax provisions would:

- (Sec. 102) Provide for a permanent extension of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC). Per the bill (Sec. 211), individuals will be required to report the employer identification number (EIN) of the educational institution they attended to claim the AOTC credit.
- (Sec. 112) Provide for a permanent extension of the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Charitable Roll-over. Individuals, at least 70½ years of age, may exclude from gross income up to \$100,000 per year in qualified charitable distributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).
- (Sec. 121) Provide for a permanent extension of the research and development (R&D) tax credit and allow qualified small businesses with annual gross receipts of less than \$50 million to claim the R&D credit against their payroll tax liability or alternative minimum tax liability.
- (Sec. 153) Extend through the end 2016 the qualified tuition and related higher education expenses deduction for individuals and families.
- (Sec. 212) Restrict higher education institution reporting on Form 1098-T (qualified tuition and expenses actually paid by a student) by eliminating the current allowance to report the amount billed. This will apply to expenses paid beginning in 2016.
- (Sec. 302) Expand the qualified higher education expenses allowed under 529 plans to include computer equipment and technology and modify the rules for 529 accounts regarding refunded higher education expenses.
- (Sec. 331) Clarify that the allowable individual limits on contributions for agricultural research organizations affiliated with land-grant universities or non land-grant colleges of agriculture, should not exceed 50 percent of the taxpayer's contribution base for the taxable year, which reflects the highest level allowed.

Source: Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015

http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20151214/121515.250_xml.pdf.



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