



Van Scoyoc Associates Washington Update

June 6, 2019

WHITE HOUSE

President Donald Trump signed the \$19.1 billion in disaster relief package into law on Thursday. Among its provisions, the bill provides approximately \$1.4 billion for Puerto Rico, including \$600 million in nutrition assistance; assistance for farmers and rural communities; funding to repair infrastructure and stabilize health care systems; and repairs and reconstruction at damaged federal facilities. A summary of the bill is available [here](#).

116TH CONGRESS

Immigration Reform/DACA

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the Trump administration's request to fast track a decision on whether it will hear a case over the president's rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

On Wednesday, the House passed the American Dream and Promise Act of 2019 ([H.R. 6](#)) on a vote of 237-187, with seven Republicans voting yes. The bill would create a new legal pathway for young undocumented immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children, known as Dreamers, and for those with Temporary Protected Status, granted to immigrants whose countries are ravaged by natural disaster or violence. It is almost certain to die in the Republican-led Senate, and President Trump said he would veto the measure if presented to him.

BUDGET/APPROPRIATIONS

Appropriations

The House Appropriations Committee has approved FY20 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill on a vote of 29 to 21. The House bill included language aimed at blocking USDA's planned relocation of ERS and NIFA, although the agency has narrowed site selections and is expected to announce a new location shortly. Total discretionary funding in the legislation is \$24.310 billion – \$1 billion above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. The committee is set to markup the FY20 Homeland Security and Financial Services Appropriations bills next Tuesday.

The House floor will take up its first minibus spending bill, [H.R. 2740](#), which covers Defense, Labor-HHS-Education, State and Foreign Operations, Energy and Water, and Legislative Branch spending beginning on Wednesday, June 12th. A division-by-division summary is available [here](#).

Budget

Republican leaders are hoping to meet next week with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and other White House advisers to discuss a budget caps and debt limit deal, Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) said. Shelby said McConnell is leading the effort to negotiate a deal with Democrats that will raise the caps and allow appropriators to begin moving their FY2020 bills with higher numbers.

The Congressional Budget Office was working on 51 cost estimates and 21 analytics reports at the beginning of the month, according to a [letter](#) from new Director Phillip Swagel to top members of the House and Senate Budget Committees.

ECONOMIC INNOVATION

Interview: Dan Nordberg, Region 8 administrator

As Region 8 administrator, Dan Nordberg oversees delivery of the U.S. Small Business Administration's services in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Montana. A Colorado State University graduate, Nordberg served in the Colorado House of Representatives from 2013 to 2018 and is a former business development specialist at a resort hotel in Colorado Springs. He spoke with Prairie Business about the SBA, where he has served as Region 8 administrator in Denver since early last year. Read the interview: [Prairie Business Magazine](#)

House Small Business Committee

The subcommittee on Small Business Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development held a hearing to address the employment skills gap through apprenticeships and training programs. Panelists discussed ways private industry, academia and the government have partnered to meet the workforce needs of small businesses. Joshua Broder, CEO of Tillson described how his company enlisted a state community college system to develop an industry registered apprenticeship program to support career development of the telecommunications workforce. The program enabled the company to fulfill their rapid growth needs and support the local economy. Hearing summary [here](#).

SCIENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

WHITE HOUSE/OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

OSTP released two reports about a national strategy in wireless communications through 5G technology. The [Research and Development Priorities for American Leadership in Wireless Communications](#) report three spectrum priority areas: advance spectrum agility and flexibility to use new waveforms and multiple bands; build up near real-time spectrum awareness; and boost spectrum effectiveness and efficiency through secure autonomous spectrum decision-making. The [Emerging Technologies and their Expected Impact on Non-Federal Spectrum Demand](#) report looks at 5G and Wi-Fi technologies and how they will use spectrum in the future.

OSTP convened a roundtable of agency and university leaders last Friday to discuss plans for implementing the National Quantum Initiative (NQI) Act. Attendees and agenda [here](#). The Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation are gearing up to create new research centers dedicated to quantum information science (QIS), while the National Institute of Standards and Technology is forming a quantum economic development consortium to assess R&D needs across industry.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

The annual [GAO report](#) on NASA programs concluded that cost and schedule performance "continues to deteriorate." It attributes the decline largely to problems with the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and the Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion spacecraft. GAO found that "cost growth has increased to 27.6 percent and the average launch delay is approximately 13 months, the largest schedule delay we have ever reported."

GPS System for Space

NASA plans to launch an Atomic Clock into space on June 22 that will alter how spacecraft navigates through space. Built by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, the Deep Space Atomic Clock is a demonstration project that will help spacecraft navigate autonomously through deep space. The instrument will be tested in Earth orbit for one year, with the goal of being ready for future missions to other worlds. More at [Physics.org](#)

House Science, Space and Technology Committee

The House passed four bills, which originated in the SS&T committee, addressing ocean acidification. The bills will reauthorize the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act; address socioeconomic effects of ocean and

coastal acidification and assess adaptation and mitigation strategies and establish an Advisory Board on ocean acidification and coastal acidification research to advise the Interagency Working Group. Summaries of the bills [here](#).

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Senate Finance Committee

The committee held a hearing on foreign threats to taxpayer-funded research. The focus of the hearing was on research funded by the National Institutes of Health and vetting within its grant process. Invited witnesses were from the National Institutes of Health, Health and Human Services Office of National Security, the Health and Human Service Inspector General, and the Department of Homeland Security. Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) expressed frustration that the FBI Counterintelligence Division failed to provide a witness after repeated outreach. During witness questioning, panelists declined to supply some details saying a more sensitive environment was needed and were presumably addressed in a classified briefing later in the day. In a second abbreviated panel, Dr Joe Gray, Director of Biomedical Engineering Director at Oregon Health & Science University, was asked how he would react to a research colleague who failed to disclose foreign financial contributions. He responded that in the academic research environment “people are often not clear about the exact rules, about what needs to be disclosed, about the extent to which it needs to be disclosed.” He further stated that until disclosure rules are clarified, researchers would not be able to comply. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) said he will introduce a bill next week, called “Secure Our Research Act,” which would establish an interagency working group to set up a compliance framework to protect federally funded research from foreign interference, espionage and exfiltration.

DEFENSE RESEARCH

Rehousing DARPA’s future warfare research office

The Department of Defense is reportedly looking to move the Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO) out of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and centralize more warfare and technology research units under the Pentagon’s Chief Technology Officer Michael Griffin. More at [Reuters](#)

House Armed Services Committees

The committee completed all of its FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) subcommittee markups this week. The full committee will meet next week to complete consideration of the bill. Subcommittee documents [here](#).

Senate Armed Services Committees

The committee advanced by 25-2 their \$750 billion FY20 NDAA on Wednesday, May 22, in a closed-door vote.

AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has released a [notice of proposed rule](#), *Movement of Certain Genetically Engineered Organisms*, to update the department’s biotechnology regulations pertaining to the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of genetically modified organisms.