NCI Legislative Update

National Cancer Advisory Board

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September 2016
Final Weeks of the 114th Congress

62 days to Election Day (November 8)

23 days remain in FY16 (ends September 30th)

Continuing Resolution (CR) will be necessary to keep the government funded
Continuing Resolutions to Extend Funding

- Standard practice
- CRs used in all but 4 FYs from FY1977-FY16
- Lengthy CRs limit new programs, initiatives
- FY16CR Controversy
  - Amount of CR (Budget Deal objections)
  - Duration of CR (at FY16 level)
A segment of a bar for a fiscal year represents the duration in days of one CR. The left-most segment represents the first CR, effective beginning of the fiscal year. In the case of the initial CR for a fiscal year, duration in days is measured from the first day of the year through the expiration of the preceding CR. For fiscal years, duration in days is measured from the day after the expiration of the preceding CR. Please see the notes to Table 2 in this report.
Duration of CR – possibilities

September to mid-December
  - Appropriators, Leadership

September to mid-March (skip the lame duck)
  - House Freedom Caucus

December - Post-Election Options:
  Omnibus deal for FY17
  CR into March (debt limit increase)
  Full year CR
How Lame are Lame Ducks?

2014 Analysis of over 50,000 roll call votes

Conclusions: In “very lame duck sessions” (any majority shift), slightly less likely to vote with their party (more so in House) and less likely to vote at all (both chambers).

Overall, very small effects – most members win reelection.

Source: George Mason Mercator Center
“Republicans under Duress as Congress Returns: With pressure growing from the right and left, leaders have until Sept. 30 to avoid a government shutdown and possibly deal with Zika.”

Político, Sept 6.
It’s Not Easy to be Speaker

*Appropriators:* Must get our FY17 work done.

*Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid:* Senate will not pass a CR into March. Starts using the “shutdown” word in interviews.

*Freedom Caucus:* Must pass long-term CR into March - Lame Duck cannot decide FY17. Quarrel with top-line budget number. Want to impeach the IRS Commissioner.

*Advocates:* “Steer clear of long term CR - would lock in insufficient funding for national defense and the NIH.”
Labor-HHS-Education FY17 Appropriation

Appropriations Committees declined to cut $1 billion in discretionary funding for NIH

**Senate**

+ $2 billion for NIH

+ $216 million for NCI

**House**

+ $1.25 billion for NIH

+ $124 million for NCI

*House Labor-HHS Chairman Tom Cole: “This number is a floor, not a ceiling.”*
Election Year Uncertainty

The entire House is up for reelection (N=435)

One-third of the Senate (N=34, 24 are GOP-held seats)

Senate Majority may flip

- If Sec. Clinton wins, Dems only need 4 seats – IL and WI races lean Dem
Forecast for NIH and NCI

Strong and Bipartisan Congressional Support for NIH

NIH and cancer research are bipartisan priorities

The FY18 budget process will officially begin in the Spring with the new President’s budget request