The APHL Washington Update

LEGISLATIVE

Federal Funding Update

Progress on federal funding for fiscal year 2020, the fiscal year that starts in a little over two weeks on October 1, 2019, came to an abrupt stop this week. The Senate Labor-HHS subcommittee, which provides funding for HHS and all its operating divisions including CDC, HRSA and FDA, was scheduled to consider its version of the 2020 spending bill on Tuesday, September 10 and then the full committee would act on that bill on Thursday, September 12. If the bill had been passed by the full committee, it was going to bypass consideration by the full Senate and go straight into a conference committee with the House to resolve the differences between the two bills.

None of these steps occurred as the subcommittee consideration was postponed after disagreements emerged on a number of fronts, including the barrier construction project along the southern border of the U.S. and women’s health issues.

Complicating the picture further, the House has produced a continuing resolution (CR) appropriations bill – which will be necessary to avoid a federal government shutdown on October 1, 2019 – which also includes restrictive language on the barrier construction project and thereby raises questions about whether the bill can be passed by Congress and signed into law. The House will vote on that bill next week, and if it becomes law federal government operations will continue until late November, possibly November 21, but no date is currently in the bill.

Global Health Security

APHL members visited with key Congressional leadership offices on September 10, 2019 to press the issue of continued funding for CDC to allow work that advances the Global Health Security Agenda. Unless Congress acts otherwise, this CDC funding will be reduced by 66% which will result in a similar reduction current activities.

APHL will continue to keep you informed on all these matters.

HHS Operating Divisions Leadership Update

No additional information to report.

REGULATION

No additional information to report.