

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

Congressional leaders announced late last week that they had reached a bipartisan agreement “in principle” to fund all 12 FY 2020 appropriations bills. This comes just in the nick of time as the current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires later this week on December 20. This \$1.3 trillion deal follows weeks of negotiations between the House, Senate and Trump Administration and sets up votes in both chambers for later this week.

Negotiators have kept details of the agreement under wraps so lawmakers and staff could work through technicalities over the weekend, but the compromise reportedly includes bipartisan consensus on many contentious points, including President Trump’s border wall, his ability to reshuffle federal funds for a Southern barrier, and whether to restore military construction funds that were redirected for the wall.

Details of the bills are expected to be released later today and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) has said he expects the House to take up the bills on Tuesday (this may slip to Wednesday). In order to avoid a single omnibus measure, which President Trump has said he will not sign again, the House and Senate are looking to pass all 12 appropriations bills in two minibuses. Following House passage, the Senate will then need to pass the bills, and President Trump will then need to sign them. While Administration officials were involved in discussions, the White House has not yet commented on the agreement. We will continue to communicate with the Hill and others regarding SSA’s funding and provide updates.

FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

The FY 2020 NDAA continues to advance and was passed by the House last week by a vote of 377-48. The Senate is expected to pass the legislation later this week and President Trump has already indicated he will sign the bill. The agreement includes 12 weeks of paid parental leave for federal employees. Of note, the agreement also contains a provision that provides a technical correction to an authority granted by Congress last year providing expedited hiring authority for post-secondary students. We will be working with other organizations to encourage the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to move quickly to finalize regulations and develop additional implementing guidance for agencies. We will continue to provide updates.

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