

The National Council of Social Security Management Associations, Inc.
GREYSTONE GROUP WASHINGTON REPORT
Legislative Report 04-2020
April 10, 2020

Deal on Interim Supplemental As Early As Next Week

Earlier today, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said in a statement that he foresees negotiators reaching a deal on an interim supplemental spending bill as early as next week. Schumer said that he had a “constructive” call with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin this morning and “there’s no reason why we can’t come to a bipartisan agreement by early next week.”

Schumer’s statement comes after Senate Republicans and Democrats blocked each other’s proposals from moving unanimously on the Senate floor yesterday. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) wanted to pass \$250 billion in additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, while Democrats said the package should be larger and include additional aid for state and local governments and health providers.

Some insiders expect that a smaller deal may be reached now and then a larger package, the fourth stimulus bill, could be considered later this spring in perhaps late April or May. Stay tuned as the situation regarding COVID-19 related funding continues to evolve.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Spending Bills

According to House Appropriations Committee Chairman Nita Lowey (D-NY), subcommittee leaders have received preliminary top-line spending figures for their FY 2021 bills and are remotely drafting legislation to fund the government past September 30, 2020. The House Appropriations Committee has also indicated that they plan to hold markups when Congress returns to Washington. NCSSMA submitted our “Written Testimony for the Record” to the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee on March 23, and we will continue to update NCSSMA members on the status of FY 2021 budget and appropriations actions. Both the House and Senate are currently in recess and scheduled to return on April 20.

In the midst of the coronavirus crisis, a bipartisan group of appropriators has raised the possibility of allowing for more spending in FY 2021 by exempting certain programs from the spending limits included in last year’s two-year budget caps agreement. Without a change to the caps, any substantial increase in funding for accounts or programs would have to be, for the most part, offset by cuts to other initiatives.

Congressional leaders have not yet signaled any change to the process of moving forward with the FY 2021 appropriations bills, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has resisted a change to remote voting, and said yesterday that holding remote committee meetings is “not necessarily allowed either.” Some Senate committees have held “paper hearings,” posting witness testimony on the panel’s website followed by lawmaker questions and then responses from the participants, but so far no moves have been made to change either chamber’s rules to allow remote voting and questions remain as to what can be done without members being physically present.

NCSSMA Twitter Account

Reminder: NCSSMA has a Twitter account and we encourage you to join in and follow us! You can view and follow our page on your **home computer** at <http://twitter.com/NCSSMAORG> or your **personal mobile device** at <https://mobile.twitter.com/NCSSMAORG>.

Greystone Group LLC
3303 South Wakefield Street
Arlington, VA 22206
202-547-8530
Contact: Rachel A. Emmons
E-mail: rachele@greystone-group.com