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## Housing Spending Up Considerably

Congress embraced a 2,232-page Omnibus FY 2018 spending blueprint unveiled hours before lawmakers were to vote on it to mute the details and the acceptance is a blow to the Trump administration's campaign to cut federal spending.

The bill reinforces HUD programs dramatically across-the board. But if President Donald Trump vetoes the proposal and Congress fails to act on a stopgap spending law, the government is in for a shutdown, however brief.

The \$1.3 trillion proposal -- at \$582 million per page while still failing to grant Trump's key requests -- likely could result in a temporary spending law for the remainder of the fiscal years through Sept. 30 if the president stands firm on his requests.

The budget reflects the recent Republican spending deal with Democrats to keep the government in operation -- the addition of \$150 billion to this year's spending to satisfy Democrat demands for a boost in domestic spending in return for added Defense appropriations.

In return for a \$61 billion bump in military spending, HUD will receive \$4.6 billion more than provided in the FY 2017 bill and \$12 billion more than the president's request. The administration wanted to slash the HUD budget by \$7.4 billion or 15% compared with FY 2017 levels.

The proposal is a clear rejection of the Trump administration's campaign for a leaner government and tells Trump he won't get what he wants in the FY 2019 budget.

The 10% increase also funds programs above the levels originally set by the House and Senate in their FY 2018 deliberations, and it is a clear victory for affordable housing advocates who mounted a massive lobbying campaign with the 2018 mid-term elections and their political clout in the forefront.

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