



Federal Legislative Activities - Week of March 23, 2015

Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of March 23, 2015, below.

Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

Monday, March 23rd

The House will meet at 2:00 p.m. for legislative business to consider:

[H.R. 360](#) – Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2015. This bill reauthorizes a number of Indian and Native Hawaiian housing programs through FY 2019, including the Indian Housing Block Grant Program (IHBG), which it modifies to provide for multi-year housing plans and to allow tribes to meet program requirements more efficiently. It also establishes a set-aside for housing for Native American veterans within Veterans Affairs (VA) Department housing programs and creates a demonstration program to leverage private investment in affordable Indian housing.

[H.R. 233](#) – Tenant Income Verification Relief Act of 2015 - This bill allows Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) and the owners of private subsidized housing to review and verify the income-based eligibility of families once every three years, rather than annually, if the family is on a fixed income. Specifically, if a family certifies that 90% or more of its income is fixed and that the sources of the income have not changed since the previous year, the PHA or owner of private housing is not required to review the family's income for that year. A fixed income must allow for inflation-based income changes.

[H.R. 216](#) – Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act of 2015 - This bill directs the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) to submit to Congress each year a future-years veterans program to accompany its budget request. The program should reflect estimated expenditures and proposed appropriations for the current fiscal year and succeeding four fiscal years, and it should include a five-year plan for the VA to meet its commitment to veterans, including the resources necessary to meet those needs.

Tuesday, March 24th

10:00 | House Committee on Appropriations Budget Hearing: Housing and Urban Development Programs. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10:00 | House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing: Oversight Hearing on "Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the President's FY 2016 Budget Proposals." This hearing will consist of one panel of federal agency officials. The hearing will focus on agency priorities and accountability, appropriate use of taxpayer dollars, as well as the future mission of the BLM and Forest Service. Click [here](#) for a background memo and [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10:00 | House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Hearing: Options for FAA Air Traffic Control Reform

10:00 | House Committee on Energy and Commerce Hearing: Examining the 340B Drug Pricing Program. The purpose of the hearing is to review the functionality of the program to understand how it is impacting patients, providers, manufacturers, and other stakeholders. This memo includes a list of witnesses, general background on the program, a review of changes made to the program by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), and a summary of findings made by Government Accountability Office (GAO) and U.S. Department

of Health and Human Service's Office of Inspector General (HHS OIG) in reports on the program. Click [here](#) for a background memo and [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10:00 | Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee Hearing: Waters of the United States rule - stakeholder perspectives on the impacts of the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10:00 | Senate Commerce Committee Hearing: Surface transportation reauthorization, focusing on performance, not prescription. The second in a series of hearings on the reauthorization of highway safety programs under the Committee's jurisdiction, this hearing will review performance-based regulations and performance-based management in transportation policy, especially in truck, hazardous materials, and pipeline safety. A performance-based regulatory system sets outcomes and targets to achieve regulatory objectives, leaving the choice of compliance strategies to the discretion of the regulated entity, as opposed to prescribing specific designs or behaviors. Performance-based management links funding, program design, and program evaluation to long-term outcomes with measurable targets.

10:00 | Senate Energy and Natural Resources Hearing: Management reforms to improve forest health and socioeconomic opportunities on the nation's forest system. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10:30 | House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing: Oversight Hearing on "Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Power Marketing Administrations and USGS Water Division in the President's FY 2016 Budget Proposal." Click [here](#) for a background memo and [here](#) to view the webcast live.

The House will meet at 12:00 p.m. for legislative business to consider:

H. Con. Res. ___ – Establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025 (Subject to a Rule) - This resolution calls for a balanced budget after eight years, by FY 2024, entirely by reducing spending \$5.5 trillion over the next 10 years, including reductions in both discretionary and mandatory spending beyond that already required under the 2011 Budget Control Act. That balance would be achieved without any new increases in revenue. However, it estimates that \$147 billion in savings would result from the "macroeconomic fiscal impact" of higher economic growth caused by reduced deficits (i.e., through "dynamic scoring"). The largest component of the \$5.5 trillion in spending reductions comes from repeal of the president's 2010 health care overhaul (PL 111-148, PL 111-152), which would cut spending by more than \$2 trillion (although the budget assumes that the revenue raised by that law, as well as the law's reductions in Medicare spending, would remain). It caps FY 2016 discretionary spending at the scheduled sequester-reduced levels for both defense and non-defense, allowing just over \$1.1 trillion – but provides for \$94 billion in uncapped Overseas Contingency Operations funding, \$36 billion more than the president requested, in order to boost overall defense spending, and for future years calls for increases in defense caps and more than offsetting cuts to non-defense caps. It also includes reconciliation instructions requiring 13 House committees to report legislation generating savings from programs in their jurisdiction and to recommend how best to repeal the 2010 health care overhaul.

Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate – “Doc Fix” legislation to prevent a scheduled 21% reduction in the Medicare reimbursement rate for physician services that is set to occur March 31 under the current system. Negotiators from both sides of the aisle reportedly are close to an agreement on a package centered on repealing and replacing the so-called Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). The package may also include other health-care-related provisions, including those making certain changes to Medicare and extending funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Community Health Centers. The estimated \$200 billion cost of the deal reportedly would be partially offset by several provisions, including by requiring higher-income Medicare beneficiaries to pay higher premiums and by limiting the ability of Medigap plans to cover Part B deductibles.

Wednesday, March 25th

9:00 | House Committee on Appropriations Budget Hearing: Federal Railroad Administration, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

9:00 | House Committee on Natural Resources Markup: "Effect of the President's FY 2016 Budget and Legislative Proposals for the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service's Energy and Minerals Programs on Private Sector Job Creation, Domestic Energy and Minerals Production and Deficit Reduction." Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

2:00 | House Committee on Armed Services Hearing: Stakeholder's Views on the Military Compensation Retirement Modernization Commission

2:30 | Senate Commerce Committee Markup: Pending Legislation including:
[S. 808](#) - Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015
[S. 650](#) - Railroad Safety and Positive Train Control Extension Act, Sponsor.

3:00 | Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing: FY16 Department of Energy Budget Request.

Thursday, March 26th

10:00 | Senate Appropriations: Subcommittee Hearing: FY 2016 for the Department of Labor Budget Request.

10:00 | Senate Homeland Security Committee Hearing: To examine securing the border, focusing on defining the current population living in the shadows and addressing future flows.

Friday, March 27th

No Congressional Hearings.