Legislative Update 2019

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Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging

ALIGNMENT GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES
Obviously the leadership of the House changed in January. Obviously, Ohio’s Democratic House Members became more influential – none of whom changed from the previous Congress. More generally in the state, the delegation stayed relatively unchanged with the exception of Rep. Anthony Gonzalez (Republican) replacing Rep. Jim Renacci.
Congress & the Budget

After the 2018 elections, 2019 has been a year of divided government. While a Republican President, Republican Senate, and Democratic House of Representatives has made for an interesting year, most seniors issues are part of the budget process and have not been an issue for debate in 2019.

Congress operates on a Fiscal Year that begins October 1st. Usual budget process is:

- State of the Union – late January
- President submits budget February
- Budget framework approved in April/May time frame
- 12 separate appropriations bills approved by October 1st.

Last year’s bill (Fiscal Year 2019) wasn’t approved until February 15, 2019 after a lengthy partial shutdown. It largely resembled FY 2018 bill and was completely a product of Congress.

Congress was facing the prospect of “Sequester” automatic cuts if they didn’t agree to a budget agreement before year-end. Congress approved a budget agreement right before August recess.
Despite the fits and starts of last year’s budget process (including significant cuts proposed by the President, the FY2018 and FY2019 budget process was very stable for seniors programs).

Of the 28 line items tracked by the National Council on Aging:

- 17 received stable funding in FY18 and FY19
- 9 received increased funding
- 2 received small decreases
## Budget Agreement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2019</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2020</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defense Base</td>
<td>647.00</td>
<td>666.50</td>
<td>671.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defense OCO</td>
<td>69.0</td>
<td>71.50</td>
<td>69.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Defense subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>716.00</strong></td>
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<td><strong>740.50</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nondefense Base</td>
<td>597.00</td>
<td>621.50</td>
<td>626.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Census Adj.</td>
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<td>2.500</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nondefense base plus adjustments</strong></td>
<td><strong>597.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>624.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>626.50</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nondefense OCO</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.000</td>
<td>8.000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nondefense subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>605.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>632.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>634.50</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,321.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,370.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,375.00</strong></td>
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</table>
Budget Agreement

The budget deal provides significant stability to the annual budget/appropriations process and provides enough top-line funding to be able to adequately fund senior programs.

Importantly it removes the possibility of sequester and significantly de-risks the likelihood of an extended budget shutdown or the possibility of a credit default or downgrade.

Non-defense funding will grow $27B this year (and stay roughly steady in FY21).
FY 20 Budget

Selected Seniors Programs
Congress

Despite media focus on the President – Congress is key – you can have an impact with individual Members

Despite focus on President’s budget, seniors funding has been stable in recent years.

The budget process is surprisingly bipartisan!

Seniors are important constituents

You’re in their backyard; You vote – the seniors you serve vote!
Budget 2020

Proposed changes to funding in Trump’s budget

-31%  Environmental Protection Agency
-24%  State and USAID
-19%  Transportation
-16%  Housing and Urban Development
-15%  Agriculture
-14%  Interior
-12%  Health and Human Services
-12%  Education
-11%  Energy
-10%  Labor
-2%   Justice
-2%   NASA
-2%   Treasury

Defense  +5%
Commerce  +7%
Homeland Security  +7%
Veterans Affairs  +8%
Lobbying in 2019 and beyond

- Ohio is important to both Republicans and Democrats
- Presidential budgets are less important than Congress
- Assume starting position is uninformed – don’t take for granted. Use examples!
- FY20 will set the stage for FY21
- DEMONSTRATE goodness and importance
- Don’t get off-message or angry (they get plenty of that)
- INVITE
- Isolate senior opportunities – your job is not to save the Republic, it is to save, strengthen, improve the things you care about
- Older Americans Act reauthorization TBD
Ohio Delegation

Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)  

Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)
Ohio Delegation

Ohio Delegation

Ohio Delegation

Rep. Bob Gibbs (R)  
Rep. Warren Davidson (R)  
Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D)
Ohio Delegation

Rep. Mike Turner (R)

Rep. Marcia Fudge (D)

Rep. Troy Balderson (R)
Ohio Delegation

Questions?