

July 2, 2015

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, ADEA President and CEO
 Yvonne Knight, ADEA Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Governmental Relations

RE: House and Senate Appropriations Committees Fiscal Year 2016 Bills

The [House](#) and [Senate](#) Appropriations Committees have reported their respective versions of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bills for fiscal year 2016. Below we provide a summary of the appropriated amounts and provisions of interest to academic dentistry and dental and craniofacial research.

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)

- Title VII—Oral Health Training and Dental Health Improvement Act funding

Current Funding	FY 2016 President’s Request	FY 2016 House Committee	FY 2016 Senate Committee
\$33,928,000	\$33,928,000	\$34,998,000	\$32,000,000

Title VII of the Public Service Health Act provides funding for training programs in the health professions, including oral health programs. The House Committee Report contains language requested by ADEA and the dental community that directs \$10 million to be allocated to pediatric residencies and \$10 million to general dentistry residencies. Additionally, the Committee “urges HRSA to support innovative programs at new and established dental schools that will increase access to high quality dental services for underserved individuals, particularly where training clinics are located proximate to such underserved areas.”

The Senate provides \$9 million each for the general dentistry and pediatric dentistry residencies. The Senate Committee Report “urges” HRSA to work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) “on the evaluation and support of additional models for expanding access to oral

health care. Such models should include emergency room diversion programs and efforts under State law to deploy and evaluate new provider types.”

- **Centers of Excellence (COE)**

Current Funding	FY 2016 President’s Request	FY 2016 House Committee	FY 2016 Senate Committee
\$21,711,000	\$25,000,000	\$21,711,000	\$21,711,000

Funding has been relatively flat in recent years for COE, and true to form, the amount provided in both bills is the same as the fiscal year 2015 level.

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

Current Funding	FY 2016 President’s Request	FY 2016 House Committee	FY 2016 Senate Committee
\$14,189,000	\$14,000,000	\$14,189,000	\$0

The Obama Administration requested changing the focus of the program to “later in the pipeline” by allowing funds to be used for additional financial or academic help for students already in a health profession school. The House committee rejected the Administration’s suggestion and provides that it continue to be focused on reaching underserved populations in rural and urban areas. The committee further directs HRSA to “work with institutions that have historically performed well in producing minority and underrepresented health professionals” and to closely track those who become health care professionals.

The Senate bill zeroes-out HCOP funding “due to funding constraints.” The differences between the two bills will have to be resolved in Conference Committee.

- **Faculty Loan Repayment**

Current Funding	FY 2016 President’s Request	FY 2016 House Committee	FY 2016 Senate Committee
\$1,190,000	\$1,190,000	\$1,190,000	\$1,190,000

This program has been flat-funded in recent years and the House and Senate committees maintain the previous funding level. Approximately 35 grants are made each year.

- Area Health Education Centers Program (AHEC)

Current Funding	FY 2016 President's Request	FY 2016 House Committee	FY 2016 Senate Committee
\$30,250,000	\$0	\$30,250,000	\$31,000,000

The Obama Administration zeroed-out this program for fiscal year 2016; however, the House committee followed the request of ADEA and other health profession organizations to continue funding the program, albeit with no increase. The Senate committee has increased the appropriation by \$750,000 above the current fiscal year and requested that HRSA provide an update on the program's impact on the primary care workforce and activities in its FY 2017 budget request.

- Ryan White Part F—Dental Reimbursement Program

Current Funding	FY 2016 President's Request	FY 2016 House Committee	FY 2016 Senate Committee
\$13,122,000	\$13,122,000	\$13,122,000	\$13,122,000

The funding level for this program remains at last year's appropriation. ADEA continues the dialogue with Members of Congress and their staff about the woefully low reimbursement level.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

Current Funding	FY 2016 President's Request	FY 2016 House Committee	FY 2016 Senate Committee
\$30,559,000,000	\$31,311,000,000	\$31,184,000,000	\$32,084,000,000

The committees made their largest increases in appropriations to NIH; NIH is slated to get a funding increase of approximately \$2 billion.

- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

Current Funding	FY 2016 President's Request	FY 2016 House Committee	FY 2016 Senate Committee
\$399,886,000	\$406,746,000	\$404,847,000	\$415,169,000

Both House and Senate committees recommend an increase of no less than \$4.9 million. Following established practice, Congress does not identify specific-research areas leaving the priorities to the scientists within the various National Institutes and Centers.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

- Division of Oral Health

Current Funding	FY 2016 President’s Request	FY 2016 House Committee	FY 2016 Senate Committee
\$15,749,000	\$15,749,000	\$20,000,000	\$15,749,000

The oral health programs at the CDC provide grants to states in support of community water fluoridation, school-based dental sealants, and other state and local programs that strengthen the oral health infrastructure. The House Committee approved an increase, as requested by ADEA to \$20 million for next fiscal year. The Senate Committee maintains funding at the same level as in FY 2015.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Both bills continue language that prohibits funding demonstration projects authorized in Sec. 5304 of the *Affordable Care Act (ACA)* to establish training programs to train or to employ alternative dental health care providers.
- Both bills provide for the termination of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).
- Both bills continue the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program, the House at the current level of \$265 million and the Senate at \$270 million.
- Each bill contains a prohibition against the Department of Education (ED) implementing or enforcing Gainful Employment regulations, State Authorization, and the proposed Post-secondary Institutional Ratings System (PIRS).

NEXT STEPS

Normally the House and Senate would debate their respective bills, possibly amend them, and pass their version. Then the two subcommittees would meet in a Conference Committee to produce one bill that would ultimately be sent to the President for his signature. However, the legislative process in this divided government is anything but normal. It is too early to know exactly what will happen next. In past sessions, Congress has been unable to reach a consensus by way of individual appropriation bills and the government was funded through a continuing resolution. As of this writing, the funding vehicle has yet to be determined.

ADEA will continue to dialogue with Congress regarding funding for the above priorities and will keep everyone apprised.