

May 5, 2017

**TO:** Deans of U.S. Dental Schools  
 Directors of Advanced Dental Education Programs  
 Directors of Allied Dental Education Programs  
 ADEA Board of Directors  
 ADEA Legislative Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Richard W. Valachovic, D.M.D., M.P.H., ADEA President and CEO  
 Yvonne Knight, J.D., ADEA Chief Advocacy Officer

**RE:** Consolidated Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2017

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 ([H.R. 244](#)), is an omnibus bill containing 11 of the 12 appropriation bills, including Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) with most of the programs of importance to academic dentistry and dental and craniofacial research. Even though half of fiscal year 2017 is gone, Congress passed the remaining appropriation bills for FY17, and averted a federal government shutdown. ADEA has reviewed the bi-partisan appropriations bill and compiled the following information on programs and agencies of importance to dental education.

**Department of Health and Human Services**

- Title VII--Oral Health Training Programs

Program	FY16 Appropriation	FY17 ADEA's Request	FY17 Final Appropriation
Oral Health Training	\$35,873,000	\$35,873,000	\$36,673,000

The consolidated bill contains an additional \$800,000 above the FY 16 appropriation and the FY 17 Dental Community Request to fund a new funding opportunity announcement for the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program.

Additionally, the conference report contains language for the set-aside of \$10 million each for Pediatric Dental Residencies and General Dentistry Residencies.

Under the title of Health Workforce, there is language directed at medical schools and teaching hospitals, which we believe also applies to dental schools and clinics, to "enhance existing

curricular content on substance abuse and pain management for future prescribers.” Furthermore, the report states that Congress supports efforts by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through Title VII education and training grants to develop innovative educational materials related to substance abuse disorders and pain management.

- **Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)**

Program	FY16 Appropriation	FY17 ADEA’s Request	FY17 Final Appropriation
AHEC	\$30,250,000	\$31,326,000	\$30,250,000

The conference agreement for FY 17 includes the same level of appropriations as the FY 16 appropriation for Area Health Education Centers.

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

Program	FY16 Appropriation	FY17 ADEA’s Request	FY17 Final Appropriation
NIH	\$32,084,000,000	\$32,311,349,000	\$34,084,000,000

The FY17 appropriation for the Institutes and Centers (ICs) that make up the National Institutes of Health (NIH) totals \$34.1 billion, a \$2 billion (6.2%) increase over the FY 16 level. All ICs received an increase in funding. Included in this increase is \$352 million from the enactment of the 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act) in December 2016. Funding in the Cures Act provides for Alzheimer’s research (\$1.4 billion), the Precision Medicine Initiative (\$120 million), the BRAIN Initiative (\$110 million), antibiotic resistance research (\$50 million), and provides \$12.6 million to support pediatric research provided in a new authorization by the Gabriella Miller Kids First Act.

The conferees addressed several expectations that were mentioned in the committee report. They want NIH to increase the number of new and competing Research Project grants, they expect NIH to continue its focus on first-time renewals of young investigators, and they want NIH to provide stipend-level and inflationary increases to grantees that is consistent with FY17 Federal employee pay raises.

- **National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)**

Program	FY16 Appropriation	FY17 ADEA’s Request	FY17 Final Appropriation
NIDCR	\$415,582,000	\$452,000,000	\$425,751,000

The bipartisan appropriation agreement for FY 17 includes an increase of over \$10 million (2.5%) for the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR).

There is no conference report language on NIDCR, but the two appropriation committees encouraged NIDCR to consider increasing its focus on the development and innovation of dental materials, and they expressed interest in NIDCR’s work on the Orofacial Pain Prospective Evaluation and Risk Assessment study. Lastly, the committees encouraged continued research on overlapping pain conditions and increased collaboration across NIH on the various pain conditions.

- **Health Career Opportunity Program (HCOP)**

Program	FY16 Appropriation	FY17 ADEA’s Request	FY17 Final Appropriation
HCOP	\$14,189,000	\$14,189,000	\$14,189,000

While this is a level appropriation from recent years, it represents a major victory for the cause of diversity in the health care workforce pipeline. Funding for this program has been an annual struggle, especially this year since both Houses of Congress failed to include funds for the program and continuation seemed very uncertain. The appropriation of \$14.1 million for the program in FY 17 is a direct result of the work of ADEA’s members along with our colleagues in medicine, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary, and other health profession organizations.

- **Ryan White, Part F Dental Reimbursement**

Program	FY16 Appropriation	FY17 ADEA’s Request	FY17 Final Appropriation
Ryan White	\$13,122,000	\$13,122,000	\$13,122,000

ADEA continues to make the case for the inadequacy of the appropriation level of funding for the dental reimbursement program under Ryan White, Part F. However, the program continues to be funded in an environment where Members of Congress are looking to eliminate programs.

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Division of Oral Health**

Program	FY16 Appropriation	FY17 ADEA’s Request	FY17 Final Appropriation
Division of Oral Health	\$18,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$18,000,000

The House Committee report on this division included direction to the CDC to issue new waterline guidelines to dentist offices and clinics and to coordinate with NIH to conduct follow

up research where needed, and for CDC to work with stakeholder professional organizations to educate dentists and dental students about such guidelines.

- **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**

Program	FY16 Appropriation	FY17 ADEA's Request	FY17 Final Appropriation
AHRQ	\$334,000,000	N/A	\$324,000,000

The conference committee report contains a \$10 million reduction in appropriations for AHRQ to \$324 million in FY 17. Congress has expressed concerns that much of the work that AHRQ undertakes is duplicative of other agencies responsibilities. The [President's Budget Blueprint](#) for FY18 calls for consolidating AHRQ into NIH.

### Department of Education

- **Pell Grants**

The conference agreement includes \$22.5 billion for Pell Grants and a directive to the Department of Education (ED) to reinstate year-round, or summer, Pell Grant eligibility, and directs ED to issue guidance no later than July 1, 2017. This appropriation will allow the maximum grant to increase \$105 to \$5,920 in the 2017–18 academic year. In addition, the agreement rescinds unobligated balances within the Pell Grant program.

- **Student Loan Servicers**

In an effort to incentivize student loan servicers to provide high-quality service to student borrowers, the agreement contains directs ED to allow borrowers who are consolidating student loans to choose from among all Federal student loan servicers.

### Other Items of Interest

- **Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME)**

The CHGME program receives \$300 million, an increase of \$5 million from FY 16.

- **Aid for Institutional Development**

The program received a \$7.5 million increase to support of Master's Degree programs at HBCUs.

Next, it is anticipated that President Trump will sign the Consolidated Appropriations Act once presented, which would complete the FY 17 funding cycle. All amounts indicated would fund programs through Sept. 30, 2017. In mid-May, ADEA anticipates that President Trump will present a detailed budget for FY 18. That cycle will cover Oct. 1, 2017, through Sept. 30, 2018. We already have an idea of some of the President's funding priorities since they were outlined

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in the [President's Budget Blueprint](#), which was released in March. ADEA will provide an update on the President's full budget once it is released.

If you have questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to let us know. Please contact Yvonne Knight, J.D., ADEA Chief Advocacy Officer at [KnightY@adea.org](mailto:KnightY@adea.org).