

The National Council of Social Security Management Associations, Inc.
GREYSTONE GROUP WASHINGTON REPORT
Legislative Report 01-2019
February 9, 2019

Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Appropriations Update

As the February 15 deadline to pass a deal to avoid another partial government shutdown draws closer, lawmakers remain optimistic that an overall deal can be reached by Monday at the latest. As of now, President Trump is expected to sign the measure into law.

On Thursday, February 7, Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) met with President Trump and said afterward he believes they can finish negotiations by Monday, perhaps even over the weekend. Chairman Shelby said there have been offers and counteroffers back and forth between Democrats and Republicans and that lawmakers are “closer than we ever were before” to striking a deal. In addition, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said yesterday that talks on a border security spending package are progressing well, and he is optimistic for a final deal early next week.

Negotiators initially hoped to agree to a measure by the end of the day Friday, giving them a week to pass the bill through both the House and Senate before next week’s deadline, but reaching a deal by Monday might still give lawmakers time to send the bill to President Trump before the deadline. House Democrats plan to honor a rule requiring that members wait 72 hours after a bill has been posted before holding a vote. A Monday release would result in a Thursday vote, unless members agree to waive the rule and vote earlier. The timing of a Senate vote will depend on whether members consent to quick consideration.

FY 2020 President’s Budget Request Release

According to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the FY 2020 President’s budget request will be released in two parts with the main budget volume containing the President’s budget message, information on the President’s priorities, and summary tables, being transmitted to Congress the week of March 11. The remaining OMB materials (the Appendix, Major Savings and Reforms, Analytical Perspectives, etc.) will be transmitted the week of March 18. This release would come five weeks after the statutory deadline of Monday, February 4, as a result of the 35-day partial government shutdown.

It is being reported that the President’s budget request will propose higher defense spending than allowed under the Budget Control Act (BCA) statutory caps that go back into effect in FY 2020. Trump Administration officials have previously indicated figures as high as \$750 billion, or 30 percent higher than the FY 2020 limit, though it is unclear how much of that figure would be

Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds, which are exempt from the statutory caps. It is also being reported that the budget request will propose that nondefense spending, which includes the Social Security Administration's administrative funding, be held at the level of next year's nondefense cap, which is \$55 billion or 9 percent below FY 2019 levels. That would be consistent with past Trump budget requests. Congressional leaders are expected to try to negotiate another deal with President Trump to raise both the defense and nondefense caps, preventing a reduction in allowable discretionary spending in FY 2020. Any decrease in allowable discretionary spending is certainly of concern relative to agency budgets. We will keep NCSSMA members updated as additional information 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>.

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