

317 Coalition

	FY 2014 Final	FY 2015 President's Request	FY 2015 Final	FY 2016 President's Request
Section 317 Immunization Program	\$451,700	\$433,300	\$400,547	\$350,208
<i>Immunization Program (PPHF)</i>	<i>\$160,300</i>	<i>\$127,300</i>	<i>\$210,300</i>	<i>\$210,300</i>
Total	\$612,000	\$560,600	\$610,847	\$560,508

(dollars in thousands)

On February 2, the President released his FY 2016 budget request, proposing \$1.091 trillion in overall discretionary spending. This request, the first time in years the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has met the statutory deadline for the budget release date, is \$74 billion above the \$1.016 trillion budget cap for FY 2016 allowed under sequestration, and a 7% increase from the top-line figure of \$1.013 trillion from the prior year. Within the overall \$1.091 trillion request, \$540 billion is proposed for non-defense discretionary funding, an increase of \$37 billion over the caps, and \$561 billion in defense discretionary spending, an increase of \$38 billion above the sequester caps.

The budget blueprint includes complete programmatic funding details and Budget Justifications for each agency, which we will be examining throughout the week. Within the President's request for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the proposed funding for the Section 317 Immunization program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is **\$560.5 million**, a cut of **\$50 million** from the FY 2015 level. As you will recall, in FY 2015, the President also proposed a \$50 million cut that was fully restored by the Congress in the final FY 2015 omnibus bill.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 crafted by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI-01) provided partial relief for the sequester in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, establishing caps for defense and non-defense that were a little higher than they would have been under the Budget Control Act of 2011. However, FY 2016 brings the return of sequester, with \$91 billion in automatic spending reductions split evenly between defense and non-defense. Because sequester trims both mandatory and discretionary programs, and due to the fact that virtually no defense programs fall on the mandatory side, the sequester cuts to defense discretionary programs would be larger (\$54 billion) than to non-defense discretionary programs (\$37 billion).

There is strong momentum, primarily from Republicans, to raise the caps for defense spending, with some saying the caps for non-defense should be lowered as an offset. Many Democrats are positioning to counter this push by calling for equal sequester relief on the non-defense discretionary side. However, both efforts must overcome the staunch fiscal conservatism that has celebrated the major cuts to discretionary spending over the past four years.

The next developments for the FY 2016 appropriations process will be the establishment of the budget framework by the chairmen of the Senate and House Budget Committees, Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Rep. Tom Price (R-GA-06). Both Chairmen have articulated a plan to balance the budget in ten years, and House Chairman Price in particular has emphasized his intention to stick with the sequester caps. They have indicated they too aim to abide by the April 15th statutory deadline to complete the budget plan so the Appropriations Committees can commence their FY 2016 work.