



Department of Administration
Intergovernmental Relations Division

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TO: Judiciary and Legislation Committee

FROM: Jennifer Gonda, Director, Intergovernmental Relations Division
Danielle Decker, Legislative Coordinator-Sr.

SUBJECT: The City of Milwaukee's 2017-2018 Federal Legislative Priorities

DATE: April 10, 2017

ATTACHMENTS: Proposed 2017-18 Federal Legislative Package

BACKGROUND:

Attached you will find our recommended Federal Legislative Package for the 115th Term of Congress. Our office presents this package every two years for approval by this committee and the Common Council. The final adopted version will be used by our team to guide our advocacy on behalf of the City until the next term of Congress begins.

The federal government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution which expires on April 28, 2017. Upon that time, the federal government faces four options: pass a consolidated Omnibus spending bill to fund the entire government; pass twelve separate appropriations bills to fund the government (instead of an Omnibus); pass another Continuing Resolution, which would expire in October 2017; or shut down the federal government.

In March 2017, President Trump submitted a “skinny budget” proposal outlining his desired cuts to discretionary spending. A few weeks later, President Trump proposed cuts to discretionary spending within the FY17 budget. United States Congress is the only designated appropriating body and is under no Constitutional requirement to review or enact the President’s proposed budget.

The City’s Intergovernmental Relations Division continues to work closely with our Congressional delegation and allied organizations, including the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, to advance the City’s interests. We do not currently fund a federal contract lobbyist or designated internal position for federal communications. Right now, we temporarily have an auxiliary lobbyist working on federal issues but this generally falls within the Director’s scope of responsibility.