

# Legislative Forecast for the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

**July 1, 2016**

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# A Guide to This Legislative Forecast

## Issues Covered in This Month's Legislative Forecast

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- Affordable Care Act
- Appropriations
- Chemical Reform
- Conflict in Iraq and Syria
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Cybersecurity
- Defense Appropriations
- Energy and Environment
- Federal Reserve\*
- Gun Control
- Immigration
- International Trade
- LGBT Rights
- Mental Health
- Opioid Abuse and Heroin Epidemic
- Puerto Rico Bailout
- Tax Reform
- Zika Funding

## Archived Issues (Major Legislative or Administration Actions in 2015)

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- Debt Ceiling
- Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank
- Highway Trust Fund
- Iran Nuclear Negotiations
- Keystone XL
- Medicare
- PATRIOT Act/USA FREEDOM Act
- Elementary and Secondary Education
- Tax Reform

*Please see previous legislative forecasts or contact the Presentation Center for details on these topics.*

*\*These legislative issues have not changed over the course of the past month*



# The Legislative Agenda for 2016

## Prospective Items on Legislative Agenda in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	<b>Approps:</b> President's FY16 Budget Request <b>Iraq &amp; Syria:</b> Partial ceasefire went into effect		<b>Approps:</b> Senate plans to consider individual appropriations bills, pending cooperation with budget committee <b>Energy &amp; Environment:</b> U.S. signed Paris Climate Treaty	<b>Opioids:</b> House declared "Opioid Week" <b>Approps:</b> House started considering spending bills	<b>TSCA:</b> Bill signed into law <b>Puerto Rico:</b> Bill sent to president's desk <b>Immigration:</b> SCOTUS struck down DAPA	<b>Cyber:</b> possible DHS cyber hub reorg.	<b>Summer Recess</b> <i>(July 16 – Sep 6)</i>		<b>Beginning of FY17</b>		

### Possible Actions, Timing Unknown

- Criminal Justice Reform:** Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015 may by the end of the year
- Defense Appropriations:** Senate is expected to vote on NDAA before August recess
- Energy:** Congress hopes to bring comprehensive energy bill to president's desk by July
- Gun Control:** Following its passage in the House, the Countering Terrorist Radicalization Act is expected to receive vote in Senate; it is expected to pass
- International Trade:** Congressional vote on TPP to happen after November election, if at all
- LGBT Rights:** Rep. Maloney (D-NY) expected to reintroduce anti-discrimination amendment
- Mental Health Reform:** Congressional consideration of Mental Health Reform Act of 2015 expected this summer
- Opioid Epidemic:** House and Senate to begin conference negotiations on comprehensive opioid legislation
- Zika:** Congress hoping to agree on funding to combat virus before summer recess

Sources: National Journal Research, 2016; Noun Project, Phil Laver.



# Affordable Care Act

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on the Affordable Care Act

- 2012 ○ ***NFIB v. Sebelius* Decision:** The Supreme Court decided that penalties imposed enforcing the ACA's individual mandate are a constitutional application of Congress's taxing and spending power; however, the law's provision stripping Medicaid funding from states if they did not opt-in to the Medicaid expansion was ruled unconstitutionally coercive.
- May 2015 ○ **FY2016 Budget Resolution:** The joint budget resolution sets forth reconciliation provisions which allows the Senate to pass ACA repeal without the possibility of a filibuster.
- June 2015 ○ ***King v. Burwell* Decision:** The Supreme Court upheld federal subsidies for all eligible Americans under ACA. The decision allowed the administration to move forward with ACA implementation without the threat of legal challenges to the basic structure of the law.
- Oct 2015 ○ **Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015:** The budget compromise struck repeals the automatic-enrollment provision of the ACA, which forces employers with 200 or more employees to automatically enroll new employees in employer-sponsored healthcare plans.
- Jan 2016 ○ **Congress Sends ACA Repeal to President's Desk; Obama Vetoes Measure, Veto Upheld:** Both chambers of Congress passed the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act of 2015, marking the first time Congress sent a repeal of the ACA to the president's desk. As expected, the president vetoed the measure and the House failed to reach the two-thirds threshold needed to override the veto.
- Jan 2016 ○ ***House v. Burwell* Decision:** In a win for House Republicans, a federal judge ruled that the Obama administration has been improperly funding cost-sharing subsidies for low-income Americans. The ruling claimed that Congress authorized the program but never appropriated the money. If these subsidies are eliminated, insurance premiums would likely rise to make up for the loss. The administration is expected to appeal.

### Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- The Supreme Court decided to remand *Zubik v. Burwell* to the lower courts, effectively delaying a decision on whether the contraceptive-coverage mandate and its 'accommodation' to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act is constitutional. Prior to reaching the Supreme Court, five appeals courts ruled in favor of the mandate, and one ruled against.
- House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) released the first leadership-endorsed plan to replace the ACA called, "A Better Way to Fix Health Care"
- Proposals in the GOP health policy agenda include, a refundable tax credit for individual health care plans, allowing consumers to purchase health insurance across state lines, and fund high risk insurance pools.

For more on Speaker Ryan's Health Reform Agenda, see this [presentation](#)

Sources: National Journal Research, 2016; Mark J. Mazur, "Continuing to Implement the ACA in a Careful, Thoughtful Manner," Department of the Treasury, July 2, 2013; Lyle Denniston, "Argument Analysis: Setting up the private debate on the ACA," SCOTUSblog, Mar 4, 2015; Susan Ferrehio, "Congress joint budget deal could pave path to Obamacare repeal," Washington Examiner, April 20, 2015; Sen. Mike Enzi and Rep. Tom Price, "FY2016 Conference Agreement," House Budget Committee, May 2015; MaryBeth Musumeci, "A Guide to the Supreme Court's Affordable Care Act Decision," The Kaiser Family Foundation, July 2012; Josh Gerstein and Lauren French, "House Files Obamacare lawsuit," Politico, November 21, 2014; Skadden, "King v. Burwell: Round 2 for the Affordable Care Act," July 10, 2015; National Association of Community Health Centers, "Victory for the ACA: Moving Forward After King v. Burwell," June 30, 2015; Justin Haskins, "Budget Deal Ends Obamacare Enrollment Mandate," The Heartland Institute, Nov 11, 2015; Alexander Bolton, "McConnell leans on presidential candidates in bid to save ObamaCare repeal," The Hill, Nov 22, 2015; Alexander Bolton, "Senate Approves Bill Repealing Much of Obamacare," The Hill, December 3, 2015; House Rules Committee, "Subcommittee Hearing: H.R. 1610—Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act of 2015," Dec 2015; Peter Sullivan, "House passes ObamaCare repeal, sending measure to president," The Hill, Jan 6, 2016; Scotusblog, "Zubik v. Burwell," 2016; Kelsey Snell and Mike DeBonis, "Inside Paul Ryan's Quest to Set the Republican Agenda," Washington Post, April 21, 2016; Jennifer Haberkorn, "GOP Wins Obamacare Lawsuit," Politico, May 12, 2016; Lyle Denniston, "Opinion Analysis: A Compromise, With Real Impact, on Birth Control," SCOTUSblog, May 16, 2016.

# \$ Appropriations

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Appropriations

- Nov 2015 ○ **Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015:** A compromise budget deal was signed into law, increasing both defense and nondefense spending, cutting some entitlement spending, and specifies defense spending for fiscal year 2017.
- Feb 2016 ○ **President's FY17 Budget Request:** The President's Budget request adhered to the numbers set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, and included several initiatives with potential bipartisan support, including a cancer research program and an opioid epidemic response.
- May 2016 ○ **Senate Passes Energy and Water Approp. Bill:** The Senate passed the year's first appropriations bill after settling tense disagreement surrounding the Iran Heavy Water Amendment (which was struck down). The bill appropriates \$37.5 billion, an increase of \$355 million over 2016 levels.
- May 2016 ○ **House Energy and Water Approp. Bill Fails:** The House version of the Energy and Water spending bill failed to pass (112-305). Democrats already opposed parts of the spending bill when the House erupted in fierce debate over an amendment concerning LGBT rights.
- May 2016 ○ **Senate Passes Joint Milcon-VA/Housing and Transportation Approp. Bill Fails:** The Senate approved a comprehensive bill that contained appropriations for the DOT (\$16.9B), Department of VA (\$74.9B), Department of HUD (\$39.2B), and for military construction (\$7.9B).
- June 2016 ○ **House Passes Defense and Legislative Branch Spending Bills:** The House succeeded in passing two more appropriations bills: Defense (\$517B in base funding, \$59B in OCO), and Legislative Branch (\$3.48B).

## Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

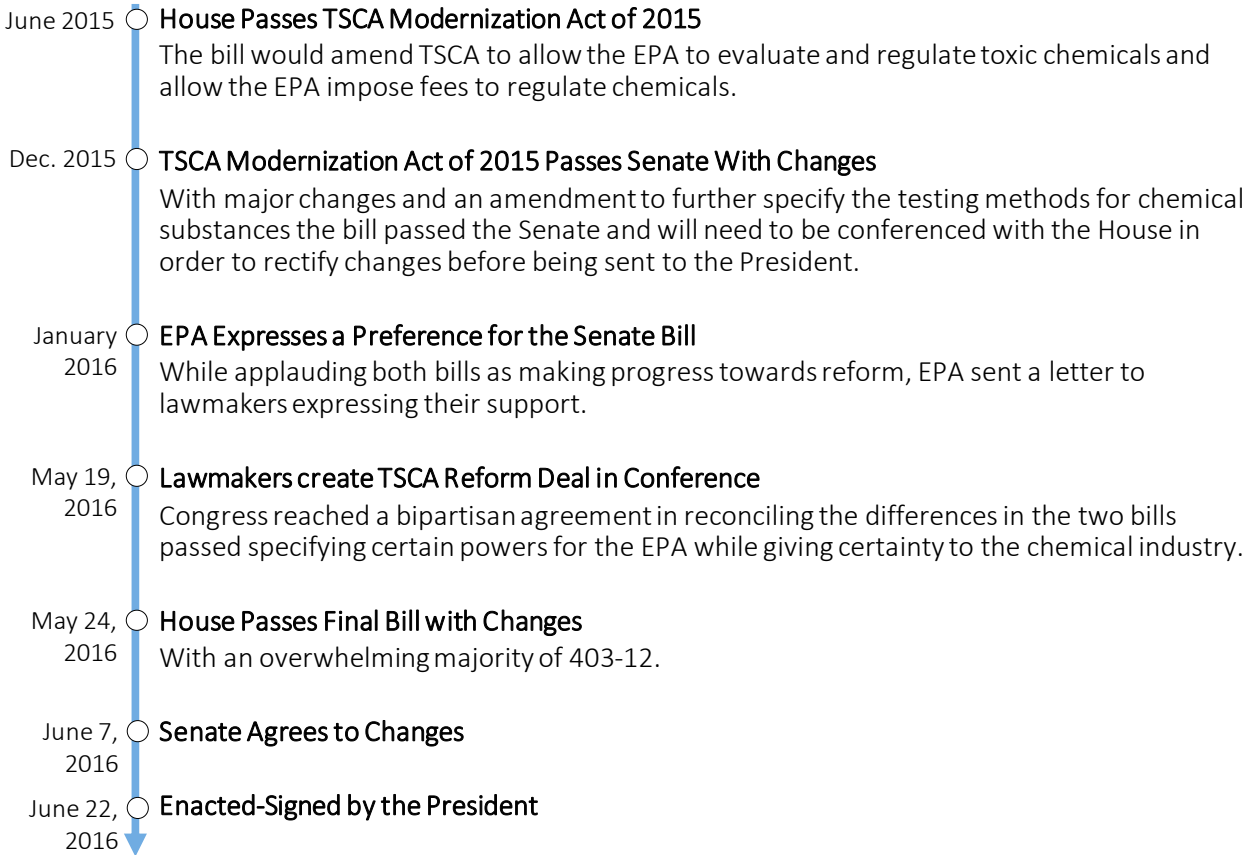
- Both the House and the Senate failed to pass a budget resolution and have instead opted to pass all 12 appropriations bills individually, adhering to the levels set forth in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.
- Republican plans for passing all twelve appropriations bills via "regular order" is expected to fall short, likely resulting in another stopgap bill or omnibus package.
- All appropriations bills have made it out of committee except three: the House Labor/HHS bill, and both Senate and House State/Foreign Ops bills.
- There are only two weeks left in session when Congress returns from its 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. The long summer recess then lasts from July 16 to September 6. It is unlikely that Congress will make significant progress on appropriations before September.

Source: Kelsey Snell, "House Republicans Struggle to End Budget Standoff," *The Washington Post*, February 29, 2016; Jake Sherman and Lauren French, "Ryan confronts budget meltdown," *Politico*, March 15, 2016; John Bresnahan and Rachel Bade, "Ryan calls members-only meeting to hash out budget," *Politico*, April 29, 2016; James Arkin, "LGBT Issues Sink House Appropriations Bill," May 26, 2016; Jon Reid, "House GOP Mulls Options After More Floor Fireworks," *Morning Consult*, May 26, 2016; GovTrack, "H.R. 5055: Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017," May 26, 2016; Rebecca Kheel, "House Passes \$576B Defense Spending Bill," *The Hill*, June 16, 2016; Congress.Gov, "Roll Call No. 332," June 16, 2016; U.S. House of Representatives, "Roll Call 266," May 26, 2016; House Appropriations Committee, "FY2017 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill Released," April 19, 2016; Press Release, "Senate Approves FY17 Funding For the VA, Transportation, and Housing," U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, May 19, 2016; Senate Roll Call Votes, Senate.gov, May 2016; Jordan Carney, "Senate Passes Broad Spending Bill With \$1.1B in Zika Funds," *The Hill*, May 19, 2016; Press Release, "Senate Approves FY17 Funding For the VA, Transportation, and Housing," U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, May 19, 2016; Senate Roll Call Votes, Senate.gov, May 2016; Jordan Carney, "Senate Passes Broad Spending Bill With \$1.1B in Zika Funds," *The Hill*, May 19, 2016.



# Chemical Reform

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Chemical Reform



### Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- No further pending legislation.

Sources: Lisa Jackson, "Remarks Prepared to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco," EPA, September 29, 2009; Timothy Cama, "EPA Largely Prefers Senate's Chemical Safety Bill," The Hill, March 3, 2016; GovTrack, "Text of TSCA Modernization Act of 2015," December 17, 2015; Chemical Watch, "Udall: 'Confident' TSCA Reform Will Be Passed This Year," 2 March, 2016; Asha Glover, "House Overwhelmingly Passes TSCA Overhaul," May 24, 2016; Congress.gov, "H.R. 2572;" Juliet Eilperinand Darryl Fears, "Congress is Overhauling an Outdated Law that Affects Nearly Every Product You Own," Washington Post, May 19, 2016.



# Conflict in Iraq and Syria

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on the Iraq and Syria Conflict

- Aug 2014 ○ **President Authorizes Limited Airstrikes in Iraq:** In response to ISIS militant activity and a dire humanitarian situation in Mount Sinjar, the White House authorized limited airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq. U.S. military aircraft was also used to drop food and water in the region. This represented the first escalation of US military activity in Iraq since the US withdrew from the country in late 2011.
- Feb 2015 ○ **Proposed AUMF Against ISIS:** The President again requested congressional authorization for military action against the Islamic State in the Middle East. The proposal would have repealed the 2002 legislation that authorized President Bush's invasion of Iraq in 2003, but would keep in place the 2001 legislation that authorized the war in Afghanistan and efforts against terrorism that have been conducted since then. Congress did not vote on the bill.
- Dec 2015 ○ **Visa Waiver Program Restricted by FY16 Omnibus:** A provision in the omnibus spending law further restricts visa-free travel to the US, based on a person's dual nationality and previous travel history.
- Feb 2016 ○ **Partial Ceasefire Agreement:** The US-led coalition, Russia, and parties in Syria agreed to a ceasefire agreement that came into effect on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. The ceasefire does not prohibit attacks on ISIS or other UN designated terrorist organizations.
- May 2016 ○ **Congressional Defense Bills Authorize and Appropriate Funds for Training Iraq Army, Kurdish Peshmerga and Vetted Syrian Opposition:** Both the Senate and House authorization and appropriations bill seek around \$1 billion for training forces fighting against ISIL. The bills also demand studies be taken about the feasibility of a no-fly zone in Syria.
- June 2016 ○ **State Department Employees Issued Dissent; Called For Direct Strikes Against Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad:** 51 State Department officials used a channel to ask for change in official U.S. foreign policy and begin targeted strikes against Assad.

## Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- There has been little to suggest that a compromise will be reached between Democrats, who want any new AUMF to restrict the President's authority, and Republicans, who do not want to limit the administration's military options
- Russia continues to blatantly ignores the ceasefire, targeting rebel troops in Aleppo in support of Bashar Al-Assad.
- Iraqi forces have successfully taken control of Fallujah, the second largest ISIL-held Iraqi city. The next step is preparing operations to take Mosul, the largest city held by ISIL.
- U.S. backed rebels are currently attempting to take Abu Kamal, a border town between Syria and Iraq, which is a critical supply and communications linchpin for ISIL. If the town were to be captured, this would pose significant logistical difficulties for ISIL.
- Recent State Department dissent indicates mid-level dissatisfaction with policy, but will probably not shift U.S. policy in Iraq and Syria during Obama administration.

Sources: Peter Baker and Ashley Parker, "Congress Shows a Lack of Enthusiasm for Giving Obama War Powers to Fight ISIS," New York Times, Feb 21, 2015; Helene Cooper, Mark Landler, and Alissa J. Rubin, "Obama Allows Limited Airstrikes on ISIS," New York Times, Aug 7, 2014; Lauren Leatherby, "Whatever Happened to the Debate Over Use of Force Against ISIS?" June 17, 2015; Patricia Zengerle, "U.S. Spending bill tightens visa waiver program," Reuters, Dec 16, 2015; Noun Project, Ted Grajeda; Anne Barnard and Sewell Chan, "Talks on Syria Seek to Extend Fragile Truce to Aleppo," The New York Times, May 2, 2016; Ben Watson and Bradley Pentson, "The D Brief," Defense One, June 1, 2016; Tamer El-Ghobashy and Ghassan Adnan, "Iraqi Forces Take Full Control of Fallujah From Islamic State," Wall Street Journal, June 26, 2016; BBC, "Syria Conflict: Rebels 'Move on IS-Held Town Near Iraq Border,'" June 29, 2016; Julian Hattam, "State Stands By Syria Policy Despite Internal Dissent," The Hill, June 17, 2016.



# Criminal Justice Reform

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Criminal Justice Reform

- Oct 2015 ○ **Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015:** The Senate Judiciary Committee reported out of committee a bipartisan criminal justice bill that would reduce penalties for repeat drug offenders and eliminate the “three strikes” mandatory life sentence. In addition, the CORRECTIONS Act that focuses on federal prison programming, was folded into the SRCA.
- Nov 2015 ○ **Criminal Code Improvement Act of 2015:** The House Judiciary Committee reported out of committee a bill that would require prosecutors to prove that defendants “knew, or had reason to believe, the conduct was unlawful.”
- Nov 2015 ○ **Sentencing Reform Act of 2015:** The House Judiciary Committee reported out of committee a bill that would permit a court to reduce the mandatory minimum prison term imposed on certain non-violent defendants convicted of a first-time or low-level drug offense.
- Dec 2015 ○ **Bipartisan Meeting:** President Obama convened a meeting of 13 members of Congress to encourage bipartisan reform of the criminal justice system.
- Dec 2015 ○ **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2015:** Senate Judiciary Committee issued a report to the full chamber recommending the bill be considered further.
- Feb 2016 ○ **Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015:** Senator Tom Cotton (R) opposed the bill and held up the progress of the bill in the Senate.
- April 2016 ○ **Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015:** Senators reveal a compromise bill with revisions to sway other Senators that were opposed of the original write up of the bill in February.

### Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Supporters of the bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee must now persuade Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to take up the legislation this year.
- President Obama has expressed interest in prison reform and could plausibly sign a bipartisan reform bill in 2016 before leaving office pending Congressional action.

Sources: *The Supreme Court of the United States*, “Brown, Governor of California et al. v. Plata et al.” October 2010. David McCabe, “Senators Unveil Prison Reform Bill,” *The Hill*, February 10, 2015; *Congress.gov*, “S.2123 – Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015,” 114<sup>th</sup> Congress (2015-2016), October 2015; Jack Martinez, “Senators Announce Bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform Legislation,” *Newsweek*, October 1, 2015; Juliet Eilperin and Mike DeBonis, “Obama Convenes Meeting on Criminal Justice Reform to Buoy Bipartisanship,” *Washington Post*, December 3, 2015; Seung Min Kim, “Cotton Leads Effort to Sink Sentencing Overhaul,” *The Hill*, January 25, 2016; *Associated Press*, “Tom Cotton Holds Up Juvenile Justice Overhaul in the Senate,” *Arkansas Online*, February 12, 2016; Seung Min, Kim, “Compromise Struck on Criminal Justice Reform,” *Politico*, April 28, 2016.





# Cybersecurity

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Cybersecurity

- Dec 2015 ○ **CISA Signed Into Law as Provision of FY16 Omnibus Appropriations:** Congress slipped a version of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act into the omnibus appropriations bill during final days of negotiations. CISA encourages private corporations to share cyber threats with each other and with the federal government, incentivizing companies through liability protections.
- Feb 2016 ○ **President Signed the Judicial Redress Act:** The passage of the law was an integral piece of the EU-US "PrivacyShield" agreement, a replacement for "Safe Harbor," which offered privacy protections to EU citizens' data that was transferred to the U.S. After the European Court of Justice ruled these protections inadequate and struck down Safe Harbor, Congress passed and the President signed the Judicial Redress Act, which extends the Privacy Act of 1974 to citizens of specified U.S. allies, providing them with, among other rights, the opportunity to bring privacy violation lawsuits before U.S. courts.
- May-June 2016 ○ **National Defense Authorization Act for FY17 Passes House and Senate:** The House passed a version of the NDAA in May, with significant differences from the version that passed the Senate in June (see box at right for information on its path forward).
- June 2016 ○ **The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Agency Act of 2016:** Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee on June 8, the bill would reorganize the Department of Homeland Security's cybersecurity operations, replacing the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) with a new unit called the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Agency (CIP).
- June 2016 ○ **The Cyber Preparedness Act of 2016:** Sent to the full House Homeland Security Committee following subcommittee markup on June 16, the bill calls for more streamlined communication on cybersecurity matters between federal, state, and local authorities, and would also enable homeland security grants to be put toward cybersecurity purposes.

**Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress**

- The NDAA next heads to conference committee where the House and Senate will have to reconcile the discrepancies between their versions. The bill faces a veto threat from President Obama, with one of many objections related to the provision in the House NDAA that would make U.S. Cyber Command into its own combatant command, rather than remain under U.S. Strategic Command.
- Renewed attention on the encryption debate could spur congressional action, though obstacles remain. The House Homeland Security Committee recently brought the issue back into the spotlight with the release of an encryption report on June 28, but legislation faces an uphill battle. A draft bill put forth by Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) in April would require tech companies to comply with government requests for encrypted data. The bill has sparked controversy and does not appear likely to move ahead in the near future.

Sources: Joshua Higgins, "Lawmakers May Consider Amending Cyber Law As Implementation Progresses," *Inside Cybersecurity*, June 17, 2016; Sheila A. Millar, Tracy P. Marshall, and Nathan A. Cardon, "Obama Signs Judicial Redress Act-Will It Move EU-U.S. Privacy Shield Forward?" *The National Law Review*, February 27, 2016; Jeremy Herb, "Morning Defense," *Politico*, May 19, 2016; Katie Bo Williams, "House, Senate At Odds on New Authority for Cyber War Unit," *The Hill*, May 20, 2016; Missy Ryan and Karen DeYoung, "White House, Citing Long List of Objections, Threatens Veto of Defense Bill," *The Washington Post*, June 7, 2016; Press Release, "Donovan Introduces Bill to Bolster Country's Cybersecurity Defenses," June 14, 2016; Katie Bo Williams, "DHS cyber Reorganization Bill Advances in House," *Politico*, June 8, 2016; Department of Homeland Security, "Cyber and Infrastructure Protection Transition Way Ahead: Fiscal Year 2016 Report to Congress," March 17, 2016.



# Defense Appropriations

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Defense

- Feb 2016 ○ **President Submitted FY2017 Budget Request:** The request provided \$524 billion in base discretionary funding for national defense and \$59 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), a total of \$583 billion.
- May 2016 ○ **House Passed H.R. 4909: National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2017; Obama Threatened to Veto the Bill:** In a 277-147 vote, the House of Representatives passed the NDAA for FY2017. It authorized \$543 billion in base discretionary funding and \$59 billion in OCO funds. The White House threatened to veto House NDAA because \$23 billion in OCO funds are for base funding, which would result in overseas operations only being funded through April 2017.
- May 2016 ○ **Senate Appropriations Committee Approved FY 2017 Defense Appropriations Bill:** The Senate Appropriations bill provided \$516 billion in base spending and \$59 billion in OCO funds. Senate version fully funds overseas contingency operations.
- June 2016 ○ **Senate Approved S. 2943: National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017:** Senate approved \$602 billion defense authorization bill on 85-13 vote. Unlike the House version, the Senate fully funded OCO at the president's request. The Senate version also included measure requiring women to register for the selective service, unlike the House version, which removed the amendment requiring women to register for the selective service
- June 2016 ○ **House Approved H.R. 5923: FY 2017 Defense Appropriations Bill:** The House approved the \$576 billion defense spending bill. The bill provided \$517 billion in base spending and \$59 billion in OCO funding. The OCO fund contained \$16 billion in base spending, which means the fund will only fund contingency and overseas operations until April 2017

## Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- The Senate and House will begin the process of conferecing the NDAA. The biggest contention will be over OCO funding. President Obama's threat to veto the House defense authorization and appropriations bills because of the reduced OCO funding will loom over Congress as they seek to reconcile these differences.
- The two NDAs also contains differences on whether women should register for the Selective Service. The Senate is for it while the House does not contain a similar provision. This contentious issue will have to be reconciled in conference. A possible compromise would be eliminating the Selective Service altogether
- The last remaining bill that needs to pass its respective chamber is the Senate Defense Appropriations bill. The Senate will most likely work to pass the bill before it breaks for August recess.

Sources: The White House: Office of Management and Budget, "The President's Budget: Department of Defense," February 9, 2016; U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, "National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2017 Report," May 12, 2016; House Armed Services Committee, "H.R. Report 114-537: National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2017: Report of the Committee on Armed Services on H.R. 4909," May 4, 2016; Kristina Wong, "White House Issues Veto Threat Over House Defense Policy Bill," The Hill, May 16, 2016; Kristina Wong, "House Passes \$610B Defense Policy Bill," The Hill, May 18, 2016; House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, "House Appropriations Committee Releases the Fiscal Year 2017 Defense Bill," May 10, 2016; Senate Appropriations Committee, "S. Report-114-263: Department of Defense Appropriations Bill," May 26, 2016; Rebecca Kheel, "House Passes \$576B Defense Spending Bill," The Hill, June 16, 2016; Jordan Carney, "Senate Approves Wide Ranging Defense Policy Bill," The Hill, June 14, 2016



# Energy and Environment

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Energy

- Dec 2015 ○ **Obama signed law lifting 40 year crude oil export ban:** For the first time since the 1970s oil crisis, US crude oil producers would be able to export their product.
- Feb. 2016 ○ **The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) releases the president's fiscal year 2017 budget proposal:** President Obama's fiscal year budget proposal was released that included a \$10.25 tax per barrel on oil.
- Mar. 2016 ○ **President Obama rejected Atlantic Coast drilling plan:** The BLM said they would not permit oil and gas exploration off the Atlantic Coast.  
**Bureau of Land Management began its public-land coal review process:** The BLM started its review of coal use on public lands while a moratorium is on public land coal permits.
- Apr. 2016 ○ **House and Senate Appropriations Committee Pass Energy and Water Appropriations Bills:** Bills funding Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies passed committees and awaits approval in both full chambers.  
**Senate Passed S.2012, "Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016:** The Senate passed a comprehensive energy bill that reforms LNG exports, increases grid security, and permanently reauthorizes the LWCF among other things.  
**U.S. signed Paris Climate Agreement:** Secretary of State John Kerry signed the most extensive climate change agreement in history. Since it is not a treaty, there is no need for Senate approval.
- May 12, 2016 ○ **Senate Passes Energy and Water Development Appropriations**  
 Provides \$355 million more than FY2016 levels and \$261 million more than the President's Budget Request
- May 25, 2016 ○ **House Passes S.2012, "Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016":**  
 House passed the bill with changes including the absence of permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

## Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Both the House and the Senate have passed the same version of a comprehensive energy bill. The next step is to reconcile small differences in them and submit one bill to the president's desk. However there are a few challenges: (1) coordinating between the Senate and House to meet on the bill during a very sparse legislative calendar, (2) potential inertia because of the presidential election season and (3) the House bill is much more partisan in nature making it harder to reconcile it to the more bipartisan Senate version.
- The Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Bill should be expected to move forward eventually, but expect for continued delays as the House and Senate work to pass and reconcile their two respective versions once the House passes a version of the bill.

Sources: "US Spending Bill Lifts 40-year Ban On Crude Oil Exports Ban," BBC News, December 18, 2015; GovTrack.us, January 28, 2016; Office of Management and Budget; Jennifer Dlouhy, "Obama Bars Atlantic Offshore Oil Drilling in Policy Reversal," Bloomberg News, March 15, 2016; Timothy Cama, "Feds Start Public-Land Coal Review Process," The Hill, March 24, 2016; Doyle Rice, "175 Nations Sign Historic Paris Climate Deal on Earth Day," USA Today, April 22, 2016; Senate Appropriation; Kyle Feldscher, "Senate Passes Energy Bill with Huge Bipartisan Support," Washington Examiner, April 20, 2016; Senate Appropriations Committee; House Appropriations Committee; Asha Glover, "Energy and Water Appropriations Bill Passed by Senate," Morning Consult, May 12, 2016.



# Federal Reserve

## Timeline of Key Recent Legislative Actions on the Federal Reserve

- Nov 2015 ○ **The Federal Oversight Reform and Modernization Act (H.R. 3189) Passed the House:** H.R. 3189 passed the House with a vote of 241 to 185 mostly along party lines. The bill amends the Federal Reserve Act by establishing requirements for policy rules and blackout periods of the Federal Open Market Committee, establishes requirements for certain activities of the Board of Governors, and amends title 31 of the US Code to reform the manner in which the Board of Governors is audited and for other purposes.
- July 2015 ○ **The Financial Regulatory Improvement Act (S.1484) Referred to the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee:** The Senate reported and held hearings for S.1484 in the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. The bill attempts to create more accountability and transparency within the US financial regulatory system by requiring the President to nominate the President of the New York Federal Reserve and have him confirmed by the Senate, and would require the interest rates paid by the banks to be determined by the Federal Open Market Committee rather than the Board of Governors.
- Jan 2016 ○ **The Senate voted to not invoke cloture on the Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2015 (S. 2232):** The Senate failed to invoke cloture on S.2232 thus allowing for debate on the bill to continue indefinitely. The bill requires a full audit of the Board of Governors and the Federal Reserve by the Comptroller General and for other purposes.
- May 2016 ○ **The House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform Reported the Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2015 (H.R. 24) in the Favor.** The House Oversight Committee reported H.R. 24 favorably by a voice vote. The bill requires the full audit of the Board of Governors and the Federal Reserve by the Comptroller General of the United States and for other purposes.

### Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- With appropriation season in full swing, Senate Leader Mitch McConnell has prioritized passing spending bills without “poison-pill” riders. Due to the partisan divide on these issues, McConnell decided to not bring them to the Senate floor for a vote or add them to the omnibus package
- While H.R. 3189 passed the House and H.R. 24 made it through committee, House Speaker Paul Ryan has noted that the House agenda is currently prioritizing passing the budget bills and the Puerto Rico relief fund

Sources: The Hill, “Spending Clash Looms for GOP.” June 1, 2016; The Hill, “Path Clears for Passage of Puerto Rico Bill.” May 19, 2016; Congress.gov, “H.R.24- The Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2015.” May 17, 2016; Congress.gov, “H.R.3189- Fed Oversight Reform and Modernization Act of 2015.” December 17, 2015; Congress.gov, “S.1484- The Financial Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015”. June 23, 2015; Congress.gov, “S.2232- The Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2015.” January 12, 2016.



# Gun Control

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Gun Control Legislation

- 2004 ○ **Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act Expires:** The 10-year sunset provision of the assault weapon ban expires and is not renewed by Congress.
- Dec 2015 ○ **Assault Weapons Ban of 2015:** The House proposed a bill to regulate assault weapons. The bill was introduced two weeks after the San Bernardino massacre. This bill would reinstate the federal ban that lasted from 1994-2004.
- June 13, 2016 ○ **Hate Crimes Prevention Act:** This bill was introduced in the Senate and would prevent anybody with a misdemeanor hate-crime conviction from owning a firearm. This law was introduced the day after the mass shooting in Orlando, and the current law prevents those convicted of a felony but not those convicted of misdemeanors.
- June 15, 2016 ○ **A Bill Requiring Information Related to Terrorism Investigations be Included in NICS Database:** Bill was introduced by Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) following the mass shooting in Orlando.
- June 16, 2016 ○ **Countering Terrorist Radicalization Act Passes the House:** This bill would have DHS train local and state officials on how to more quickly identify and handle terrorist threats, institute a new Counterterrorism Advisory Board, and increase techniques to combat the spread of violent extremists. The House overwhelmingly supported the bill 402-15.
- June 22, 2016 ○ **House Sit-In Over Gun Control Legislation:** During a “pro forma” session, House Democrats held a symbolic protest over lack of gun control legislation by sitting on the House floor for over 25 hours. The sit-in ended without Republicans conceding to a vote.

### Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- The Assault Weapons Ban is one of the most polarized bills in regards to gun control in Congress. The bill has 149 cosponsors, all of whom are Democrat, and it is unlikely to pass under this Congress.
- The bill requiring information related to terrorism to be included in the NICS database could see bipartisan support as both Clinton and Trump expressed their support.
- The Countering Terrorism Radicalization Act heads to the Senate after quickly passing through the House. A vote has not yet been scheduled in the Senate and leaders are reviewing the legislation and working with relevant committees.
- Congress goes into the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday break without any votes on gun control legislation. It is unknown if the votes will happen when Congress returns, but it has sparked gun control talk in the 2016 election.

Sources: Image from the Noun Project by Edward Boatman; Erin Kelly, “House Passes Bills to Combat Radicalization of Americans by Terrorist,” USA Today, June 16, 2016; Sarah D. Wire and Christine Mai-Duc, “After Gun Control Sit-In California House Democrats Bring ‘Day of Action’ Home to Constituents,” Los Angeles Times, June 29, 2016; GovTrack.



# Immigration

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Immigration

- 2012 ○ **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**  
An executive action signed into law by Barack Obama. Suspended deportation of certain immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children. Obama's use of executive action signaled lack of bipartisan support for the measure.
- 2014 ○ **Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA)**  
An executive action signed into law by Barack Obama expanding the pool of eligible recipients of DACA and providing deportation relief to certain parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.
- July 2015 ○ **Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act**  
The House voted to end both DACA and DAPA as a condition of funding DHS, but the Senate filibustered the measure; the House eventually passed a bill funding DHS without conditions.
- July 2015 ○ **Enforce the Law for Sanctuary Cities Act**  
The House voted, mostly along party lines, to deny some federal funding for jurisdictions that prohibit law enforcement from asking people about their citizenship or immigration status. The Senate has not passed a parallel bill.
- June 2016 ○ **United States v. Texas**  
After Texas and other states sued to block the implementation of DAPA, and an appeals court upheld the suit, the Supreme Court hear the challenge to Obama's executive action. Without Scalia on the bench, the Court was split 4-4 and offered no ruling. The appeals court's ruling remains and DAPA was derailed for the time being.

### Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Immigration reform does not appear likely to pass in the 114<sup>th</sup> congress, although President Obama has asked congress to pass legislation similar to DAPA.

Sources: Seung Min Kim, "Funding bill becomes immigration battle," Politico, September 18, 2014; Steve Vladek, "National Security and the 2014 Midterms: A Preview of Monday's CQ Roll Call/Just Security Event," Just Security, September 21, 2014; Billy House and Sarah Mimms, "Spending, Immigration, and Tax Fights Will Dominate Final Days of Session," National Journal, November 30, 2014; Jake Sherman and John Bresnehan, "Republicans ready to vote," Politico; Manu Raju and Seung Min Kim, "House GOP's Immigration Problem: No Path to 60 in the Senate," Politico; Dara Lind, "Here's the Republican Strategy for Stopping Obama on Immigration," Vox, January 13, 2015; "House Votes to Strip Federal Funding 'From Sanctuary Cities,'" Washington Post; Oyez/IIT Chicago-Kent School of Law, 2016.



# International Trade

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on International Trade

- May 2015 ○ **Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015:** Bill that reauthorizes customs and border patrol enforcement (H.R. 644) passed in the House, it later passed in the Senate with an amendment. The House did not approve the amendment, and the bill went to conference.
- Jun 2015 ○ **Trade Act of 2015 Failed to Pass:** The Trade Act of 2015 contained two parts: Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). While it passed in the Senate, the House voted on the parts separately and only passed TPA. Though Democrats overwhelmingly support TAA, they voted against it in the House in order to kill the entire bill.
- Jun 2015 ○ **“Fast Track” Enacted and Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015:** After the Trade Act of 2015 failed to pass, Congress passed fast-track authority and TAA separately by attaching them to other bills (H.R. 1295 and H.R. 2146).
- Oct 2015 ○ **Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement Reached:** After 8 years of negotiations, the US and 11 Pacific Rim nations reached an agreement on TPP, a historic trade deal encompassing 40% of the world’s economy. The agreement will be introduced in Congress in 2016, where it will face up-or-down ratification votes under the rules of TPA.
- Feb 2015 ○ **Trans-Pacific Partnership Signed:** The twelve member nations signed the trade deal, which will now undergo a two-year ratification period. At least six countries must approve the deal during this time before it will be implemented.
- Feb 2016 ○ **Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015:** Congress passed a reauthorization of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act and it was signed into law.
- May 2016 ○ **President Obama Visits Vietnam:** At the top of the President’s agenda for Vietnam, was the TPP. Vietnam is the poorest and only non-democratic country of the signatories for the agreement. The administration views Vietnam’s inclusion in TPP as a victory for free trade. While in Vietnam, President Obama announced the lifting of the weapons embargo.

## Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- President Obama’s Trade Promotion Authority makes it more likely that the Trans-Pacific Partnership will be supported by a majority vote in both chambers; however, the deal will likely face opposition from labor unions and other groups, as well as members of both parties in Congress.
- Congress is expected to consider the Trans-Pacific Partnership in 2016, most likely in the lame-duck session after the election in November, according to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.
- Both presumptive presidential nominees Trump and Clinton oppose TPP; if Trump is elected, a lame-duck session vote may fail if Republicans are reluctant to advance an agreement that their standard-bearer is against.

Source: Source: Senate GovTrack.us, “H.R. 644 – Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015,” March 2016; Burgess Everett, “Democrats yield in Senate trade deal,” Politico, May 13, 2015; Congress.gov, “H.R. 1295 – Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015,” June 29, 2015; John Brinkley, “Senate Fast-Track Failure Doesn’t Presage the Death of Free Trade,” Forbes, May 12, 2015; Doug Palmer, “White House wants trade promotion authority: Kirk,” Reuters, February 29, 2015; Office of the United States Trade Representative, “Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership,” 2015; Rossella Brevet ti, “President Barack Obama Signals Readiness to Work on Getting Bipartisan TPA Passed,” Bloomberg BNA, December 5, 2014; Mike Palmedo, “Revisiting USTR’s Negotiating Objectives in New Trade Promotion Authority Legislation,” Infojustice, April 28, 2013; GovTrack.us, “H.R. 2146: Defending Public Safety Employees’ Retirement Act,” June 23, 2015; GovTrack.us, “H.R. 1314: Trade Act of 2015,” June 15, 2015; Alisha Chang, “8 Things Congress Actually Did This Year,” NPR, December 30, 2015; Vicki Needham, “Obama expected to push Congress to pass TPP,” The Hill, January 12, 2016; Rebecca Howard, “Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal signed, but years of negotiations still to come,” Reuters, February 4, 2016; George E. Condon Jr., “Obama Goes to Vietnam to Make Trade, Not War,” National Journal, May 20, 2016; Jackie Calmes, “Trans-Pacific Partnership Supporters Pin Hopes on Lame-Duck Vote,” New York Times, June 1, 2016.



# LGBT Rights

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on LGBT Rights

- 2014 ○ **Obama’s Executive Order**  
President Obama issued an executive order barring federal contractors from discrimination against LGBT employees
- April 2016 ○ **The Russell Amendment**  
Rep. Steve Russell (R-OK) slipped an amendment into the National Defense Authorization Act to legalize anti-LGBT discrimination by government contractors. When the House approved the NDAA in May, Russell’s provision remained.
- May 2016 ○ **Maloney’s First Counter-Amendment Fails:**  
Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) put forth an amendment to nullify Russell’s amendment. Maloney’s amendment had the votes to pass when time ran out, with GOP support, but Republicans did not bring the gavel down. They held the vote open while they persuaded seven GOP legislators to switch their vote at the last minute.
- May 2016 ○ **Maloney’s Second-Counter Amendment Passes, But Bill Fails:**  
Maloney re-introduced his amendment into another spending bill and it passed after GOP congressman switched their vote. After Maloney’s amendment was passed, the language was changed to uphold religious organizations’ right to religious freedom. However, the spending bill with the amendment eventually failed to pass the House with Republicans opposing the gay rights provision and Democrats objecting to GOP sponsored ad-ons.

### Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- The Equality Act, a bill that establishes federal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, lacks enough GOP support to pass either House, but Democrats have signaled that they will renew a push for the legislation in the near future.
- Rep. Maloney has also said that he will continue to propose an amendment nullifying the Russell amendment. LGBT activists say they hope Maloney will manage to pass it without an exceptions for religious organizations.

Sources: Colour Block, The Noun Project; Mark Joseph Stern, “Chaos in the House as Republicans Bend Rules to Save Anti-LGBTQ Bill,” Slate, May 19, 2016; Cristina Marcos and Mike Lillis, “Chaos in House After GOP Votes Down LGBT Measure,” The Hill, May 19, 2016. Rachel Bade and John Bresnahan, “LGBT Fight Sinks House Spending Bill,” Politico, May 26, 2016; National Journal Research, 2016.





# Mental Health

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Mental Health

- 2002 ○ **Atkins V. Virginia Decision**  
In *Atkins v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court found that executions for “mentally retarded” criminals are cruel and unusual, by a 6-3 decision.
- 2008 ○ **Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAE)**  
In 2008, President George W. Bush signed the Economic Stabilization act, and as a provision, the MHPAE requires group health insurance plans to provide affordable access to mental health benefits. In 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) expanded the provision to individual health insurance.
- 2012 ○ **President Obama Expanded Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans:**  
Through executive order, Obama directed the Veterans Affairs Dept. to increase crisis line capacity by 50%, to build partnerships with community providers, and to hire 800 peer-to-peer support counselors and 1,600 new mental health professionals to serve veterans. The executive order also promoted mental health research.
- Dec 2015 ○ **Senate Passed Mental Health Awareness and Improvement Act of 2015:**  
The Senate passed a bill to support suicide prevention and intervention programs, to help children recover from traumatic events and to train educators to understand mental illness. The Congressional Budget Office estimated these measures will cost \$574 million over five years. The bill was sent to the House for consideration, where it is likely to pass.
- March 2016 ○ **President Obama Announces a New Task Force on Mental Health**  
President Obama established the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force, which aims to ensure that people with mental illnesses and substance abuse problems don't face discrimination in the health care system.

## Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- In January, 2016, Obama called on Congress to fund \$500 million in mental health reforms as part of a broader effort to address gun violence
- The HELP committee reported **The Mental Health Reform Act of 2016** out of committee. Introduced by Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Chris Murphy (D-CT), the bill proposes an array of reforms. The bill is on the Senate legislative calendar. The Senators sponsoring the bill hope that the bill will see a floor vote before the August recess.
- Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) told *The Hill* that House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy is considering a vote on his legislation, **Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act** the week of July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sources: Oyez, IIT Chicago-Kent School of Law, June, 2002; “Alexander, Murray Introduce Mental Health Awareness And Improvement Act,” *The Chattanoogaan*, January 28, 2016; Congressional Budget Office, November, 2015; The White House Office of Press Secretary, August 31, 2012; Sarah Ferris, “Obama Dares GOP for Mental Health Reforms,” *The Hill*, January 5, 2016; Ron Honberg, “Two Major Mental Health Bills Introduced in US Senate,” *National Alliance on Mental Health*, August 10, 2015; WhiteHouse.gov, 2016; “Senate Health Committee Passes Alexander, Murray, Cassidy, Murphy Legislation to Help Address Mental Health Crisis in America”, *US Senate Committee on HELP*, March 16, 2016; Coleen Barry et al., *A Political History of Federal Mental Health and Addiction Insurance Parity*, Milbank Q., September 2010; Mary Ellen McIntire, “Senators Working Toward Mental Health Reform Vote Before August Recess,” *Morning Consult*, May 26, 2016; Heather Caspi, “Delayed Mental Health Legislation to Get July Vote,” *HealthcareDIVE*, June 27, 2016.

# Opioid Abuse and Heroin Epidemic

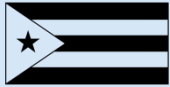
## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on the Opioid Abuse and Heroin Epidemic

- 2015 ○ **White House Efforts to Increase Access to Treatment and Improve Doctor Training:** In August, the President announced an initiative to pair public health and law enforcement in an effort to shift emphasis from punishment to treatment of addicts. In October, the President announced a series of efforts to double the number of doctors who can prescribe buprenorphine and providers who can prescribe Naloxone.
- Mar 2016 ○ **Senate Passes Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA):** Passing the Senate 94-1, the bill authorizes, but does not appropriate funding for, programs to combat prescription opioid abuse and incentivizes states to approve naloxone, a drug that combats overdoses. Senate Democrats expressed concerns about falling short on funding and not including an amendment for \$600 million in emergency funding.
- Mar 2016 ○ **CDC Releases Guidelines for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain:** The CDC guidelines recommend that doctors try other pain relievers before prescribing opioids and that they give most patients only a few days supply. While the guidelines are nonbinding, they are the first national standard for prescribing opioid medications.
- Mar 2016 ○ **White House Announces Expanded Initiatives, Doubles Patient Limit to 200:** The President announced a package of initiatives to expand medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction (MAT) and increase coverage for mental health and substance abuse services. Among the initiatives is an HHS rule to allow qualified physicians to prescribe addiction-fighting drugs to 200 patients at a time.
- Mar 2016 ○ **House Passes Package of Opioid Bills:** The House passed 18 pieces of bipartisan legislation to address the opioid drug crisis. The bills aim to combat the epidemic in a number of ways, including helping pregnant mothers who suffer from addiction, increasing access to naloxone, and creating a task force to establish guidelines for prescribing pain medication.

### Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- The President’s FY 2017 Budget includes \$1 billion in new mandatory funding over two years to expand access to treatment for prescription drug abuse and heroin use, as well as approximately \$500 million to continue and build on current efforts across DOJ and HHS
- The House and the Senate appointed conferees to reconcile the differences between each chambers’ opioid legislation, however the conference committee has not yet formally convened
- Four senators involved in writing CARA, Sens. Portman (R-OH), Whitehouse (R-RI), Ayotte (R-NH), and Klobuchar (D-MN), wrote a letter to the conference committee highlighting provisions they think should be prioritized
- Among their recommendations were the grant programs from CARA because they “are a direct result of what the sponsors learned from the experts who participated in the forums and working group”

Sources: National Journal Research 2016, Jordain Carney, “Senate passes opioid abuse bill,” The Hill, March 10, 2016; Nadia Kounang, “Obama Announces New Moves to Fight Opioid and Heroin Abuse Epidemic,” CNN, March 29, 2016; White House Office of the Press Secretary, “FACT SHEET: President Obama Proposes \$1.1 billion in New Funding to Address the Prescription Opioid Abuse and Heroin Use Epidemic,” Press Release, Feb 2, 2016; SAMHSA, “Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000,” Steven Mufson and Katie Zezima, “Obama announces new steps to combat heroin, prescription drug abuse,” Washington Post, Oct 21, 2015 Noun Project, David Courey; Karoun Demirjian, “Did the House Weaken the Senate’s Drug Abuse Bill? Rob Portman Thinks So,” The Washington Post, April 27, 2016; Mary Ellen McIntire, “House Panel Get Set for ‘Opioid Week’ in Marathon Sessions,” Morning Consult, April 28, 2016; James Arkin, “House Passes Bills to Combat Opioid Abuse,” Real Clear Politics, May 12, 2016; Mary Ellen McIntire, “Senate’s Opioid Bill Authors Advise Conferees on Final Bill,” Morning Consult, June 28, 2016.



# Puerto Rico Bailout

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Puerto Rico’s Debt Crisis

- June 2015 ○ **Governor announced that Puerto Rico is unable to pay borrowings:** Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla declared that the territory was unable to pay its borrowings and began talks with creditor while turning to Washington for help.
- Feb. 2016 ○ **Puerto Rico offered plan to slash debt:** The government of Puerto Rico proposed a voluntary plan to slash the debt load almost in half by repaying 39 to 72 cents on the dollar.
- March 2016 ○ **SCOTUS heard case on Puerto Rico debt law:** the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on whether Puerto Rico can reinstate a local law that would give its utilities additional leverage in talks with lenders.
- April 2016 ○ **Puerto Rico passed debt-moratorium law:** Puerto Rico then upended months of negotiations by passing a debt-moratorium law that allows the Governor to suspend payments to investors through January 2017 on a wide swath of bonds.
- May 2016 ○ **Puerto Rico defaulted on \$422 million of its own debt:** After Puerto defaulted on its debt, the House released a first draft of its plan to bailout the territory.
- June 2016 ○ **Both the House and the Senate passed the debt relief bill:** The House passed the debt relief bill with a vote of 297 to 127, and the Senate passed the bill with a vote of 68 to 30.

### Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- With both chambers passing the bill and the White House expressing their adamant support for it, the President is expected to sign the legislation before Puerto Rico defaults on its debt July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sources: Michelle Kaske and Martin Braun, "Puerto Rico's Slide," Bloomberg, May 3, 2016; Billy House, "Ryan's Biggest Test Yet: Saving Puerto Rico From Congress," Bloomberg Politics, April 25, 2016; Michael Corkery and Mary Williams Walsh, "Puerto Rico's Governor Says Island's Debts Are 'Not Payable'" The New York Times, June 28, 2015; Brian Chappatta, Michelle Kaske and Steven Dennis, "Puerto Rico Invites Chaos as Debt Moratorium Upends Progress," Bloomberg, April 6, 2016. Image from the Noun Project, Aldric Rodríguez Iborra; National Journal Research, 2016; CNN Money, House Passes Puerto Rico Rescue Bill," June 9, 2016; The Hill, "Senate Passes Puerto Rico Debt Relief Bill," June 29, 2016.



# Tax Reform

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Tax Reform

- Feb 2014 ○ **Tax Reform Act of 2014:** A comprehensive draft proposal for tax reform which was released by then-House Ways and Means Committee Chair, Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI); the bill would have lowered corporate and individual tax rates and simplified the tax code, but faced wide opposition and was only ceremonially put to the floor at the end of 2014.
- Sep 2014 ○ **Treasury Actions on Inversion:** Treasury Secretary Jack Lew put forward a series of measures designed to reduce benefits of tax inversions, including blocking inverted companies from transferring assets to parent companies and accessing foreign earnings.
- Jan 2015 ○ **Senate Finance Committee Tax Working Groups:** The Senate Finance committee created five tax reform 'working groups' on different issue areas to create proposals for tax reform in the 114th Congress. These reports were presented in July 2015; however, there was no consensus or clear plan for reforms.
- Jul 2015 ○ **Portman-Schumer Plan:** Sens. Portman (R-OH) and Schumer (D-NY) proposed a framework to tax all US corporate profits abroad regardless of repatriation, but at a significantly lower rate. The plan is supported by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), but opposed by Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), who prefers comprehensive tax reform.
- Dec 2015 ○ **Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016:** Lawmakers dealt with a package of expiring tax credits known as "tax extenders" by making some provisions permanent. The deal was attached to a must-pass spending bill, ensuring swift passage.
- Feb 2016 ○ **President's FY17 Budget Request:** The request proposed international tax reform in exchange for increased infrastructure spending; a similar provision was in last year's request
- June 2016 ○ **House Republicans' Tax Blueprint:** Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady released the House GOP's tax reform platform, part of Speaker Ryan's "A Better Way" plan.

## Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- A shorter than usual legislative calendar, together with controversies over the budget, the Supreme Court, and the election, means that even a modest reform package is a long shot this year. A massive undertaking would probably occur in 2017 after inauguration.
- Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who is likely to lead Senate Democrats starting in 2017, suggested he would work with House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) to pass a bill focused on international tax reform
- Senate Maj. Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has ruled-out that approach and stated a preference for one comprehensive package
- The House Ways and Means Committee will begin drafting tax reform legislation according to the released blueprint, with the goal of passing legislation in 2017.

Source: Seung Min Kim, "Funding bill becomes immigration battle," Politico, September 18, 2014; Steve Vladek, "National Security and the 2014 Midterms: A Preview of Monday's CQ Roll Call/Just Security Event," Just Security, September 21, 2014; Billy House and Sarah Mimms, "Spending, Immigration, and Tax Fights Will Dominate Final Days of Session," National Journal, November 30, 2014; Jake Sherman and John Bresnehan, "Republicans ready to vote," Politico; Manu Raju and Seung Min Kim, "House GOP's Immigration Problem: No Path to 60 in the Senate," Politico; Dara Lind, "Here's the Republican strategy for stopping Obama on immigration," Vox, January 13, 2015; "House Votes to strip federal funding 'from sanctuary cities,'" Washington Post; National Journal Research, 2016; Squire Patton Boggs, "A Better Way or a Conversation Starter: The GOP Tax Reform 'Blueprint,'" Lexology, June 29, 2016.



# Zika Funding

## Timeline of Key Recent Federal Actions on Zika Funding

- Spring 2015 ○ **Brazil Reports Virus to WHO:**  
Zika has been found in Africa and French Polynesia since 1947. In March 2015, Brazilian health providers reported 7000 cases of illness with a rash, and later identified it as Zika.
- Fall 2015 ○ **Increase in Microcephaly Reported:**  
By late October, Brazil reports an unusual increase in the number of cases of microcephaly among newborns since August. November 11, Brazil declares a national public health emergency. Zika is increasingly found in neighboring countries.
- Feb 2015 ○ **Administration Moves Funding from Ebola, Congress Passes Priority Voucher Bill**  
President Obama requested \$1.9 billion dollars for Zika research and prevention in February 2016. In absence of Congressional action, the administration moved \$510 million from Ebola response and prevention, and another \$75 million from other efforts. Congress passes a bill making Zika eligible for priority voucher.
- April 2016 ○ **CDC, WHO Conclude Causal Relationship between Zika and Birth Defects**  
The CDC published their conclusion that the evidence indicates that there is a causal relationship between Zika and neurological abnormalities. WHO announces scientific consensus on a link between microcephaly and the Zika virus.
- May 2016 ○ **House and Senate Pass Separate Bills – Will Conference Bills**  
The Senate bill offers \$1.1 billion in funding and treatment, whereas the House's bill offers \$622 million in funding. The conference has stalled.
- June 2016 ○ **House Passes Another Bill, Which Faces Veto Threat, Senate Refuses Bill**  
The House passed funding within the Military-Construction Veteran's Affairs Spending Bill along partisan lines. The Senate did not pass the bill due to the policy riders within.

## Potential Actions in 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said that the Senate will vote on the same bill again after the holiday weekend. Both sides are now accusing the other of partisan posturing. Some legislation is likely to pass before the recess, as we enter the peak of mosquito season and politicians face increased public scrutiny.

Sources: Toni Clarke, "Congress Sends Obama Bill on Zika Drug Development", Reuters, April 12, 2016; Rae Ellen Bichell, "Zika Virus: What Happened When", NPR, February 10, 2016; Michaelleen Doucleff, "Zika is Linked to Microcephaly, Health Agencies Confirm", NPR, March 31, 2016; Brady Dennis, "Obama Asks Congress for \$1.9 Billion to Combat Spread of Zika Virus", the Washington Post, February 22, 2016; Rae Ellen Bichell, "White House Says it Will Cut Ebola Funding to Address Zika" NPR, April 6, 2016; Jason Beaubien, "WHO: Birth Defect Linked to Zika Virus is 'Public Health Emergency'", NPR, February 1, 2016; Mary Kindhauser et al., "Zika: The Origin and Spread of a Mosquito Borne Virus", WHO, February 7, 2016; Edward Boatman, Noun Project, May 3, 2016; Sonja Rasmussen et al., "Zika Virus and Birth Defects - Reviewing the Evidence for Causality", New England Journal of Medicine, April 13, 2016; Sarah Ferris, "House Takes First Step to Merge Zika Bills" The Hill, May 26, 2016; "The Senate voted down a Zika funding bill that was crammed full of anti-abortion amendments" Quartz, June 28, 2016.