

Congress figured out Zika funding; final CR-package expected to pass early next week

McConnell files cloture on a continuing resolution (CR) with Zika funding



Government faces September 30 deadline

- The end of the government's fiscal year is September 30. To keep the government up and running, **Congress will need to pass a continuing resolution (CR)** which will fund the government at current levels
- McConnell filed cloture on a CR which will fund the government and the Zika effort until December 9
- The Freedom caucus wants an appropriations bill that will fund the government through March of next year, to avoid a lame duck session. They are unlikely to have enough leverage to push such a bill through as Democrats are blocking funding proposals that go into 2017



Planned Parenthood is a sticking point

- Planned Parenthood policy riders were the reason that the House-passed bill providing Zika funding did not pass the Senate
- New language puts about \$95 million into a different government account, which Planned Parenthood clinics would be able to access for reimbursement for medical services (with no chance that the funding would go towards abortion services)
- Members of the Freedom Caucus will back the short-term CR if the bill will block funding for Planned Parenthood or stem the flow of Syrian refugees. However, with the deadline looming, it is unlikely that the caucus will get their way

What's Next

- CDC funding for fighting the Zika virus will run out at the end of the month. Congress will need to fund a response by that time or **risk an increased spread of the virus**
- If Congress is unable to pass a CR by September 30, **the government will shut down**. With elections in November, neither party will want to be held responsible
- The **Senate will likely pass the CR-Zika package and adjourn** to campaign, which would force the House to pass the bill. The final CR package is expected early next week