

Washington Update

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

January 29, 2019

INTERIM FUNDING APPROVED

President Trump signed H.J. Res 28 into law on January 25 to re-open the Federal government through February 15, without obtaining the border wall funding that he had been demanding. An agreement between the President and Congressional leaders also allows the *FY 2019 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act* to proceed to House-Senate Conference Committee negotiations in order to resolve the ongoing immigration policy dispute. President Trump stressed that he is willing to risk another government shutdown when interim funding expires if the border wall is not funded and again raised the possibility that he might declare an emergency in order to go around Congress for the funding.

IMMIGRATION PROPOSALS

Prior to agreeing to re-open the government, President Trump proposed that the \$5.7 billion he is demanding for the border wall could be paired with certain immigration reforms. These immigration proposals include a temporary, three-year DACA fix and a three-year extension for Temporary Protected Status for individuals residing in the US because of natural disasters or unrest in their home countries. Democratic members were not supportive of combining these issues, but the package could be seen as the starting point for Republicans in the recently commenced House-Senate Conference Committee negotiations for the DHS bill.

FEDERAL BUDGET

House Democrats have passed numerous versions of the seven remaining appropriations bills in the opening weeks of the 116th Congress, with the support of Representative Carballo. However, because the bills do not include border wall funding, the Senate has refused to take them up. The most recent of these measures is H.R. 648, which was

passed by the House on January 23. This is a six-bill spending package that combines the remaining FY 2019 spending bills, except for the Homeland Security measure. The funding levels were negotiated by members of the appropriations committees as part of the House-Senate Conference Committee deliberations at the end of 2018, but never released or brought up for a vote. H.R. 648 generally rejects the proposals in the Trump budget to reduce or eliminate programs of importance to the County and continues the higher spending levels that were achieved because of the 2018 budget deal.

Senate Appropriations Chair Shelby (R-AL) also released a proposed omnibus appropriations bill that mirrors the spending levels proposed by the House in H.R. 648. Chair Shelby also included the Homeland Security funding measure and the package of immigration reform provisions that President Trump proposed to try to break the funding impasse. Some support by Democratic Senators will be needed to move the bill forward and that appears unlikely to happen until a comprehensive agreement can be reached over the border wall issue. However, the fact that the Senate bill adheres so closely to the same funding levels as those proposed in the House omnibus indicates that those levels could eventually be included if an overall budget agreement is reached.

DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING

The House passed H.R. 268 on January 15 to provide supplemental appropriations for disaster recovery. The legislation includes \$14 billion of additional funds for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Economic Development Administration, HHS, HUD and numerous other agencies to provide relief and recovery assistance. Eligibility for funding varies by agency, but generally covers Hurricanes

Michael or Florence, or other hurricanes, typhoons, volcanic activity, or wildfires occurring in calendar year 2018. The next step for the legislation is consideration by the Senate and the package is a good candidate for inclusion in an omnibus appropriations bill if the current budget negotiations produce results.

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

Representative Carbajal recently re-introduced H.R. 279, the *California Clean Coast Act*, which would permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of the State of California. The bill included 42 cosponsors when it was introduced, largely made up of the California Democratic House delegation. House Natural Resources Committee Chair Grijalva (D-AZ) has already voiced his support for the measure, which bodes well for its consideration by his committee.

TANF REAUTHORIZATION

We are continuing to advocate for a multi-year reauthorization for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program that would increase funding for child care, job training and other aspects of the program and also provide California more flexibility in the administration of the program. This is an issue that is carrying over into 2019 from the 115th Congress because the previous TANF authorization lapsed on December 21. The Senate voted on January 22 to pass H.R. 430, to extend the authorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program through June 30, clearing the measure for the President's signature. Several longer-term bills were proposed last year, but the change in control of the House and other committee personnel changes – notably the retirement of Senate Finance Committee Chair Hatch (R-UT) - mean that this process must start over in the 116th Congress.

HEALTH CARE

The House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing today on pre-existing conditions as part of the plan by Democratic leaders to prioritize health care legislation this year. This follows the action by the full House on January 9, to adopt H.Res. 6 to affirm the House Counsel's authorization to intervene in the *Texas v. United States* lawsuit to defend the Affordable Care Act and protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions. Senate Republicans, led by Health Committee Chair Alexander (R-TN) and Finance Committee Chair Grassley (R-IA) have indicated that they will be proposing various bills to address prescription drug prices, market stabilization and pre-existing conditions.

CAMP 4

Representative LaMalfa (R-CA) has re-introduced the *Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Land Affirmation Act* as H.R. 317. The bill is identical to the County-supported version of H.R. 1491 from the 115th Congress. Although the legislation passed the full House and the Senate Indian Affairs Committee in the 115th Congress, it was one of many bills that the full Senate did not take up before the end of last year.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

On January 26, HUD announced Continuum of Care (CoC) grants to renew local homeless housing and service programs across the U.S. and its territories. The Santa Maria /Santa Barbara County CoC was awarded \$1,718,606 to continue efforts to end homelessness and provide critically needed support to local programs serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The announcement includes FY 2018 awards for all renewal projects and projects that applied for transition grants. Awards for new projects will be announced at a later date.

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