



## Federal Legislative Activities Week of November 16, 2015

Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of November 16, 2015, below.

### Congressional Hearings and Floor Activity

#### Monday, November 16th

2 PM | House will meet for legislative business to consider:

[H.R. 1694](#) - Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015 - This bill adds veteran-owned small-business concerns to the list of small businesses under the law for which funding for federal-aid highway projects is set aside. The measure would apply to the reauthorization of federal highway programs, which Congress is currently considering.

[H.R. 3114](#) - To provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes.

[H.R. 1073](#) - Critical Infrastructure Protection Act - The measure requires the department to conduct research and development with owners and operators of critical infrastructure to mitigate the consequences of electromagnetic pulse (EMP) events.

[H.R. 3144](#) - Partners for Aviation Security Act - The bill requires the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to consult with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee before making any changes to TSA's list of prohibited items onboard airplanes. The measure also modifies the terms for members of that advisory committee, allowing a member to continue to serve until a successor is in place. Members currently serve for two-year terms.

[H.R. 1338](#) - Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2015 - The measure directs that the study determine the scope of issues relating to unclaimed remains of veterans, including an estimate of the number of unclaimed remains of veterans and an assessment of the effectiveness of VA's procedures for working with persons having custody of unclaimed remains. It also must include an analysis of state and local laws that affect the ability of the VA to inter unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries

[S. 599](#) - Improving Access to Emergency Psychiatric Care Act - This bill extends through next September the existing emergency psychiatric demonstration project created by the 2010 health care law, as long as a state's participation is not projected to increase net Medicaid spending, and it allows a further extension and possible expansion of the program after that time. The ACA authorized a three-year demonstration project to allow Medicaid to pay private "institutions of mental disease" for services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries between the ages of 21 and 64 who require medical assistance to stabilize a psychiatric emergency medical condition. Medicaid does not generally cover services provided in psychiatric institutions to enrollees between the ages of 21 and 64, instead diverting them to general hospital emergency departments.

[S. 799](#) - Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015 - The bill expands efforts within the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) that target prenatal opioid use and its effects, including by requiring a new strategy within HHS to address research gaps, a study on its prevention and treatment, and improved data collection. The bill requires HHS to solicit input from states, localities, federally recognized Indian tribes or tribal organizations, and nongovernmental entities, including organizations representing patients, health care providers, hospitals and other treatment facilities.

Highway Trust Fund - Possible Consideration of a Short-Term Extension to the Highway Trust Fund - The House may consider a short-term reauthorization of federal-aid highway and transit programs. House and Senate conferees are currently negotiating a long-term reauthorization but are not expected to reach a final agreement this week. The current authorization expires Nov. 20.

## **Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

10 AM | Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Hearing: to examine past wildfire seasons to inform and improve future Federal wildland fire management strategies. Click [here](#) to view the live webcast.

12 PM | House will meet for legislative business to consider:

[H.R. 511](#) - Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule) - The bill adds Native American tribes to the list of entities that are excluded from the definition of employer for purposes of the National Labor Relations Act, thereby treating them similarly to state and local governments. This definition would also apply to any enterprises or institutions owned and operated by tribes on their lands.

2 PM | House Ways and Means Subcommittee Hearing: Moving America's Families Forward: Lessons Learned from Welfare Reforms in Other Countries.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization - Possible consideration of a motion to go to conference on ESEA reauthorization legislation. The House may consider a motion to go to conference on legislation reauthorizing the ESEA of 1965. The House in July passed a GOP-drafted bill ([HR 5](#)) to reauthorize the act through 2019 and make fundamental changes to many of its programs, while the Senate later that month passed its own ESEA reauthorization ([S 1177](#)) that was developed on a bipartisan basis.

## **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

10 AM | House Agriculture Committee Hearing: Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: The National Commission on Hunger. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10 AM | House Natural Resources Committee Hearing: "Protecting America's Recreation and Conservation Act" Discussion Draft. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

10:30 AM | House Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing: Choice Consolidation: Assessing VA's Plan to Improve Care in the Community. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

2 PM | House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee Hearing: Examining VA's On-The-Job Training and Apprenticeship Program. Click [here](#) to view the webcast live.

2:15 PM | Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Oversight, Action, Federal Rights, and Federal Courts Hearing: The War on Police: How the Federal Government Undermines State and Local Law Enforcement.

## **Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

10:15 AM | House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Hearing: The Disrupter Series: The Fast-Evolving Uses and Economic Impacts of Drones.