



WASHINGTON UPDATE

DECEMBER 2014

Happy Holidays from
Benjamin Rose!

We look forward to continuing to send you news about legislation impacting older adults in 2015.

Support for our Annual Drive enables Benjamin Rose to expand our advocacy efforts on behalf of older adults. Please consider us in your year-end giving by making a gift by December 31.

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Congressional Update

Senate, House Pass Bill to Fund Programs for Rest of Fiscal Year 2015

Late on December 13, the Senate passed the “cromnibus” (Continuing Resolution and omnibus) spending bill, which funds federal government programs for the rest of fiscal year 2015. The House had passed it earlier last week. It now goes to the President for his signature.

The \$1.1 trillion, 1,600-page omnibus appropriations bill funds 11 of the 12 annual appropriations bills for the rest of FY2015. The 12th bill, which funds the Department of Homeland Security, is also included but is funded under a temporary Continuing Resolution that expires in February.

This spending package averts a second round of sequestration from occurring in FY2015. It funds most programs for FY2015 at the same levels they had been funded in FY2014, including the Older Americans Act programs and the Social Services Block Grant. This means that the bill rejects the Administration’s proposed cuts to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), and Senior Corps.

Omnibus Provides First-Time Funding for Elder Justice, Other Programs

With the Senate's passage of the omnibus appropriations bill, the Elder Justice Act has received its first-ever Congressional appropriation. This bill provides \$4 million in the Department of Health and Human Services appropriation for the Elder Justice Initiative, which will provide competitive grants to states to test and evaluate innovative approaches to preventing and responding to elder abuse. The funding of the Initiative marks the first time the Elder Justice Act has ever received direct appropriations from Congress since the Act was passed in 2010.

In addition, the omnibus bill dramatically increases funding for the Crime Victims Fund in the Department of Justice appropriation from the current cap of \$730 million to a new high of \$2.361 billion. This increase should result in more funding for victim assistance grants, including those involving elder abuse.

In other new funding, the omnibus also provides \$1 million for competitive grants for technical assistance for government and nonprofit transportation providers for people with disabilities. Finally, it provides \$2.5 million in new funding for supportive services for aging Holocaust survivors in the US.

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!
Please share questions,
suggestions or concerns.

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