



Congress Finalizes \$1.5T FY22 Spending Package – No Additional COVID Funding for Providers

March 9, 2022

The House plans to vote today on the \$1.5 trillion Omnibus spending package to fund the government through FY22. It also plans to vote on a short-term continuing resolution through March 15 in case the Senate needs more time to pass the spending package. The current deadline is midnight, Friday, March 11.

COVID-19 Supplemental – No Additional Funds for Providers

The Covid supplemental **DOES NOT** include any additional funding for the Provider Relief Fund or any other direct funds for health care providers. The Administration's request of \$22.5 billion (down from the \$30 billion in initial discussions) was whittled down to \$15.6 billion for domestic preparedness, global response and humanitarian assistance. Click [here](#) for the summary.

Telehealth Waivers

Certain waivers – those requiring statutory authority – were extended for 151 days after the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). These include removing the geographic restrictions and expanding the originating sites, expanding eligible practitioners, expanding telehealth services for FQHCs and RHCs and continuing the use of audio-only for telehealth. It also delays the in-person requirement for mental health services that was scheduled to take effect upon the expiration of the PHE. Click [here](#) to review all the telehealth provisions beginning on page 1901. There is growing sentiment in the government to end the PHE in July.

340B

In a significant win, the bill includes language based on Sen. Thune's bill, S. 773, that would allow for DSH hospitals to maintain their 340B eligibility during the PHE regardless of a change to their DSH percentage. Click [here](#) to review the 340B text beginning on page 1870.

Earmarks

It appears that all the earmarks approved by the committees were retained in this package. To review the earmarks in the Labor-HHS section, click [here](#) beginning on page 165 and [here](#). Most health care related earmarks will be in this section and are listed in alphabetical order.

Text and Summaries

Click [here](#) for the House Appropriations Committee website containing the text of the Omnibus with explanatory statements and summaries for each department, the COVID-19 supplemental appropriations with summaries and the Ukraine supplemental with summaries.

For a quick review:

- Click [here](#) for the 46-page summary of the full bill.
- Click [here](#) for the 12-page summary of the HHS appropriations. HHS would receive \$108.3 billion, an \$11.3 billion increase over fiscal 2021. The bill includes \$1 billion for the creation of ARPA-H, an advanced research agency for health
- Click [here](#) for the 1-page summary of the COVID-19 supplemental.

For additional information, please contact our General Counsel Diane Turpin at diane.turpin@shcare.net or 202-578-5444.