

NOSORH Annual Meeting

Washington Update  
Bill Finerfrock  
September 8, 2011

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Life in Washington?

Same as before or different?

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Issues and differences the same BUT...

- Parties are more polarized
- Media likes to stir things up
- Media outlets are more numerous
- New cycles are vastly different

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### Appropriations

- Fiscal Year 2011 ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Fiscal Year 2012 begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Congress has yet to enact ANY appropriations bills for FY 2012.
- The Labor-HHS Appropriations bill is scheduled to be marked-up by the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

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### The Debt Limit Budget Deal

	FY 2011 (actual)	FY 2012 House	2012 Debt Deal
Total Discretionary	\$1,050	\$1,019	\$1,043
Non-Security	\$ 361	\$ 324	\$ 359
Security	\$ 689	\$ 695	\$ 684

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### Appropriations

- It is highly unlikely that Congress will complete action on the FY 2012 Appropriations bills by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- It is highly likely that Congress will enact a short-term "Continuing Resolution" to fund government for several months awaiting action by the "Super Committee"

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### Key Appropriators

#### House Labor-HHS Appropriations

**Republicans**

Rehberg, MT – Chair  
 Lewis, CA  
 Alexander, LA  
 Kingston, GA  
 Granger, TX  
 Simpson, ID  
 Flake, AZ  
 Lummis, WY

**Democrats**

DeLauro, CT  
 Lowey, NY  
 Jackson, Jr., IL  
 Roybal-Allard, CA  
 Lee, CA

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### Key Appropriators

#### Senate

**Democrats**

Harkin, IA, Chair  
 Inouye, HI  
 Kohl, WI  
 Murray, WA  
 Landrieu, LA  
 Durbin, IL  
 Reed, RI  
 Pryor, AR  
 Mikulski, MD  
 Brown, OH

**Republicans**

Shelby, AL Ranking  
 Cochran, MS  
 Alexander, TN  
 Johnson, WI  
 Kirk, IL  
 Graham, SC  
 Moran, K]

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### Debt Limit Deal

The total amount cut as a result of the debt limit deal is likely to be approximately \$2.4 Trillion. \$900 Billion in "immediate" cuts and the "Super Committee" is charged with coming up with the remaining \$1.5 Trillion. All of these numbers are over 10 years.

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### Debt Limit Deal

The total amount could be less (total \$2.1 Trillion) in the event the Super Committee fails and the automatic cuts go into effect.

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### Super Committee

The "Super Committee" is charged with making recommendations of spending cuts totaling \$1.5 Trillion over 10 years.

In the event the "Super Committee" cannot make recommendations by Thanksgiving or Congress does not enact the recommendations by December 23, then automatic cuts of \$1.2 Trillion are authorized to be equally divided between defense and non-defense spending.

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**Goal of the Super Committee**

- The "Super Committee" is charged with making recommendations to Congress to reduce the federal deficit by \$1.5 Trillion dollars over the next 10 years.
- If the Super Committee fails to meet its charge or Congress fails to enact spending cuts of at least \$1.2 Trillion then automatic cuts are triggered.

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**Automatic Cuts**

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**Super Committee**

There are NO restrictions on what the Super Committee can recommend. However, in order for Congress to enact a tax increase as part of the Super Committee process, it will require special votes which would be unlikely to get past the House.

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**Super Committee Members**

Senators

<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
Baucus, Montana	Kyl, Arizona
<b>Murray, Washington*</b>	Toomey, Pennsylvania
Kerry, Massachusetts	Portman, Ohio

\*Co-Chair of Committee

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**Super Committee**

Representatives

<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Democrats</b>
Camp, Michigan	Van Hollen, Maryland
Upton, Michigan	Becerra, California
<b>Hensarling, Texas*</b>	Clyburn, South Carolina

\* Co-Chair of Committee

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### SORH Grant Reauthorization

The Senate Rural Caucus Leadership (Harkin, Roberts, Conrad and Barrasso) have agreed to include reauthorization of the SORH grant program in their Rural Health Care legislation which will be introduced "soon".

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### CAH/FLEX

There has been SOME discussion in DC about eliminating the special cost-based payments received by CAHs, Medicare Dependent Hospitals and Sole Community Hospitals and paying all hospitals their PPS rate.

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1. Now is the time to act.  
2. Legislative Activity will be very condensed and hectic over the next 3 months.  
3. Everything is on the table

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A. Write to your elected officials – **House and Senate**  
B. If you are in a state with one of the “Gang of 12” it is even more important that you reach out and let them know the importance of the various rural programs.  
C. If you are in a state with an identified “Key Appropriator” it is imperative that they hear from you or absent your ability to “educate” other rural advocates in your state who can “educate”.

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Bill Finerfrock  
Senior Vice President  
Capitol Associates, Inc.  
202-544-1880  
bf@capitolassociates.com

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