The House Appropriations committee released the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill on July 1, accompanied by a majority bill summary and a minority press release.

The House bill would completely zero out funding for Federal Work-Study (FWS), Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), and Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN), cut by 59 percent Title VI international education programs to $35 million, as well as cut the Institute of Education Sciences 12 percent to $707 million. The bill would maintain the maximum Pell Grant at FY23 levels and maintain the Pell Grant reserve.

On the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the House bill would cut $2.8 billion to $43 billion, in addition to a cut of $1 billion below FY23 levels to the new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H). While many NIH institutes would be level funded, the bill calls for specific cuts to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the Office of the Director, and a few other select institutes.
Provisions of Note

The bill requires the Department to allow students with loans prior to October 1, 2017 to select a new student loan servicer when consolidating their loans and prohibits Federal Student Aid from awarding contracts relating to the Federal Student Aid Next Generation Processing and Servicing Environment unless specific considerations are met. The bill also prohibits funding from being used to issue or implement the Department of Education’s recent Title IX rules, “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance” or “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance: Sex-Related Eligibility Criteria for Male and Female Athletic Teams.” The bill also prevents public institutions from denying religious student organizations any benefits available to other student organizations as a result of their religious beliefs. The bill furthermore prevents funds from being used to implement the Department of Education’s proposed debt discharge rule, the proposed rule “Improving Income-Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program,” and the upcoming borrower defense to repayment regulations. The bill prohibits funding for research using fetal tissue or gain-of-function research. It also prohibits direct or indirect funding of the Wuhan Institute of Virology or any laboratory owned or controlled by China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Venezuela, or any other foreign adversary.

Senate Action
Bill Text | Committee Report

The Senate Appropriations committee passed the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill in a bipartisan fashion on Friday, July 27. The bill increases the maximum Pell Grant award to $7,645, an increase of $250. The bill includes $900 million for the Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grant, a decrease of $10 million from FY23 and $1.220 billion for Federal Work Study, also a $10 million decrease. The bill flat funds TRIO ($1.191 billion), GEAR UP ($388 million), Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN, $23.5 million), Title VI international programs ($85.7 million), and Postsecondary Student Success Grants ($45 million). The bill provides $80 million for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program, an increase of $5 million from FY23, and $793.1 million for the Institute for Education Sciences, a $14.5 million cut. The bill includes $2.183 billion to administer the student financial aid program

For the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Senate bill provides $49.2 billion, including $1.5 billion for ARPA-H, an increase of $943 million over FY23. The increases in funding go towards mental health research ($100 million), Alzheimer’s research ($100 million), cancer research ($60 million) as well as smaller increases on a variety of other research areas.

Provisions of Note
The bill requires the Department to allow students with loans prior to October 1, 2017 to select a new student loan servicer when consolidating their loans and prohibits Federal Student Aid from awarding contracts relating to the Federal Student Aid Next Generation Processing and Servicing Environment unless specific considerations are met. The bill directs the Department o continue carrying out the Postsecondary Student Success Grant program as a tiered evidence competition. The bill also rescinds $200 million from the Pell Grant program reserve. The bill prohibits any funds from creating a human embryo for research purposes or from funding research in which a human embryo is destroyed or discarded.
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