

# SCORECARD LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

## FY2016:

### NEI Updates Funding Status at NAEC Meeting

At its June 16 National Advisory Eye Council (NAEC) meeting, NEI updated the status of its FY2016 appropriations as follows:

- its \$715.9 million Congressional appropriation was reduced to an Operational Net of \$708 million due to the transfer of \$7.9 million to NIH Central for the successfully completed Studies of the Ocular Implications of AIDS (SOCA) funding. NEI has transferred back \$5.6 million in FY2013, \$6.9 million in FY2014, and \$7.4 million in FY2015.
- Starting with FY2016, its Operational Net includes “pass-through” funding for the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Technologies (BRAIN) Initiative (BI) to map the human brain. NEI and nine other Institutes each received a portion of the \$150 million program to manage. Although NEI received \$4.8 million, this is not dedicated to vision researchers. NEI contributes \$1 million to the BI and, to-date, vision researchers and those studying the brain through the visual route have been awarded \$31 million in the first two years of BI awards.

	NIH	NEI
FY2012 NET OF .189% RESCISSION	\$30.64B +0.81%	\$702.1M +0.27%
FY2013 NET OF SEQUESTER*	\$29.15B -5.5%	APPROP: \$662.15M -5.7% OPERATIONAL NET: \$657.1M
FY2014 FINAL^	\$30.7B +3.5%	APPROP: \$682.1M +3% OPERATIONAL NET: \$675.6M
FY2015 FINAL^^	\$30.3B +0.5%	APPROP: \$684.2M +0.31% OPERATIONAL NET: \$676.8M
FY2016 FINAL**	\$32.1B +6.6%	APPROP: \$715.9M +4.6% OPERATIONAL NET: \$708M
FY2017 PRESIDENT'S REQUEST+	\$33.1B +2.6%	APPROP: \$708M (FLAT-FUNDED)
FY2017 SENATE	\$34B +6.3%	\$740.8M +4.6% (INCREASE ON OPERATIONAL NET)
FY2017 HOUSE	\$33.3B +3.9%	APPROP: \$735.6M +3.9% (INCREASE ON OPERATIONAL NET)

- \* NEI appropriated amount is net of \$36 M in sequester cut and \$3.9 M Secretary transfer. Operational Net reflects \$5.6 M transferred back to NIH Central of the successfully completed Studies of Ocular Complications of AIDS (SOCA) funding.
- ^ NEI Operational Net reflects \$6.9 M transferred back to NIH Central of SOCA funding and Secretary transfer.
- ^^ NEI Operational Net reflects \$7.4 M transferred back to NIH Central of SOCA funding.
- \*\* NEI Operational Net reflects \$7.9 M transferred back to NIH Central of SOCA funding.
- + Includes \$1.825 B in mandatory funding.

## FY2017:

### Senate and House Propose NIH/NEI Discretionary Funding Increases

Unlike the President's FY2017 proposed budget—which relied upon \$1.825 billion in mandatory funding—both the Senate and House have proposed FY2017 LHHS appropriations bills that increase discretionary funding for NIH and NEI—within the budget caps (see comparison chart below).

### Comparison of FY2017 Senate and House LHHS Bills, FY2016 Omnibus

	FY2017 Senate	FY2017 House	FY2016 Omnibus
National Institutes of Health	\$34.1 B	\$33.3 B	\$32.1 B
National Eye Institute	\$740.8 M	\$735.6 M	\$708 M
Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative	\$250 M	\$195 M	\$150 M
Cancer Moonshot	\$550 M	\$195 M	\$195 M
Precision Medicine Initiative	\$300 M	\$300 M	\$200 M
Antibiotic Resistance	\$463 M	\$413 M	\$413 M
Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA)	\$520.7 M	\$511.5 M	\$500 M
Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program	\$333.4 M	\$333.3 M	\$320.9 M

### Senate:

On June 9, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its FY2017 LHHS bill which had been marked up and approved by the LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee on June 7 with a \$2 billion, or 6.3 percent, NIH Increase and a \$32.8 million, or 4.6 percent, NEI increase. Praised by both Republicans and Democrats, it is the first bipartisan bill to come out of the Subcommittee in seven years.

As stated by Subcommittee Chair Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), the Subcommittee wants to establish a pattern of five percent annual increases plus inflation, and committing to that approximate funding level for a second year was necessary to the pattern.

Subcommittee Ranking Member Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) said in both markups, “I am especially proud that this bill doesn’t include a single new damaging policy rider.”

Subcommittee member Lamar Alexander (R-TN), who also chairs the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, noted that in addition to the discretionary increase he was still pursuing mandatory “surge” funding for key NIH initiatives (Precision Medicine, BRAIN, Cancer Moonshot, and early-stage investigators), similar to that in the House’s *21st Century Cures Act* passed in July 2015 and which NAEVR supported.



LHHS Subcommittee Chairman Roy Blunt (R-MO)



LHHS Subcommittee Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA)



Senate HELP Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN)