

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors

Public Policy Update

September 10, 2013

Legislative News

House and Senate Appropriations and Budget Update

The House and Senate returned from their month long August recess on Monday, September 9th and will consider measures to suspend the debt ceiling and temporarily fund the government through a Continuing Resolution (CR). The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have cleared most of their spending measures through the full committee; however, due to the significant difference in the top-line funding level between chambers, they have been unable to pass any funding measures through Congress (the House and Senate have passed 10 and 11 funding measures through their full Appropriations Committee, respectively). The House has passed four appropriations measures through the full chamber, including the Defense, Energy and Water, Homeland Security, and Military/VA. On Thursday, August 1st, the Senate failed to pass their FY14 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) funding bills. The THUD bill is the only funding measure to receive floor consideration in the Senate. The House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY 5th) set the top-line discretionary funding level at \$967 billion and the Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) set the discretionary funding level at \$1.058 trillion. The House funding level is even with the FY14 discretionary caps set by the Budget Control Act (BCA). The Senate funding level proposes to restore some funding cuts from the BCA imposed sequestration and assumes that sequestration will be replaced or eliminated for FY14.

The House is expected to take up a short-term CR first with floor consideration as early as Thursday, September 12th. The CR is being discussed as a short-term measure with duration of 75 days, expiring on December 15th, with the goal of pushing off fights over fiscal issues until a decision on proposed military strikes in Syria has been made. At this point, the CR is not expected to carry any controversial policy riders and will be funded at current FY13 levels, which is \$988 billion for discretionary spending. House leadership will hold a separate vote to defund the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in connection with the CR floor vote, but the bill seeking to defund the ACA will not be attached to the CR measure. The bill will carry a requirement that the Senate vote on the defunding bill prior to taking up the short-term CR. Congress will also consider a short-term suspension of the debt limit in the mold of the deal struck in January. Under this type of deal, the debt limit would be pushed back to a chosen date and raised to account for the accumulated spending over that timeframe. The debt limit is likely to be suspended to a date that coincides with the end of a short-term CR and with debate around funding the government for the rest of FY14. The current debt limit is expected to be reached around mid-October.

For additional background information on the FY14 Appropriations process and the details of the proposed appropriations bills relevant to NASADAD priorities, see [FY14 Appropriations Update PowerPoint](#)

Should you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Andrew Whitacre, Public Policy Associate, at awhitacre@nasadad.org