

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a bipartisan spending bill on Thursday, June 9, 2016 to fund the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. This approval comes after a subcommittee markup on June 7 and a full committee markup on June 9. The bill would restore the \$50 million cut to the Section 317 Immunization Program that was proposed by the FY 2017 President's Budget, and includes the cost estimate and report language.

Full consideration by the US Senate is unknown at this time, and the House has not yet announced a date for a markup for its spending bill. The Senate report reads as follows:

**IMMUNIZATION AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES**

Appropriations 2016	\$798,405,000
Budget estimate 2017	\$748,066,000
Committee recommendation	\$798,405,000

The Committee recommendation for the activities of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases is \$798,405,000, which includes \$324,350,000 in transfers from the PPH Fund and \$15,000,000 in transfers from PHSSEF unobligated balances.

The mission of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases is the prevention of disease, disability, and death through immunization and by control of respiratory and related diseases.

The Committee recommendation includes funding for the following activities in the following amounts:

(in thousands of dollars)

Budget Activity	FY 2016 Appropriation	FY 2017 Request	Committee Recommendation
Section 317 Immunization Program	610,847	560,508	610,847
National Immunization Survey (non-add)	12,864	12,864	12,864
Influenza Planning and Response	187,558	187,558	187,558

*Cost Estimates.* – The Committee is pleased with CDC's report on estimated funding needs of the Section 317 Immunization Program and requests that the report be updated and submitted not later than February 1, 2017, to reflect fiscal year 2018 cost estimates. State and local operations funding, as well as a discussion of the evolving role of the 317 program as expanded coverage for vaccination becomes available from private and public sources over the next several years.

*Influenza.* – The Committee provides the same level of budget authority as in fiscal year 2016 and directs the Department to use \$15,000,000 in pandemic influenza supplemental balances to support CDC's global influenza activity. The Committee expects in the future that CDC and the Department will clearly identify in budget documents when and how supplemental appropriations are used. In particular, the Committee expects to be notified if any additional balances are used by CDC in fiscal year 2017.

*Immunizations.* – The Committee rejects the reduction to the Section 317 Immunization Program proposed by the Administration and provides funding at last year's level to enhance core activities including the infrastructure for the Vaccines for Children program. The Committee believes a strong public health immunization infrastructure is critical for ensuring high vaccination coverage levels, preventing vaccine-preventable diseases, and responding to outbreaks. During the 2015 measles

outbreak, funds from this program supported State and local health departments in rapid response, public health communication, data gathering, and diagnostics.