



NATIONAL COALITION *for* HOMELESS VETERANS

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Hill Watch: Congress Funds Government Through Dec. 9

Veteran programs funded for entire year

Late last night the House passed H.R. 5325, the legislative vehicle for the funding bill, which had passed the Senate earlier that day. The bill provides flat level funding for the federal government through the election season and until December 9, 2016 in order to give Congress more time to pass full year funding bills. Without the passage of H.R. 5325 the government was in danger of shutting down on Thursday, Sept. 30, due to the expiration of spending authorities at the end of the federal fiscal year. This short term spending bill known as a continuing resolution (“CR”) prevents this danger.

H.R. 5325 also contained funding provisions that were not a part of the continuing resolution; this portion of the bill was the text of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriation bill (MilCon/VA), which funds the operations of the VA for the entire 2017 Fiscal Year. The MilCon/VA bill had previously passed both houses of Congress in slightly different forms, and NCHV has discussed it in past editions of Hill Watch.

The MilCon/VA portion of the bill contained the full presidential request top-line budget numbers for the Medical Services account, which covers VA homeless programs including GPD, SSVF, and the case management portion of the HUD-VASH program. Congress has since June agreed upon numbers for these programs: \$257 million for GPD, \$320 million for SSVF, and \$496 million for case management of HUD-VASH vouchers. All of these numbers are higher than last year, and the SSVF and GPD numbers are higher than the President’s Budget requested (by \$10 million and \$20 million respectively).

When the President signs the CR, as he is expected to do before tomorrow, the bill will become law. With it, the budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs will be set until Sept. 30, 2017. If you would like to call and thank your Congressman for including these higher numbers for veteran homelessness programs, but don’t know how, you can refer to NCHV’s advocacy webinar, [accessible here](#). While you are thanking them, you can also urge them to pass the remaining appropriations bills, with robust funding for HVRP and for new HUD-VASH vouchers!

In the coming months, NCHV will be back to report on the passage of the rest of the federal spending bills. Stay tuned for more.