



Notes From Inside The Beltway

HUD

Carson Defends CDBG Elimination, Other Cuts: HUD Secretary Ben Carson fervently defended the proposed Trump Administration's request to cut HUD's operating budget by \$7 billion in FY 2018, reducing it to \$41 billion. It was his first budget face-off with Congress. The biggest cut -- the \$3 billion a year Community Development Block Grant program -- is greeted with skepticism by both the Senate and House HUD appropriations subcommittees a day apart this week. Carson defended the cuts as a way to focus on primary HUD goals in a time of tight money. Lawmakers tell Carson his position on the CDBG is indefensible when HUD's own website touts the effectiveness of the program in job creation, senior assistance, and home rehabilitation projects. Carson stood fast under a wave of criticism explaining that in a time of tight budgets, "we have to be able to concentrate on what our primary goals are." That followed a Carson revelation that CDBG money was being squandered on "spay and neuter clinics and flowers along highways."

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