

The National Council of Social Security Management Associations, Inc.
GREYSTONE GROUP WASHINGTON REPORT
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Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Budget And Appropriations

Last week both the House and Senate passed a four-week Continuing Resolution (CR) extending government funding until December 20. President Trump signed the CR last Thursday evening, averting a government shutdown as the existing CR expired at midnight.

Progress continued this past weekend as House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) reportedly reached an agreement on subcommittee allocations. Appropriators have been waiting for months to learn how much of the \$1.37 trillion in FY 2020 funding they will have to spend on each of their bills. The agreement on funding levels for the 12 appropriations bills does not include a bipartisan solution on border wall spending. Negotiators will still need to work out the border wall issue as they negotiate the various spending levels and policy differences between the respective spending bills.

Talks between the Chairs and Ranking Members of each subcommittee are expected to begin immediately even though Congress is out of town this week for the Thanksgiving recess. When lawmakers return to Washington, they'll have three weeks to finalize the bills and send them to President Trump before the current CR expires at midnight on Dec. 20.

It does not appear that appropriators have begun discussions on exactly how to package the bills, but it is highly unlikely that we will see a 12-bill omnibus. The initial spending deal reached back in July included a handshake agreement prohibiting this scenario.

If negotiators can reach agreement on all 12 bills, it is likely they will pass in two or three packages, possibly on the same legislative day. On the other hand, if appropriators are unable to reach agreement on all 12 spending bills by Dec. 20, it is likely that the measures they can agree on will be packaged with yet another stopgap spending bill for the departments and agencies without full-year funding. As always, we anticipate the Labor-HHS bill, which contains the Social Security Administration's (SSA) administrative funding will be one of the bills lawmakers will find problematic.

We will continue to communicate with the Hill and others regarding SSA's funding needs and provide updates.

2020 House Schedule

The 2020 schedule for the House was released last week and is available [here](#). The second session of the 116th Congress will convene on January 7, 2020. Of interest, the House is scheduled to be on recess for almost the entire month of October ahead of the November elections. We will share the 2020 schedule for the Senate when it becomes available.

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