

Contributor Report

“Anything Can Still Happen” Describes FY2007 Budget/Appropriations Process

House

Despite passing its Budget Resolution on May 18 with amendment language recognizing the need for an additional \$7.1 billion above the President’s FY2007 budget request for health and education programs, which was brokered by moderate Republicans led by Cong. Mike Castle (R-DE), the House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee marked up a bill on June 7 with only \$4.1 billion additional—none of which increases NIH/NEI funding. On June 13, the House Appropriations Committee approved the bill, which has not been scheduled for House floor action due to the inclusion of a controversial provision to increase the minimum wage.

Senate

Despite passing its Budget Resolution on March 17, which included the Specter/Harkin amendment for an additional \$7.1 billion above the President’s FY2007 budget request for health and safety programs, on June 15 the Senate deemed the budgetary spending cap at \$873 billion, well below that which includes the addition of the Specter/Harkin amendment. On June 22, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the allocations for its 11 spending bills, including an additional \$5 billion for LHHS. The Senate LHHS bill markup, scheduled for July 20, will confirm whether there is additional funding for NIH/NEI.

Bottom Line

When and if House and Senate LHHS spending bills pass is currently uncertain, although most pundits are predicting action in a “lame duck” session after the elections, and potentially on an omnibus spending bill.

Visit www.eyeresearch.org for detailed reports on the above summaries.

	FY2005 ACTUAL	FY2006 ACTUAL	FY2007 PROPOSED*
NEI	\$669.1 M +2.5%	\$666.8 M -0.3%	\$661.5 M -0.8%
NIH	\$28.6 B +2%	\$28.5 B -0.2%	\$28.5 B 0%

*President’s Budget and House LHHS bill; Senate Markup July 20