

March 27, 2018

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
 B. Timothy Leeth, CPA, ADEA Chief Advocacy Officer

RE: Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act

On Friday, March 23, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2018 ([Public Law 115-141](#)), also known as the “Omnibus” appropriations bill. The Omnibus provides spending authority for the federal government through Sept. 30, the end of fiscal year 2018 (FY18). The following summary outlines the provisions of particular interest to academic dental institutions.

Throughout this document, reference is made to the “dental community request.” This is a reference to the joint request that is made each year by ADEA, the American Dental Association (ADA), American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and the American Association for Dental Research (AADR).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

The bill includes a total of \$177 billion for HHS in discretionary funds for programs, an increase of \$10 billion above the FY17 enacted level.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

The final appropriation for HRSA in FY18 is \$7 billion, an increase of \$553 million, or about 1%, above the FY17 appropriation. Following is a discussion of HRSA programs of interest to dental education:

Oral Health Training—Title VII Programs

Priority Program	FY17 Appropriation	FY18 Dental Community Request	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018
Oral Health Training	\$36,673,000	\$40,673,000	\$40,673,000

The President did not request any funds for the FY18 oral health training program. Both the Senate and House Appropriations committees included funds in their bills and the final bill included our revised request of \$40.7 million for these programs, which support predoctoral and advanced dental education and training. The bill also includes a set aside of \$10 million for Pediatric Dental Residencies and \$10 million for General Dentistry Residencies as included in the dental community request, as has been the case in past years.

Also, within this appropriation is \$2 million for the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment program under Title VII with a directive to HRSA to continue existing grants and open a new round of grant awards during FY18.

Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)

Priority Program	FY17 Appropriation	FY18 Dental Community Request	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018
AHEC	\$30,250,000	\$30,250,000	\$38,250,000

The Omnibus contains an increase of \$8 million over the FY17 appropriated level and our request. House report language encourages HRSA to work with dental networks established by state dental societies to reduce the number of patients seeking treatment for dental disorders in hospital emergency departments.

Health Career Opportunity Program (HCOP)

Priority Program	FY17 Appropriation	FY18 Dental Community Request	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018
HCOP	\$14,189,000	\$14,189,000	\$14,189,000

This appropriation represents a clear victory for ADEA, the dental community and our health professions education partners. Both the House and Senate Committee bills eliminated funding for this pipeline program, which targets underrepresented and economically disadvantaged individuals. As previous memoranda on the budget have stated, the HCOP program has been at risk in recent years and 2018 was no exception, nor will FY19 be an exception because the President has once again requested no funds for this important program.

Ryan White, Part F Dental Reimbursement Program

Priority Program	FY17 Appropriation	FY18 Dental Community Request	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018
Ryan White	\$13,122,000	\$18,000,000	\$13,122,000

The Ryan White, Part F Dental Reimbursement Program (DRP) is continued at the same funding level as FY17. ADEA is aware that this funding level is inadequate for covering the need and cost of care for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and has requested an increase in recent years. We will continue to make the case and request more adequate funding for the DRP.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Priority Program	FY17 Appropriation	FY18 Dental Community Request	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018
NIH	\$34,084,000,000	We make no overall request for NIH	\$37,084,000,000

The President proposed cutting the NIH budget by 24% to \$25.8 billion in FY18. The Congress rejected that request, instead increasing NIH’s funding by \$3 billion. The final budget includes \$500 million for targeted research on opioid addiction in the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and encourages NIDA to commit additional funding to this effort from within its base budget. The budget also includes an increase of \$414 million for Alzheimer’s disease research, an increase of \$50 million to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and an increase of \$60 million for the “All of Us” research program (previously called the Precision Medicine Initiative).

The agreement states that Congress expects that NIH will continue to focus on emerging investigators and first-time renewals of these young investigators, with actions to significantly reduce the average age (currently about 42) of an NIH-supported new investigator. In addition, Congress wants NIH to support an increase in the number of Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards and provide a stipend level and inflationary increase to grantees that is at least consistent with the FY18 Federal employee pay raise of 1.9%.

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)

Priority Program	FY17 Appropriation	FY18 Dental Community Request	Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018
NIDCR	\$425,751,000	\$452,000,000	\$447,735,000

The amount included for NIDCR represents a nearly \$22 million increase above the FY17 appropriation. The Committee included report language commending NIDCR for its work on research in preventing dental caries, probiotic therapy, and the development of biomaterials.

Other HHS Items of Interest

Provisions Related to the Opioid Crisis—The Omnibus includes a \$3.2 billion increase for programs to respond to the opioid crisis, including a \$2.6 billion increase across HHS for prevention, treatment, surveillance, research to develop non-opioid pain medication, behavioral workforce training, and support for families. It also includes \$94 million for Food and Drug Administration activities, and a \$400 million increase for the Department of Justice and HHS for

activities such as heroin enforcement task forces, drug courts, prescription drug monitoring, treatment, import monitoring and overdose reversal medication.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Act funds the Department of Education (ED) at \$70.9 billion, which is \$2.6 billion above the FY17 enacted level. The new law provides the requested \$24.4 billion for student financial aid programs, primarily for Pell Grants, which is \$247 million more than FY17 levels.

For the **Pell Grant program**, the maximum Pell Grant award is increased to \$6,095 in academic year 2018–19. The bill also rescinds \$1.3 billion of the Pell surplus.¹

The Omnibus temporarily expands the **Public Service Loan Forgiveness** (PSLF) program. It will receive \$350 million in funding targeted to borrowers who would be eligible to participate but were previously enrolled in the wrong repayment plan. It also includes \$2.3 million in new funds for the Secretary of Education to do outreach to borrowers to inform them about the PSLF program.

Other Education Provisions of Interest:

Cybersecurity Education—the bill includes \$1 million for ED to establish a pilot grant program for technological upgrades for community colleges to support cybersecurity education programs.

Open Textbooks Pilot—The bill includes \$5 million for a pilot, competitive grant program to support projects at institutions of higher education that create new open textbooks, or expand their use, to achieve savings for students while maintaining or improving instruction and student learning outcomes.

If you require additional information, please contact Tim Leeth, ADEA Chief Advocacy Officer, at 202-289-8172 or leetht@adea.org.

¹ The estimated Pell Grant Program surplus at the end of FY17 was \$10.6 billion.