FY2018 Omnibus Spending Bill
Relevant highlights for FIU and federal research programs

On Friday, March 23, the $1.3 trillion omnibus appropriations bill for federal agencies in fiscal 2018 was approved by Congress and signed by the President. This ends six months of stop gap funding for the government, allowing funding to run through September 30th of this year and clearing the way for Congress to focus on FY 2019 spending bills.

Below are some relevant highlights by funding bill and agency prepared by our Federal Relations team in Washington and a quick analysis prepared by the State University System. Overall some of the major outcomes of the spending agreement include:

- o Because of an agreement earlier this year to raise caps on discretionary spending, the agreement increase nondefense spending by $60B (12%) and defense spending by $78B (14%) while adding $2 trillion in deficits over the next 10 years

- o It resists many of the Trump administration's proposals to impose deep cuts on many nondefense programs, including those at the Department of Education and federal science agencies.

- o Maximum Pell Grants are increased by $175 to $6,095 and many programs at the Department of Education such as Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and the Public Loan Forgiveness program are not only safe, but increased. Other critical programs such as International Education (Title VI) and TRIO are either level funded or increased.

- o Significant spending boosts for the federal science agencies, in particular at NIH (+3B), NOAA and the Department of Energy Office of Science. Moderate increases were provided to the National Science Foundation

- o EPA avoids a proposed 30% rduction in funding, with levels remaining mostly flat.

- o $1B increase in funding for the Department of Transportation's TIGER Grant program; ensuring Republican support for the foreseeable future.

Several specific **FIU appropriations** priorities were passed into law and will be funded or carried out by the federal agencies:

- • Senator Marco Rubio was successful in restoring funding at EPA for the South Florida Ecosystem Research Program, which has funded FIU research to the tune of $600K.
- • A second year requirement of the Department of Defense and Air Force Office of Scientific Research to fund an additional $5M in reconfigurable antennae research.

- The Department of Transportation is to serve as a clearinghouse for technically robust and unbiased analysis on new bridge and structural materials and technologies.

Omnibus Summary (CRD Associates)

Nearly six months into fiscal year 2018—Congress finally passed and the president signed an omnibus appropriations bill financing government operations through September 30. The measure is comprised of all 12 spending bills that previously had been funded through a continuing resolution. Rejecting Trump Administration budget proposals issued last year, the $1.3 trillion FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill enacted by Congress March 23 provided substantial funding increases for science and education grant making agencies important to the SUS.

The stage was set for passage of the omnibus bill in early February when congressional leaders agreed to raise the spending caps set by the Budget Control Act for fiscal years 2018 and 2019. While the budget deal's cap increases made it relatively easy to reach agreement on most FY18 spending, other more controversial issues proved more troublesome. Immigration re-emerged as an issue during last-minute negotiations, with proposals being floated to extend DACA in return for fully funding President Trump's border wall with Mexico, along with GOP efforts to increase immigration enforcement by hiring additional ICE agents and expanding detention resources. And members from each party sought provisions to help stabilize the markets for individual health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

In the end, abortion politics scuttled the market stabilization proposal, and no agreement was reached on DACA and full funding for the border wall or increased immigration enforcement, although with regard to DACA, because several court rulings have blocked the administration's effort to end the program, the urgency to enact a more permanent solution has been reduced for the time being.

The omnibus that was enacted provides about $1.3 trillion in discretionary spending, or about $138 billion over the fiscal year 2017 level, and is consistent with the increased defense and non-defense budget caps set by the two-year budget deal agreed to last month. The agreement provides the largest year-to-year increase in base funding for the Defense Department in 15 years, allowing it to purchase new aircraft, ships and other weapons systems requested by President Trump. However, it largely ignored the massive cuts to domestic programs proposed by the administration in its latest budget, and instead, either increased funding for most Democratic-backed priorities or held funding constant. Although the agreement includes $1.6 billion for more than 95 miles of physical barriers along the border with Mexico, the total was far short of the $25 billion sought by the president.

Labor, HHS, Education Bill click here

Department of Education $70.9 B, a $3.9 B increase

- **Pell Grants:** The agreement includes sufficient funding to increase the maximum award by $175 to $6,095 in academic year 2018-2019.

- **Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants**: $840M, a $107M increase.

- **Federal Work Study:** $1.1 B, a $140M increase

- **Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program**: Maintained

- **Hispanic Serving Institutions:** $123M, an increase of $15M

- **Federal TRIO Programs**: $1.01B an increase of $60M

- **International Education and Foreign Language:** $72.2M (Level funding)

- **Cybersecurity Education, Community College:** $1 M for the Department of Education to establish a pilot grant program to support technological upgrades for community colleges for the purpose of supporting cybersecurity programs.

- **STEM Education:** $50 M for evidence-based STEM education programs, including computer science education, within the Education Innovation and Research program. (New) Proposed also in FY 19.

- **K12 Student Support and STEM Academic Enrichment Grants:** 1.1B, a 700M funding boost.

- **21st Century Community Learning Centers:** $1.2B, an increase of 20M

- **Education Innovation and Research program**: $120M, a $20M increase

- **Institute for Educational Sciences:** $613M, a $8M increase

Department of Labor $12.2 B, a $192M increase
- **Apprenticeship Grants:** $145M, an increase of $50M for programs using the flexible and effective apprenticeship model"
- **Workforce Training Programs:** $2.8B, an increase of $80M

Department of Health and Human Services $848B, a $67B increase

- **Department-wide: Opioid Abuse:** $3.6 B, a $2.55 B increase (244 %). Funds are targeted towards improving treatment and prevention efforts; finding alternative pain medications; workforce needs, especially in our rural communities; and behavioral health.

- **Health Resources Services Administration** $7B, increase of $552M
  - **Title II Nursing Programs:** $249M, a $20M increase
  - Rural Communities Opioids Response Program $100M
  - Public Health Workforce Grants $51M
  - Title VII and VIII are still intact
    - VII (Primary Care): $48M, increase of $10M
    - VIII (Nursing): $249M, increase of $20M
  - **Area Health Education Centers (AHECs)** $38M, increase of $8 million. These centers develop and maintain a diverse health care workforce, broaden the distribution of the health workforce, enhance health care quality, and improve health care delivery to rural and underserved areas and populations.
- **Administration for Community Living**
  - Alzheimer's Activities, Administration on Aging: $14.7 M

- **Administration for Children & Families**
  - Foster Youth Funding: $5.54B, an increase of $545M
  - Community Services Block Grant: $715M (level funded)

- **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality:** $334M a $10M increase

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** $1.4B increase,
  - State Opioid Response block grants, $1B of which 15 percent of the amount is for states with the highest mortality rate related to opioid disorders

- **Minority Fellowship Programs** $8M, a $1M increase

National Institutes of Health: $37 B, a $3 B increase. (8.8%)
[Here is a breakdown by institute.](#)

- agreement rejects the administration's proposal to implement a cap on reimbursements for facilities and administrative costs
- $500M increase in NIH research into opioid addiction
- National Institute on Child Health and Human Development $1.5B, increase of $71M
- National Institute on Mental Health $1.7B, increase of $40M
- National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities: $303M, a $14M increase
- National Institute on Aging: $2.5B, $525M increase
- National Institute on Drug Abuse: $1.3B, $292M increase
  - opioid addiction, alternatives, pain management and addition treatment $250M
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism: $509M, increase of $26M
- National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke: $2.1B, increase of $361M
  - Of which, opioid addiction, development of alternatives, pain management and addiction treatment research: $250M

- National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research: $104M, $1M increase

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Opioid drug overdose prevention program $475M
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: $335M (level funding)

Agriculture Bill [click here](#)

Department of Agriculture: $172.4B, a $14.4B decrease
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Education Activities $887M, $37M increase
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative $400m, (6.6% increase)
  - Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institution $9.2M
  - Capacity building for non-land-grant colleges of agriculture: $5M
- Opioids: USDA Rural Development: $20 million in additional distance learning and telemedicine grants for rural areas combating opioid abuse.

Commerce, Justice, Science Bill [click here](#)

National Science Foundation (NSF): $7.77B, $295M above the FY2017 enacted level and $1.1 B above the request. Congress will give NSF full discretion on how to allocate that amount between research disciplines and other priorities.

- Education and Human Resources $902M, $22M increase
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math+ Computing Partnerships (STEM+C) $51.8 M
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)- *The* agreement provides $30M for the HSIs program authorized by section 7033 of the America COMPETES Act.
- Research and Related Activities account that supports extramural research grants is slated for a 6 percent increase to $6.33 B, + $ 300M.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) $5.9B, $234M increase
  - Research line office is increasing by 7 percent
  - **National Ocean Service** $561M, increase of $86M
  - **Office of Atmospheric Research** $507 M, increase of $71M
  - **Education Office**: $28M, $1M increase
  - **National Estuarine Research Reserve System** $25M, increase of $4.5M
  - **Coastal Zone Management Grants** $75M, increase of $10M
  - **Climate Research** $158M, increase of $30M
  - **National Marine Fisheries Service** (NMFS) $883M, increase of $22M

- o **Education Partnership Program/Minority Serving Institutions**: $15M, increase of $569K
- o **Geospatial Modeling Grants**: The agreement adopts the Senate language in full for the external award of geospatial modeling grants.
- o **Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)** The agreement provides additional funding for NOAA to address HABs, and House and Senate language is adopted in full regarding concern for the impacts of harmful algal blooms and direction for NOAA to prioritize its most promising research and technological developments to forecast and mitigate HABs in both marine and freshwater habitats.
- o Funding is provided for NOAA to improve weather data, modeling, computing, forecast infrastructure, and warnings to allow the agency to develop more accurate, timely, and effective warnings and forecasts of weather events that endanger life and property.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST): $1.2 B; an increase of $247 M

- Scientific and Technical Research Services $725M, a $35M increase.
- Construction of new NIST research facilities $319M, a $200M increase
- Disaster Resilient Buildings: $5M for competitive external awards
- Nano-structured materials: The agreement calls for a report to Congress shall be due no later than six months after enactment of this Act.

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) $39M, 5M increase

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) $20.7B, an increase of $ 1B
- Education programs $100M (were proposed to be eliminated in the budget request)
- Minority University Research and Education Project: $32M, level funding
- STEM Education and Accountability Projects: $10M, level funding.

Defense Bill click here
- *FIU REQUEST SUCCESSFUL: Reconfigurable Antennae Research Program (ORIGAMI): University Research Initiatives: Program Increase –antenna research: $5M*

- Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation: $22B, a $1.6 B increase. The increase flows mainly to late-stage technology development, prototyping, and testing.
  - o 6.1 Basic Research: $730.9M, $90M increase
  - o 6.2 Applied Research: $1.88 B, $210M increase
- The three early-stage Science and Technology accounts increases by $850M (6%)
- Office of Naval Research $63M, increase of $33M
- National Defense Education Program: $109 M, $24M increase

- HBCU & Minority Institutions Program: $40M, $6M increase
- **Defense Health** – $330 M for the competitively awarded peer-reviewed medical research program and $291 M to advance DoD medical research priorities.

Army Corps of Engineers – $6.827B, $789M increase and $1.8B above the request.
- $1.96 B to support flood and storm damage reduction activities
- Flood and Storm Damage Reduction: $180M
- National Flood Risk Management Program: $5M
- Construction
  - $82M: Herber Hoover Dike, FL
  - $76. 5M: South Florida Ecosystem Restoration, FL
  - $8.5M: Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration program
  - Flood and Storm Damage Reduction: $180M
- Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies: $35M

Department of Energy
- Environmental Management: $7.1B, increase of $698M
- Office of Science: $6.2B, a $868M increase or (16%)
  - double-digit increases for all six of the major research programs: Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, and Nuclear Physics
- Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy $2.3B an increase of $232M (11%)
- Office of Nuclear Energy: $1.2B, a $188M increase
- ARPA-E: Advanced Research Projects Agency–Energy targeted for elimination by the administration, $353M, a $47M increase
- Building Technologies: $220M, $21M increase
  - *Building Technologies-The* agreement provides $23M for Residential Buildings Integration, $32M for Commercial Buildings Integration, $90M for Emerging Technologies, and $50M for Equipment and Buildings Standards.

Environmental Protection Agency
- ***FIU REQUEST SUCCESSFUL: South Florida Geographic Initiative: $1.7M, flat funding (was slated for elimination)***

- Rejects the Trump administration's plan to cut the EPA budget by 30%. Funding is flat.
- **Science and Technology**: $706 M, flat funding.
- **Environmental Programs and Management:** $2.6B, flat funding
- **Geographic Programs:** $447.9M, increase of $12M
- **Safe and sustainable water resources:** $106M, flat funding

Homeland Security Bill [click here](#)

Department of Homeland Security: $55.6B, a $6.3B increase
- **Cyber Infrastructure Resilience:** $46.2M, increase of $2.1M.
- **Cybersecurity Education and Awareness,** $14.4M for of which $4.3M is to continue the Cybersecurity Education and Training Assistance Program.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) $4.4B, $342M increase

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation: $249 M, $149 M increase to advance capital projects ready for investment that will reduce risks.
- Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Assessment (RiskMAP) program. $263 M, $85M increase to accelerate improvements to efforts to make flood risk maps more accurate, including by accelerating light detection and ranging mapping efforts.
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact: $2M implemented at the state level. Partnership amongst states to share resources to natural disasters.
- Emergency Management Performance Grants: $350M, (flat funding)
- Operations and Support
  - Mitigation (Differs from Pre-dis mitigation as it is an operational budget item) $36M Flat funding
  - Preparedness and Protection: $131.9M, Flat funding
  - Response: $182.8M, $7.6M increase
  - Recovery: $46.6M, Flat funding
- National Domestic Preparedness Consortium: $101M (Administration proposed elimination)

Interior and Environment Bill [click here](#)

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) $1.148B, a $63M increase or (6%)
- Accepted the administration's proposal to restructure the Climate and Land Use mission area into a new Land Resources mission area
- Land Resources: $152.5M, increase of $152.5M
  - Land Change Science: $34M, increase of $34M
  - National Regional Climate Adaption Science Centers: $25.3M, increase of $25.3M. Flat Funding
- Water Resources Research Institutes: $6.5M, Flat funding

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) $1.59B, an increase of $75M
- Cooperative Fish and Wildlife: $53.8M, increase of $3.9M
  - Research Units

State and Foreign Operations Bill click here

Department of State: $928.8 <mark>(OVER/UNDER)</mark>
- **Educational and Cultural Exchange programs:** $648M, $12M increase
- **International Narcotics and Law Enforcement:** $950.8M, increase of $61.2M
- Central American Security: $215M
- Caribbean Basin Security: $57.7M
- Mandela Fellows Program: $28.5 M, level funding
- U.S. African Development Foundation: $30M, level funding
- $240 M for the Fulbright Program
- $30M for United States African Development Foundation

USAID:

- **Global Health Programs:** $8.7B, $110M increase
- **Global Health Security:** $172.6M to protect the U.S. homeland from contagious infectious disease outbreaks abroad by accelerating the capabilities of targeted countries to prevent, detect, and respond to such outbreaks.
- *Food Security and Agricultural Development.*
  - *Funds* provided to countries for food security and agricultural development should be made available at levels not less than the prior fiscal year, particularly for countries with high levels of food insecurity.

Transportation- HUD Bill click here
- *FIU REQUEST SUCCESSFUL: Bridge and structure product and technology innovations clearing house.— The Committee directs the Department to facilitate and serve as clearing house for new innovations and accelerate acceptance and implementation of new bridge and structure materials and technologies.*

Department of Transportation: $27.3B, $8.79B increase

- **Research and Technology:** $23.4M, increase of $10M for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology

- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** $47.5 B, increase of $4.35B for the Federal-aid Highways Program, of which $45 B is from the Highway Trust Fund,

- **National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER Grants):** $1.5 B, a $1B increase from the FY2017 enacted level, for TIGER grants, which are also known as National Infrastructure Investments.

- **University Transportation Centers**: $90M, increase of $15M for competitive grants for a national center for congestion research, and a national center for infrastructure

research, focusing on improving the durability and extending the life of transportation infrastructure.

Department of Housing and Urban Development: $42.7B, increase of $3.8B
- **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG):** $3.3 B, increase of $300M for the CDBG formula program.
  - o Imminent health and safety emergencies: $4M

- **Choice Neighborhoods Initiative**
  - o **$150M, $12.5M increase**

Other Bills:
Financial Services Bill click here

Legislative Branch Bill click here

Military Construction and VA Bill click here
VA facilities - Democrats secured an additional $2B to address VA hospital maintenance and construction backlogs