

Sleep Research Society
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As May began, Congress passed a Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 omnibus appropriations package that included eleven of the twelve annual federal spending bills. While the final package was enacted eight months into FY 2017, most crucially it includes notable funding increases for medical research and public health activities (better late than never). The only appropriations measure enacted ahead of the omnibus package was the FY 2017 Veterans Administration (VA) spending bill, which included a sizable funding increase for the VA medical research program.

The FY 2017 omnibus package largely avoids controversial and partisan priorities that could've jeopardized the entire measure. Moreover, the package continues to invest in the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP). Specific items of interest to the sleep, sleep disorders, and circadian community include:

- \$34.1 billion for NIH, an increase of \$2 billion over FY 2016.
 - \$120 million for the Precision Medicine Initiative at NIH, including new funding as directed by the *Cures Act*.
 - \$3.21 billion for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at NIH (which houses the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research), an increase of \$91 million over FY 2016.
- \$7.26 billion for CDC, an increase of 421.76 million over FY 2016.
- \$300 million for the PRMRP at the Department of Defense, an increase of \$22 million over FY 2016.
 - "Sleep Disorders" are once again listed on the annual list of conditions deemed eligible for study.

The outcomes in the FY 2017 omnibus appropriations package are consistent with SRS advocacy priorities and the congressional outreach efforts of volunteer advocates. These final funding levels will ensure ongoing research activities can continue without disruption, facilitate expansion of the research portfolio by investing in emerging areas, and provide for additional research training and career development opportunities for young investigators. In addition to providing overall funding increases, during the FY 2017 appropriations process Congress has regularly indicated an interest in sleep, sleep disorders, and circadian research. As a result of education on the value and importance of this field of research from advocates, Congress has encouraged federal agencies to prioritize or report on the following key areas:

- CDC's ongoing work on sleep surveillance.
- NHLBI's ongoing work on sleep phenotypes.

With the FY 2017 appropriations process concluded, Congress is already working on appropriations for FY 2018. SRS encourages all interested individuals to take advantage of this opportunity, connect with the offices of your Senators and Representative, and encourage them to support sleep, sleep disorders, and circadian research. This call to action is particularly timely considering that the administration is presently asking Congress to cut NIH funding by about \$6 billion. For FY 2018, SRS and volunteer advocates are asking Congress to provide an additional \$2 billion increase for NIH, allow continued participation in the PRMRP, and provide additional resources to other research and public health activities.