

SDASCOE 2015 Fall Board Legislative Committee Report

Budget:

Congress passed the FY 2016 SHORT-TERM CONTINUING RESOLUTION and the president signed it just before the September 30th deadline. The resolution does the following:

- Keeps the government operating through December 11, 2015.
- Provides funding at annual rate that conforms to the topline discretionary spending limit established by the Budget Control Act for FY 2016 – \$1.017 trillion.
- Provides Overseas Contingency Operations funding at a rate of \$74.758 billion.
- Includes \$700 million in emergency funding for wildland fire suppression.

A shutdown was averted for now, but the president said:

“I want to be very clear: I will not sign another short-sighted spending bill like the one Congress sent me this week. We purchased ourselves 10 additional weeks. We need to use them effectively.”

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said he wants to negotiate a [two-year budget deal](#) that raises the top-line spending levels above sequestration caps for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

Another item of concern is that Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has set a Nov. 5 deadline for raising the debt ceiling, which Obama said will not be up for negotiation.

Pay Increase for 2016:

In February President Barack Obama proposed a 1.3 percent pay raise for federal employees, slightly higher than the 1 percent feds received in 2014 and 2015. So far Congress has not finalized any pay raise for federal employees.

However, President Obama does not need Congress for his proposed pay raise to become law. If Congress does not act to set a pay raise for federal employees, President Obama's proposed raise will go into effect. Congress can still pass a bill freezing pay or enacting a higher pay raise.

Health Insurance:

Federal employees should brace for a big jump in health insurance costs. Rates for Federal Employee Health Benefits will rise 6.4 percent for 2016, double last year's rate increase, the Office of Personnel Management announced.

The rate increase is the largest hike since 2011 saw a 7.3 percent spike in premiums.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Chase and EJ Goetz, Legislative Co-Chairs