Disability Policy in the 116th Congress

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By the end of today

• Who’s Who in Congress & the Disability Policy Agenda
• Authorizing vs. Appropriating
• Appropriations Update
• Authorizing Update
  • Education
  • Employment
• How to Take Action
• Your Questions
What is my big question about federal policy?
The Federal Budget and Appropriations 101
Pop Quiz:
In which fiscal year is the federal government currently operating?

A. 2019
B. 2020
C. I HAVE NO IDEA
Authorization vs. Appropriation

“authorizes”
legal power
Federal departments, agencies, and programs
funding levels

sets funds
discretionary spending
actual funds
expired laws
• In principle, Authorizing Committees have jurisdiction to make policy decisions, while the Appropriations Committees decide on funding levels.

• In practice, the separation between policy making and funding are not perfect. Authorizations for many programs have long lapsed, yet still receive annual appropriations. Other programs that are authorized receive no funds at all.

Authorizers make laws and appropriators fund them.
Pop Quiz:
Does Congress have to follow the President’s budget?

A. Yes.
B. No.
C. I don’t know, tell me more.
FY 2020: Department of Education Budget

ED proposed to eliminate or level fund. Congress has not agreed:

• ESSA: Title II-Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (eliminate)

• IDEA: Part B (very small increases)

• HEA: Title II: Teacher Education Recruitment, Training (eliminate)
Total Federal Spending

Federal Spending in FY 2018 (Dollars in Billions)

- Net interest: $316 (7.6%)
- Nondefense Discretionary: $622 (15.0%)
- Defense Discretionary: $658 (15.9%)
- Mandatory: $2,546 (61.5%)

Total: $3,842 (100%)
**Pop Quiz:**
Who is the Chair of the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee?

A. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

B. Tom Cole (R-OK)

C. Rosa Delauro (D-CT)
The Appropriations Process

- **Feb-March**: President’s FY 2020 budget released marking the beginning of appropriations process
- **March - April**: Members of Congress submit their appropriations priorities to subcommittees
- **May - July**: Congress takes testimony, holds hearings, marks-up bills
- **August**: Staff work through August recess to finalize appropriations bills
- **Sept- Dec**: Congress and President finalize bill(s) or pass continuing resolution by September 30
- **Today**: House passing bills on Floor, Senate is in committee

Federal agencies finalize FY2020 recommendations
All bills nearly ready for the Floor. Five-bill ‘minibus’ this week.

Negotiations
White House Senate/House Leadership and Appropriators

Senate
No bills through committee.