



AAU Summary of the FY18 Omnibus Appropriations Bill: The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018

Updated March 23, 2018

Overview:

On March 21, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees released a FY18 omnibus appropriations bill – [H.R. 1625](#), Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 – to fund the federal government until the end of the current fiscal year, ending September 30, 2018. On March 23, President Trump signed the package. AAU’s statement on the omnibus can be found [here](#).

AAU is a member of the [Task Force on American Innovation](#), [United for Medical Research](#), and the [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research](#), all of which issued statements.

This document summarizes the FY18 funding for federal agencies and programs of interest to research universities. The FY18 AAU Funding Priorities table can be found [here](#).

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI): The omnibus provides \$400 million for AFRI, a \$25 million, or 6.7 percent, increase above the FY17 funding level.

Department of Defense (DOD): The measure includes \$2.34 billion for 6.1 basic research, a \$64 million, or 3 percent, increase above FY17. Army and Air Force 6.1 basic research accounts are cut 3.5 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively. The bill provides funding for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) at \$3.1 billion, an increase of 8 percent over FY17. The omnibus also includes a \$50 million rescission listed as *DARPA undistributed reduction*.

Department of Education (ED): The omnibus funds the Pell Grant program at \$22.475 billion and in combination with mandatory funding the maximum award is raised to \$6,095 (+\$175) for the 2018-19 school year.

Other ED programs:

- Federal Work Study (FWS) is funded at \$1.13 billion, a \$140 million, or 14.1 percent increase above FY17;
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (SEOG) is funded at \$840 million, a \$107 million, or 14.6 percent increase over FY17;

- Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) is funded at \$23 million, reflecting a \$5 million or 18 percent cut below FY17;
- Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is funded at \$613.5 million, a \$8 million, or 1.4 percent increase above FY17;
- International Education and Foreign Language Studies (Title VI) is funded at \$72 million, the same level as FY17; and
- The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is funded at \$117 million, a \$8.5 million, or 8 percent increase above FY17.

Department of Energy (DOE): The omnibus provides \$6.26 billion for the DOE Office of Science, an increase of \$868 million, or 16 percent, above FY17. The measure also funds the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) at \$353 million, a \$47 million, or 15.5 percent, increase above FY17.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): The omnibus provides \$20.7 billion for NASA, a 5.5 percent increase above FY17. This figure includes \$6.22 billion for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate, an 8 percent, or \$456 million, increase over FY17. Earth Science receives \$1.92 billion, Astrophysics \$850 million Planetary Science \$2.2 billion, the James Webb Space Telescope \$534 million, and Heliophysics \$689 million. The omnibus provides a modest increase of \$25 million (+4 percent) for the Aeronautics Mission Directorate for a total of \$685 million. The Space Technology Mission Directorate is funded at \$760 million, a \$73 million, or 11 percent increase above FY17. The omnibus also includes \$100 million for the Office of Education, of which \$40 million is appropriated for the Space Grant Fellowship Program.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): The omnibus provides \$152.8 million for NEH, a \$3 million, or 2 percent, increase above the FY17 funding level.

National Institutes of Health (NIH): The omnibus provides funding for NIH at \$37.084 billion, an increase of \$3 billion, or 8.8 percent, above the FY17 level. This figure includes \$496 million from the 21st Century Cures Act. The agreement also directs NIH to delay enforcement of the clinical trials expansion, maintains the salary cap at Executive Level II, and does not contain any riders limiting access to scientific materials. Report language also states that NIH cannot depart from its current method of negotiating facilities and administrative payment rates.

National Science Foundation (NSF): The omnibus provides \$7.8 billion for NSF, an increase of \$295 million, or 4 percent, above the FY17 funding level. The Research and Related Activities Directorate receives an appropriation of \$6.33 billion, which is an increase of \$301 million over FY17. The Education and Human Resources Directorate receives \$902 million, an increase of \$22 million over FY17. The omnibus also includes \$182.8 million for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction, which is a \$26 million decrease from FY17.

Other Provisions of Interest

Dickey Amendment and Gun Violence Research: While appropriations language prohibits the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other Health agencies from using appropriated funding to advocate or promote gun control, the omnibus clarifies that “the CDC has the authority to conduct research on the causes of gun violence.”

Internal Revenue Service (IRS): The omnibus funds the IRS at a total of \$11.43 billion (about \$196 million more than the enacted level for FY 2017), with \$320 million allocated specifically for implementing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Those funds will remain available to the IRS until September 30, 2019 but cannot be used until the head of the IRS provides a spending plan to the appropriations committees. The omnibus does not prevent the IRS from using funds to enforce the Johnson Amendment, the law that prohibits nonprofits with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from endorsing political candidates.