



AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

The House met today and approved the conference report for the FY10 Legislative Branch appropriations bill, which includes a continuing resolution to keep federal agencies operating in the new fiscal year that begins October 1. The Senate today continued its consideration of the FY09 Defense appropriations bill but conducted no roll call votes.

Both chambers will be out of session on Monday for observance of Yom Kippur. They will reconvene on Tuesday, September 29.

The House next week will consider the conference report on H.R. 3183, the FY09 Energy and Water appropriations bill, and will also take up S. 1707, a bill to promote an enhanced strategic relationship with Pakistan. House leaders also expect to appoint conferees for a number of other appropriations measures.

CongressDaily notes that Senate Democratic leaders next week hope to complete consideration of the Defense appropriations bill (H.R. 3326) and move on to the FY10 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill (H.R. 2847). The Defense bill will take considerable floor time because of the contentious issues that need to be resolved. The Senate on Tuesday will take up the FY10 Legislative Branch appropriations bill and the attached continuing resolution.

There could be more progress next week on appropriations conference reports now that House and Senate appropriators have resolved a conflict over the handling of earmarks that has delayed convening of conference committees. (See appropriations item below.)

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

**CONGRESS CONSIDERS CONTINUING RESOLUTION;
APPROPRIATIONS DISPUTE RESOLVED *UPDATED***

With Fiscal Year 2010 less than a week away and none of the 12 FY10 appropriations bills approved by Congress, House and Senate negotiators yesterday agreed on a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government through the end of October. They attached the measure to the FY10 Legislative Branch appropriations bill (H.R. 2918), and the House approved the combined legislation today on a vote of 217-190. The Senate will take up the measure on Tuesday, September 29.

In addition to the Legislative Branch bill, the five [bills](#) that have been approved by both chambers are: Agriculture, Energy and Water, Homeland Security, Interior, and Transportation-HUD.

Conference deliberations on the other five FY10 appropriations bills approved by both chambers have been delayed by House and Senate differences over how to treat congressional earmarks to for-profit entities (which are not an issue in the Legislative Branch bill). House appropriators added provisions to their appropriations bills requiring that earmarks to for-profit entities undergo a competitive bidding process. The requirement does not apply to earmarks originating in the Senate, and Senate appropriators resisted its application to the five percent of earmarks that overlap in House and Senate bills. According to CongressDaily, negotiators reached an agreement today under which the House requirement will not apply to those overlapping earmarks in FY10 bills but will apply to such earmarks beginning in FY11.

**AAU, APLU URGE INCREASED FUNDING FOR DEFENSE BASIC RESEARCH,
DARPA, NDEP *UPDATED***

AAU and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) wrote to all members of the Senate yesterday urging them to support efforts to increase research funding when the FY10 Defense appropriations bill is considered on the Senate floor.

The [letter](#) requests support for 6.1 basic research, as well as funding for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the National Defense Education Program (NDEP). The Senate committee-approved version of the bill provides significantly less funding for these programs than the House-passed version or the Administration's request. (See AAU's defense research funding [chart](#).)

The Senate has begun consideration of the Defense spending bill and will seek to complete the bill next week.

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