

2019 Joint Committee Federal Advocacy Update

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Funding & Program Administration

- Ag Appropriations Highlights
 - VMLRP +\$1m
 - Maintain VSGP, FARAD, NAHLN
 - Research funding increases; NBAF funding
 - PHV report language
- Horse-related Policy Riders
- NIH \$2b increase expected (again)
- VMLRP administration

Higher Ed; Student Debt

- Higher Education Act reauthorization, or not...?
 - House version includes all of the veterinary community's priorities
 - Senate "skinny bill"
 - HELP Committee Members campaigning on education issues
- PSLF supported but changes possible as lawmakers look to fix administration issues
- VET MED Act led by Drs. Schrader and Yoho
- Accountability and accreditation negotiated rulemaking

Farm Bill Implementation

- House and Senate hearings continue
- Discretionary funding needed for key priorities, such as: AGARDA, NAHLN
- Mandatory Funding for Animal Health Three-Prong Provisions:
 - August: APHIS issued \$10M competitive solicitation **for both** new National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) and existing National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)
 - September: APHIS collected info on supply for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank
- Hemp: USDA released interim final rule open for comment until 12/31

Other key legislation

One Health

- H.R. 3771/S. 1903, Advancing Emergency Preparedness Through One Health Act
- Led by Reps. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Ted Yoho (R-FL); Sens. Tina Smith (D-MN) and Todd Young (R-IN)
- Requires HHS and USDA to develop a framework to coordinate federal One Health activities

America Grows Act

- H.R. 4714/S. 2458
- Rep. Bustos in the House, Sen. Durbin in the Senate (both IL)
- Authorizes a 5% increase for each of the next 5 years for NIFA, ARS, ERS and NASS
- Follows NIH funding model

Washington Outlook: Changing Daily...

- 2020 Election Cycle: retirements, tough races, and leadership shuffle will impact progress on issues
 - Chairmen on Senate Ag, HELP Committees
 - Ranking Members on House AG, E&C
- Hot button political debates over impeachment, border wall funding, and immigration will impact Congress' ability to fund the government let alone negotiate on larger issues such as the Higher Education Act

Q & A