

## Trump Signs HHS Funding Increase Into Law

By Shira Stein

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- Bill bumps funding for NIH by \$2B
- Package includes additional \$6.7 billion to combat opioid crisis

President Donald Trump Sept. 28 signed an appropriations package that includes a \$2.3 billion increase in funding for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Trump signed the legislation (H.R. 6157) to fund the departments of HHS, Defense, Labor, and Education for the next fiscal year, according to an HHS spokesperson. The HHS will receive a total \$90.5 billion in funding for the fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1.

The package overwhelmingly passed both the House and Senate. The majority of the funding increase will go to the National Institutes of Health, which will receive a \$2 billion raise.

The additional funding for the NIH is the latest in a series of funding increases for the agency. The additional funding is aimed at accelerating treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and other ailments and at addressing the nation's opioid epidemic.

Trump signed the legislation despite concern that he wouldn't because it lacked funds for a proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The package includes \$6.7 billion to combat the opioid crisis and to increase access to mental health services. This is in addition to grant money in a package of opioid-related bills that the Senate passed Sept. 17.

The package also includes three measures that would address the separation of children and parents at the southern border, including a measure that would require HHS Secretary Alex Azar to submit a family reunification plan to Congress by Nov. 15.

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