NCI Legislative Update
National Cancer Advisory Board and
Board of Scientific Advisors

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Topics

- FY17 Appropriations – CR expires Friday at midnight
- 21st Century Cures bill - funding for cancer research
- Executive Branch nominations
Current CR expires at midnight on Friday

- Hopes were high for an FY17 Omnibus bill and another increase for NIH (slated to be between $1.25 - $2 billion)

- We now anticipate another CR through April 28, 2017

- Agencies remain at FY16 levels, absent anomalies to augment funding
21st Century Cures, HR 34

- The nearly 1,000-page bill contains about $4.8 billion in medical research funding, including the cancer moonshot, the Precision Medicine Initiative and the BRAIN initiative.

- Passed the House 392-26, Senate voted to limit debate 85-13 last night, Vice President presiding

- A final vote to clear the bill for the President could happen as soon as today
Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot Initiative

- $1.8 billion over 7 years, beginning with $300 million in FY17

“to support cancer research, such as the development of cancer vaccines, the development of more sensitive diagnostic tests for cancer, immunotherapy and the development of combination therapies, research that has the potential to transform the scientific field that has inherently higher risk, and that seeks to address major challenges associated with cancer.”
Cures Funding = Not Mandatory

- Funds are “subject to appropriations” every year
- Can be turned on/off by Appropriations Committee
- Funds are Designated for an “NIH Innovation Fund”
- Unclear at this point how funding will be appropriated (specific accounts)
New Administration and Appointments

- Cabinet Nominations are the most visible and contentious (e.g., Attorney General, Dept. of Education, EPA).
- There are over 1,200 other positions that also require Senate confirmation.
- Supreme Court picks subject to filibuster, but for others only a simple majority vote is needed.
Democrats to give Trump Cabinet picks the Garland treatment

12/05/16 05:06 AM EST

Delay tactics could sap momentum from the president's first 100 days. "What goes around comes around," one lawmaker says.
Presidential Nominations for HHS, NIH, and NCI: Timelines for appointments in past few Administrations

- **President George H. W. Bush: Sworn in January 1989**
  - HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan took office in February 1989
  - NIH Director Bernadine Healy took office in April 1991 = 27 months
  - NCI Director Samuel Broder served in the Reagan Administration (appt. 1988) and continued as the NCI Director through the Bush 41 Administration

- **President Bill Clinton: Sworn in January 1993**
  - HHS Secretary Donna Shalala took office in January 1993
  - NIH Director Harold Varmus took office in July 1993 = 6 months
  - NCI Director Richard Klausner took office in August 1995 = 31 months

- **President George W. Bush: Sworn in January 2001**
  - HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson took office in February 2001
  - NIH Director Elias Zerhouni took office in March 2002 = 14 months
  - NCI Director Andrew von Eschenbach took office in December 2001 = 11 months

- **President Barack Obama: Sworn in January 2009**
  - HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius took office in April 2009
  - NIH Director Francis Collins took office in July 2009 = 6 months
  - NCI Director Harold Varmus took office in May 2010 = 16 months
QUESTIONS?
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