

The 317 Coalition

FY 2015 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Immunization

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Final	FY 2015 President's Request	FY 2015 317 Coalition Request
Section 317 Immunization Program	\$451,700	\$433,300	N/A
<i>Immunization Program (PPHF)</i>	<i>\$160,300</i>	<i>\$127,300</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Totals	\$612,000	\$560,600	\$650,000

On March 4th, the White House released its FY 2015 spending plan, outlining in broad strokes the President's vision for agency funding for the coming fiscal year. The President's budget request comes nearly a month later than when it is typically released, as the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) decided to wait for the culmination of the FY 2014 appropriations process; which resulted in a twelve-bill omnibus package. The President's budget adheres to the top-line discretionary spending caps outlined in the Murray-Ryan budget agreement, with defense discretionary spending at \$521.3 billion and non-defense at \$492.4 billion, for a total of \$1.014 trillion in discretionary dollars. The expectation is that with these pre-determined 302(a) spending caps and a renewed spirit of bipartisanship and leadership from Appropriations Chairs Rogers and Mikulski, there is momentum for the passage of the FY 2015 appropriations bills. However, the upcoming November midterm elections could complicate this scenario, as election-year partisanship and upcoming primaries may affect member decisions.

The FY 2015 President's budget includes a \$51 million decrease for the Section 317 Immunization Program, down from the final FY 2014 figure of \$612 million to a proposed \$560 million. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) CJ indicates that this decrease will fall on the vaccine purchase side and less on the infrastructure side. Noting expanded insurance coverage rates as a result of the Affordable Care Act, the CDC indicates that there will be a decreased need for the Section 317 program to provide immunizations to the uninsured.

However, language in the CJ stresses CDC priorities in preserving "core public health immunization infrastructure at the local, state, and federal levels" as well as maintaining adequate vaccine levels "for response to vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks."

The 317 Coalition is actively engaging key policymakers in both the House and Senate to restore the proposed cuts from the FY 2015 President's budget. We have circulated a Dear Colleague letter in the Senate, and worked with past immunization champions in each chamber – especially Appropriations Committee members – on incorporating our request for increased funding levels and specific report language for the Section 317 program.