



APRIL FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Federal Overview

On April 24th, President Joe Biden signed into law an aid package providing crucial military assistance to Ukraine, capping months of negotiations and debate. The aid package, worth \$95 billion in total, includes nearly \$61 billion in aid to Ukraine, \$26 billion for the Israel-Hamas conflict – including \$15 billion in Israeli military aid, \$9 billion in humanitarian aid for Gaza and \$2.4 billion for regional US military operations – and \$8 billion for the Indo-Pacific. The package also includes a bill that could eventually lead to the banning of TikTok in the United States - giving Chinese parent company ByteDance roughly nine months to sell it or else it will be banned from app stores in the United States. The funding package comes after months of intense negotiations and discussions between the House and Senate, as well as Democrats and Republicans.

Along with the funding package, another notable piece of legislation which passed through Congress was to extend Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, for two more years. The move reauthorizes a powerful surveillance tool the U.S. government describes as critical to combating terrorism, after defeating efforts by civil liberties advocates on the left and right to rein it in. Members on both sides of the aisle had issues with the legislation, which has been described as too broad and in violation of Americans' civil liberties and privacy.

In addition to these legislative developments, the Drug Enforcement Administration is expected to approve an opinion by the Department of Health and Human Services that marijuana should be reclassified from the strictest Schedule I to the less stringent Schedule III. It would be the first time that the U.S. government has acknowledged its potential medical benefits and begun studying them in earnest.

The Supreme Court heard more than two and a half hours' worth of arguments on the landmark question of whether former President Donald Trump is immune from prosecution in a case charging him with plotting to overturn the 2020 presidential election. The Court has not yet released a decision or ruling on the issue.

PLG Actions

While awaiting assignments from the County, our firm continues to be diligent in meeting with Congressional members as well as County Commissioners to discuss our representation of Miami-Dade County and its legislative priorities. Specifically, Attorney Sean Pittman joined Vice-Chairman Anthony Roriguez and other lobbyists representing the County in D.C. to discuss priorities and issues at the federal level. Furthermore, we met with Commissioner Cohen Higgins and Chairman Gilbert to discuss any district-specific issues at the federal level, as well as their legislative priorities for the County at-large. We have scheduled meetings with Congresswoman Cherfilus-McCormick, Congresswoman Wasserman-Shultz, and Congresswoman Wilson to further discuss our representation of the County at the federal level.