

The National Council of Social Security Management Associations, Inc.
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House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill

On Thursday, June 14, 2018, the House Appropriations Committee released the [text](#) of its \$177.1 billion Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. Overall, the measure would provide the same level of discretionary funding as the FY 2018 bill. This is in contrast with Senate appropriators who have allocated \$179.3 billion for their version of the measure. It is still expected that the Senate will take up consideration of their bill both in Subcommittee and full Committee the week of June 25.

Following release of the bill text, the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee passed the measure on a party-line voice vote the morning of Friday, June 15. During the markup, Democrats criticized the bill, pointing to what they described as underfunding for key programs and unacceptable (poison pill) policy riders ([statement from Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro \(D-CT\)](#)). Subcommittee Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) appeared to acknowledge that some of the funding could be higher, and indicated he hoped they could increase some of the funding levels as the appropriations process moves forward.

Democrats did not offer any amendments at the Subcommittee markup, but said they will when the full Committee takes the bill under consideration. It is anticipated that the full Committee will consider the bill on Tuesday, June 26.

The report accompanying the bill, where additional details on programs of interest, including the Social Security Administration's funding tables, can be found, will be released in advance of full Committee consideration.

A summary released by the House Appropriations Committee can be found [here](#), and includes the following language related to the Social Security Administration (SSA):

Social Security Administration (SSA) – *The bill provides \$12.4 billion to administer SSA activities, which is \$332 million below the fiscal year 2018 enacted level, and \$164 million above the budget request. This funding level is sufficient to ensure those served by the program receive efficient and timely assistance and service.*

In written testimony submitted earlier this year to both the House and Senate, NCSSMA included the following request:
NCSSMA respectfully requests that Congress consider allocating at least \$13.509 billion for SSA's LAE account in FY 2019 to meet the agency's multitude of public service responsibilities. SSA must have the resources necessary to provide quality service to the American public, maintain program integrity efforts that save taxpayer dollars, and continue to address the high volumes of initial claims being filed and post-entitlement work.

It is important to remember that this is just one step in the FY 2019 appropriations process. We will continue to provide additional information as it becomes available.

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>.

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