

Contributor Report

NIH Funded at FY2006 Level Until FY2007 LHHS Appropriations Finalized

On September 29, just prior to the election recess and start of FY2007, the Senate passed the Defense appropriations conference report (approved earlier by the House) that included a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund non-defense, non-homeland security government operations at the FY2006 level until November 17. This includes Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) programs, such as the NIH/NEI. Congress is scheduled to return the week of November 13 for a “lame duck” session. Although House and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairs Jerry Lewis (R-CA) and Thad Cochran (R-MS) have expressed their intent to pass the remaining spending bills individually, Congress may act on a comprehensive omnibus spending bill.

NAEVR has urged House and Senate Members to follow through on their respective Budget Resolution commitments to increase LHHS programs by the full, additional \$7 billion over the President’s budget request (same as House bill). Although the House LHHS bill added \$4.1 billion, no additional funds were committed to NIH. The Senate added \$5 billion, with an NIH increase of \$220 million over the FY2006 funding level, which would negate the proposed 0.8 percent cut to the NEI budget and increase it \$600,000 over the FY2006 level.

NAEVR joined medical advocacy colleagues in urging all Senators to support a “Dear Colleague” letter from Senators Specter (R-PA) and Harkin (D-IA) to fully fund LHHS programs. NAEVR also

urged moderate House Republicans to sign onto a similar letter from Cong. Mike Castle (R-DE). *Full details appear in the NAEVR Web site Advocacy Center’s dedicated section on NIH/NEI appropriations.*

	FY2006 ACTUAL	FY2007 HOUSE	FY2007 SENATE*
NEI	\$666.8 M -0.3%	\$661.5 M -0.8%	\$666.9 M +0.001%
NIH	\$28.5 B -0.2%	\$28.5 B 0%	\$28.6 B +0.8%

*Programmatic level, inclusive of one-time expenses and transfers