

## Memorandum

**TO:** Miami-Dade County

**FROM:** Greenberg Traurig

**DATE:** May 31, 2024

**RE:** May 2024 Monthly Report

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Below please find a summary of Greenberg Traurig's efforts on behalf of Miami-Dade County and the latest news stories and updates in Washington from the month of May. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

### *Overview*

Throughout the month of May, GT has kept Miami-Dade County staff up-to-date on the latest breaking news and developments in Washington with an on the ground presence in the nation's capital. GT has also helped County staff navigate the Congressional Budget and Appropriations process. Our team continues to work with the Delegation and Congressional leadership to advocate for funding and support for programs that are important to the County. GT's efforts on behalf of the County have focused on issues such as Appropriations/Budget, Public Safety, Economic Development, Equity, Justice, WRDA, Housing, Broadband/5G, Immigration, Infrastructure, and Transportation issues among many others.

Our team features former Congressional and White House staff whose strong connections in Washington can enable Miami-Dade County staff to maximize their opportunities to discuss specific high-level priorities with the top decision-makers in the Federal government. Through these connections, GT has also provided County staff with relevant "Dear Colleague" letters, draft versions of legislation, legislative analysis, Congressional Agenda outlines and other insights not available through public means. GT continued to cultivate these relationships in the Federal government this month and maintains an open dialogue with Members of the Florida delegation, Congressional leadership, and key contacts within the Administration.

### *Budget & Appropriations*

House appropriators set the stage for another fraught summer, approving subcommittee allocations that include a large cut to nondefense spending on May 23<sup>rd</sup> during the committee's first markup of the year. The committee approved the funding levels, known as 302(b)s, on a party-line 30-22 vote after also supporting a substitute amendment that slightly changed the allocations that Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole, R-Okla., rolled out earlier in May. The substitute was adopted on a 32-21 vote. Cole, during his inaugural markup leading the committee, said appropriators became aware of receipts that were higher than expected in a couple of the bills. "The amendment allows us to even out those funds and put them to good use for the American people," he said.

The Labor-HHS-Education bill received a boost of \$2 billion in funding that originally was allocated to the Commerce-Justice-Science measure. And the Interior-Environment bill received an additional \$800 million originally slated for Transportation-HUD accounts, likely a reflection of higher housing-related receipts in updated Congressional Budget Office estimates. Cole and House Republicans are writing bills about \$75 billion below last summer's debt limit deal when it comes to domestic and foreign aid programs, eliminating the so-called "side deal" adjustments that boosted nondefense funding but were not written into the law's text (PL 118-5). This will lead to a cut of about 6 percent to nondefense spending and an increase of 1 percent on the defense side, Cole has said. The defense increase, which totals \$9 billion, is not as much as many hawks on both sides of the aisle would like, including Cole. But the new chairman has said appropriators must live within the constraints of the debt limit deal and highlighted the cuts to nondefense spending in the allocations. Cole said the allocations represent "responsible governance and the safeguarding of hard-earned tax dollars." "But they also represent our core commitments: to strengthening our national defense, supporting the safety and security of the American people, fully funding health care for our nation's veterans, and ensuring that the government remains focused on its core mission," he said.

Democrats are upset with the cuts on the nondefense side, with the committee approving double-digit percentage spending reductions to the Labor-HHS-Education, Financial Services, Transportation-HUD and State-Foreign Operations bills by their calculations once last year's "adjustments" are taken into account.

## Revised House Appropriations Committee allocations

Appropriations subcommittee	House FY25 allocation (\$M)	FY24 comparable enacted (\$M)	difference (\$M)	difference (%)
Agriculture	25,873	26,228	-355	-1.4%
Commerce-Justice-Science*	78,288	66,538	+11,750	+17.7%
Defense	833,053	824,485	+8,568	+1.0%
Energy-Water	59,190	58,191	+999	+1.7%
Financial Services	23,608	13,734	+9,874	+71.9%
Homeland Security	64,805	61,840	+2,965	+4.8%
Interior-Environment*	37,739	38,550	-811	-2.1%
Labor-HHS-Education*	186,586	194,434	-7,848	-4.0%
Legislative Branch	7,125	6,750	+375	+5.6%
Military Construction-VA	147,520	153,920	-6,400	-4.2%
State-Foreign Operations	51,713	55,846	-4,133	-7.4%
Transportation-HUD*	90,400	89,484	+916	+1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,605,900</b>	<b>1,590,000</b>	<b>+15,900</b>	<b>+1.0%</b>

Sources: House Appropriations Committee, Congressional Budget Office

In the worst-case scenario depending on certain offsets, the Labor-HHS-Education measure could be cut by as much as 16 percent below current funding levels, panel Democrats said in a fact sheet on the new allocations. "I am experiencing deja vu all over again, as we begin down

an already well-trodden path towards chaos, division, and shutdown threats," House Appropriations ranking member Rosa DeLauro said. "Like last year, we are beginning this year's process with topline funding levels that fall well short of what the American people need, and well short of what both parties already agreed to." DeLauro, D-Conn., said Democrats are insisting on 1 percent growth for nondefense spending, which would equal the defense boost. That would total \$786 billion, or \$75 billion above the House Republicans' nondefense allocations totaling \$711 billion. But Republicans are aiming to pass all twelve bills on the floor before the August recess, according to the aggressive schedule Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., shared. In order to do so, they will have to keep nearly the entire conference on board due to the party's slim majority.

### ***FAA Reauthorization***

On May 16<sup>th</sup> President Biden signed legislation (HR 3935) reauthorizing programs at the Federal Aviation Administration, ending eight months of negotiations in Congress over how best to improve operations and safety in the troubled airline industry. Biden signed the bill a day after it passed the House on a 387-26 vote and said in a statement that it was "a big win for travelers, the aviation workforce, and our economy."

The new law provides \$105 billion for the FAA over five years. It increases authorizations for FAA operations to \$66.7 billion total over the term, starting at \$13 billion for fiscal 2024, which ends on Sept. 30. That's up from \$11.5 billion in fiscal 2023. From there, topline authorizations reach \$14 billion for operations in fiscal 2028. It also boosts authorizations for the Airport Improvement Program, which funds new infrastructure, to \$4 billion a year, the first increase for a program that's been set at \$3.4 billion annually for the past 10 years.

Although the bill is typically the only major aviation legislation that goes through Congress, Senate Commerce Chair Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., has said she intends to announce additional aircraft certification and safety legislation stemming from recent incidents involving Boeing Co. planes.

### ***Farm Bill***

On May 24<sup>th</sup> the House Agriculture Committee approved a five-year farm bill, as amended, wrapping up about 13 hours of debate that grew heated over the measure's changes to the food stamp program, a reallocation of 2022 climate funds and a suspension of the Agriculture secretary's flexibility to use Commodity Credit Corporation funds. The 33-21 vote to approve the bill (HR 8467) showed a sharp partisan divide over the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, risking the chances of a bill that has traditionally drawn bipartisan support by combining farm and nutrition programs. Democrats warned that Republican defections on the floor could jeopardize even House passage given the thin GOP majority. Reps. Eric Sorensen, D-Ill, Yadira Caraveo, D-Colo., Don Davis, D-N.C., and Sanford D. Bishop Jr., D-Ga., joined the Republicans in approving the bill.

The final vote also came after the panel discussed at length an amendment by Rep. Greg Casar, D-Texas, that would bar the Agriculture Department from entering contracts with

meat and poultry processing plants that violate child labor and minimum wage laws. The panel dispensed with the proposal by adopting Wisconsin Republican Rep. Derrick VanOrden's second-degree amendment seeking a Government Accountability Office study of the issue, and then adopting that text as Casar's amendment. After adopting Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson's manager's amendment near the start, lawmakers spent about five hours disagreeing primarily about SNAP before they began voting on other amendments. Nearly 60 amendments were filed, although some were withdrawn without a vote. Thompson, R-Pa., said SNAP would still account for \$1.2 trillion of the roughly \$1.5 trillion cost over 10 years of the bill.

Most Democrats said they wouldn't support a farm bill including SNAP provisions that would keep the Thrifty Food Plan cost-neutral, even as some of them thanked Thompson for including their provisions on other issues. Those SNAP provisions would effectively bar SNAP benefits from increasing or decreasing except to reflect the cost of living. "We all know that there are certain people on the Republican side, and I'm not saying who, that have never ever voted for a farm bill," said Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Texas, adding that Republicans might not even get the bill out of the House.

Thompson said the panel would have to find other spending offsets if the bill were amended to restore SNAP funding. The work to pass a farm bill comes as the Sept. 30 deadline approaches. Members passed a one-year extension (PL 118-22) that continues policies from the 2018 farm bill (PL 115-334). "There is absolutely no way you're going to get a farm bill unless you take care of this business," said ranking member David Scott, D-Ga., referring to the food stamp provisions.

### ***WRDA 2024***

This month the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved their version of the Water Resources Development Act (S 4367) on a 19-0 vote.

The biennial legislation introduced by Chairman Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., and ranking member Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., includes projects to dredge ports, rehabilitate levees and address flooding. It also requires the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct feasibility studies and report to Congress on a range of issues, which often influence future WRDA bills.

Carper noted that the bill includes projects and programs in all 50 states, and that the committee received more than 1,200 WRDA requests this cycle. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is expected to mark up its version of the 2024 WRDA in June.

### ***Non-Governmental Partners and Coalitions***

Throughout May, GT continued to work with organizations like NACo, the Large Urban County Caucus, the National League of Cities, and the United States Conference of Mayors to push for additional state/local aid that would benefit Miami-Dade County and their residents.

GT staff have attended many meetings and been on regular calls with the organizations mentioned above and others this month on the County's behalf. Partnering with these and other organization allows Miami-Dade County officials the opportunity to amplify their voices and help attain County policy priorities at the federal level.

### *Media Updates*

GT continues to send daily media updates on legislative and political issues to the County in order to ensure that the Commission and staff remain up-to-date on developments within the Beltway. We conduct careful daily monitoring of the federal legislative calendar, executive orders, and other policy directives from the White House, action by the federal regulatory agencies, and key decisions issued by the federal courts. We will continue to monitor the issues most relevant to the County and provide timely and accurate information in order to make certain that the County is aware of any developments which may provide an opportunity to accomplish established goals.