



NHSA Advocacy Lunch & Learn Series:

***What Are Appropriations...
and How Do They Affect
Head Start?***

February 11, 2025

Appropriations

...what are they, and how did they originate?

What the Constitution Says

- Article I, Section 9, Clause 7:
 - *No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.*



What Congress is Supposed to Do



- Appropriations bills are supposed to be passed annually, with the funding they provide covering one fiscal year.
- The fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.
- Appropriations are under the jurisdiction of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

12 Appropriations Subcommittees

- Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
- Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
- Defense
- Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies
- Financial Services and General Government
- Homeland Security

12 Appropriations Subcommittees

- Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
- Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (*which funds Head Start*)
- Legislative Branch
- Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
- National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs
- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Congressional Appropriations Leaders

- **U.S. Senate**

- Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), Chair, Full Committee
- Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Vice Chair, Full Committee
- Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Chair, Labor/HHS Subcommittee
- Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Ranking Member, Labor/HHS Subcommittee

- **U.S. House of Representatives**

- Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK-04), Chair, Full Committee
- Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-03), Ranking Member, Full Committee
- Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL-04), Chair, Labor/HHS Subcommittee
- Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-03), Ranking Member, Labor/HHS Subcommittee

Appropriations

...what are the three types of appropriations bills?

1. Regular Appropriations Bills



- Twelve standard bills that cover the funding for one section of the federal government for one fiscal year.
- By law, they must be enacted into law by October 1.

2. Continuing Resolutions



- If Congress has not enacted the regular appropriations bills by October 1, it may pass a Continuing Resolution (CR).
- The CR will generally continue funding at the same levels as the previous fiscal year (or with minor modifications) for a set amount of time.

3. Supplemental Appropriations Bills



- Used to add additional funding above and beyond what was originally appropriated at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- May be used for areas of sudden need, such as disaster relief or pandemic support.

What if....



- If Congress fails to pass an appropriations bill or a continuing resolution, or if the president vetoes a passed bill, it may result in a government shutdown.

Appropriations

... and how Head Start advocates
for funding each year

Labor / HHS Subcommittees

- NHSA prepares and submits appropriations requests to as many members of Congress as possible.
- NHSA seeks to have community members testify in person in support of Head Start funding priorities each year.
- If not chosen to testify, NHSA ensures written testimony from a Head Start constituent is submitted for the official record.



Full Appropriations Committees

- NHTA seeks as many signatures as possible on letters to the full committee chairs outlining our funding request.
- NHTA works to generate emails into Capitol Hill offices, especially those of appropriators.
- Depending on the circumstances, NHTA may seek report language.



Conference Committee

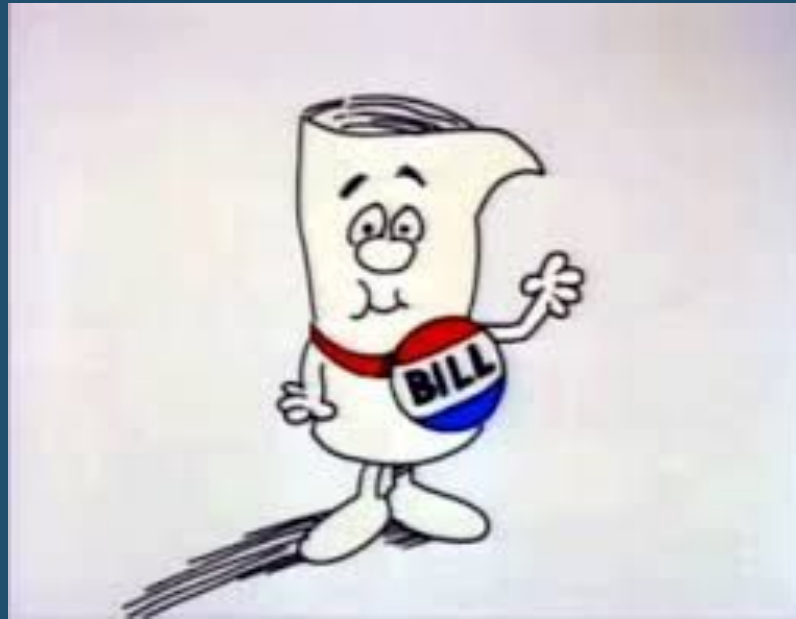
- Once we know which chamber's bill is most favorable to Head Start, we will advocate for members to support that legislation.
- NHSA will continue to meet with Members and staff and generate emails into those offices.



Appropriations

...and, with any luck?

The President Signs a Favorable Bill



Appropriations

...what's going on right now?

Fiscal Year 2025

- FY25 spending has been at FY24 levels under a CR set to expire on March 14.
- Unfortunately, House & Senate Appropriations leadership have yet to agree on the so-called “top line” numbers.
- As a result, subcommittees have been unable to work toward resolving differences between the House & Senate versions.
- NHSA continues to advocate for the Senate version, which includes a \$700 million increase for Head Start, rather than the House version which increases funding by only \$25 million.

Fiscal Year 2026

- NHTA is developing our ask and gathering request forms from the Hill.
- We have secured leaders for most of our Hill letters.
- Outside witness testimony is under discussion.
- Hill meetings fill my calendar.



Thank You!

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