

Memorandum

TO: Miami-Dade County

FROM: Greenberg Traurig

DATE: April 30th, 2022

RE: April 2022 Monthly Report

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 April. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

Overview

Throughout the month of April, 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 public health related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fire Safety and PPE, Justice and Safety, Flooding, WRDA, Disaster Aid, Housing, Broadband/5G, Appropriations/Budget, 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, 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.

Fire Safety Meetings

In April, GT staff coordinated and attended in-person meetings with the Florida delegation on behalf of the County. During Commissioner Sally Heyman's visit to Washington D.C. during the week of April 25th, GT staff accompanied the Commissioner to 14 meetings on Capitol Hill with members of the Florida delegation including Rep. Bilirakis, Rep. Cammack, Rep. Castor, Rep. Frankel, Rep. Gimenez, Rep. Posey, Rep. Salazar, Rep. Wasserman Schultz, and Rep. Wilson

among others. The meetings focused on fire safety, PPE (Personal protective equipment), and legislative solutions for expired fire gear.

GT continues to maintain a working dialogue with congressional staff and is working to follow up with each office with additional information.

Budget & Appropriations

Appropriations leaders could reach agreement on a spending ceiling for the upcoming fiscal year within weeks, Senate Appropriations Chairman Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., said after an April 28th meeting with his GOP and Democratic counterparts in both chambers. Leahy projected confidence after the roughly 30-minute meeting, saying he feels better this year compared to the last cycle when appropriators didn't pass the fiscal 2022 omnibus (PL 117-103) until March, nearly six months behind schedule. The four corners of the Appropriations Committees — the chairs and ranking members in each chamber — are “doing pretty well” on negotiating a spending target, Leahy said. “We’ll put topline on these in the next couple of weeks, but it takes a long time to write these bills up,” he said.

Both Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., want to get appropriations done, Leahy said. He and Senate Appropriations ranking member Richard C. Shelby, R-Ala., who like Leahy is retiring, want to give the next Congress a clean slate. Shelby said appropriators are “not there yet” on a topline agreement. “It may be a while, because there are a lot of variables out there,” he said after the meeting. House Appropriations ranking member Kay Granger, R-Texas, said the lawmakers discussed the process, not specifics like percentage increases for defense and nondefense spending. “It was really the way we’d go about it; it wasn’t the details like that,” she said. Shelby suggested the way negotiations came together quickly earlier this year after a lengthy stalemate over funding levels and policy riders could be a template for this year's process. “I think we have a mental framework to work together.

House Democratic leaders said they will try to reach a quick agreement with Republicans on a spending framework, but they won't wait to get started. As of now House Democrats are planning to mark-up fiscal 2023 bills in June and bring them to the floor in July, with or without a deal. In the Senate, the retirements of Leahy and Shelby at the end of this Congress give both an incentive to complete spending bills and leave on a high note. And Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who's in line to take over next year as the top Appropriations Republican, said she'd prefer to wrap up this year's business first. “We want to start with a clean slate,” Collins said of herself and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who's likely to assume Leahy's position next year.

Rising inflation — the consumer price index in March rose to 8.5 percent for the preceding 12 months — also will put pressure on the Congress to pass an appropriations package rather than rely on temporary stopgap spending bills or continuing resolutions, which would generally continue spending at current levels for federal agencies. President Biden's budget projected inflation would rise by only 2.3 percent next year, based on an economic forecast that was locked in last November. As always, the appropriations process remains very fluid, and we will keep Miami-Dade staff updated going forward.

COVID-19 Aid Package

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said it's still very likely Congress will combine the COVID-19 (HR 7007) and Ukraine aid packages that have been proposed, but lamented that Democrats in both chambers aren't more united on pandemic relief. Hoyer said he wants to provide more than \$10 billion in COVID-19 funding, in particular by adding funds for international pandemic needs, but "at minimum" Congress should pass that. Lawmakers in both parties are warning that combining new aid for Ukraine with a stalled COVID-19 bill could delay emergency funding for Ukraine. Sen. Rob Portman urged Democrats to keep the Ukraine funding separate because it can and should pass quickly. He said combining it with pandemic aid would likely mean there wouldn't be 10 Republican to overcome a filibuster without a resolution on the Title 42 pandemic border policy used to block asylum-seeking migrants from entering the U.S.

The White House is increasing pressure on Congress to pass COVID-19 funding. It sent out a press blast in late April highlighting the pitfalls of not providing more funds: the U.S. wouldn't be able to purchase additional COVID-19 boosters in the fall, money would run out for treatments and monoclonal antibodies and testing capacity will diminish, among other things. "COVID-19 isn't waiting on Congress to negotiate. Other countries will not wait. Time is of the essence. Congress must act urgently to help save more American lives and ensure we remain prepared," the White House said.

The White House plans to send a Ukraine supplemental aid request to Congress in early May, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said. The administration will also continue lobbying Congress to increase COVID-19-related funding beyond the \$10 billion both parties have so far agreed to spend and offset. "We will request COVID funding and we will reiterate our request for \$22.5 billion," Psaki said, noting that "will help meet the immediate emergency needs."

Non-Governmental Partners and Coalitions

Throughout April, 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.

(Below is an example of one of GT's Washington Updates, which are sent to County officials each day.)

Good Morning –

Below is a look at today's news and events in DC. If you have any questions or need anything, please let us know.

Thanks!
Greg



Today at a Glance: April 27, 2022

Top Stories for the Day

- Senate Democrats want to pass a COVID-19 aid measure that stalled earlier this month by combining it with the next tranche of emergency Ukraine funding, which President Joe Biden is expected to formally request this week. The combo approach could move both priorities more quickly to Biden's desk, but GOP senators say they prefer the two remain separate. If Democrats do combine them, Republicans say they will still demand an amendment vote to codify the Title 42 directive, which has allowed Customs and Border Protection to deny U.S. entry to asylum-seeking migrants on public health grounds. "We'll need to have a Title 42 vote at some point here," said Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. The Biden administration has said it would lift Title 42 by May 23. That decision faces steep opposition from Republicans and a growing number of Democrats. They argue Title 42 should remain through the duration of the public health emergency.
- Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) is sketching out his vision for what a scaled-down budget bill could look like as his party eyes a second run at moving a major policy bill through a reconciliation process that would negate a GOP filibuster. This time, however, Democrats are playing down the chances for an imminent deal. Manchin in December nixed the roughly \$2 trillion House-passed Build Back Better package, sending the party into a legislative depression. The party now faces significant hurdles to renew the tax-and-spending plan at the heart of their agenda as they feel growing pressure to provide deliverables to their own voters. Sen. Dick Durbin (Ill.), the No. 2 Senate Democrat, said that there were "varying levels of optimism" within the caucus about reviving reconciliation, the budget process that cuts off a GOP filibuster and would allow

Democrats to pass a measure with votes just from their members. “I am the most skeptical,” Durbin said. “I want to see the results. I want to put two of my colleagues in the room with a blank sheet of paper and ask them, ‘What will you agree to?’ There seems to be some problems with that.” Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) indicated that Democrats were largely delegating talks with Manchin about reconciliation to Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.). “You’re not going to hear much about it until a decision is made,” Cardin said. “There’s been no reports to us, and we don’t expect any reports.” Democrats and the White House have acknowledged that there are conversations going on, but they are also being careful to draw hard red lines or hype their talks after they set deadlines, and missed them, repeatedly last year. “We always are hopeful. That’s all I’m saying,” said Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee.

- Senate Democrats are rethinking their floor plan for the week after Vice President Kamala Harris and two senators tested positive for COVID-19, demonstrating the majority's fragile hold on the chamber amid the continuing pandemic. Democratic Sens. Christopher S. Murphy of Connecticut and Ron Wyden of Oregon said they were experiencing minor symptoms and isolating. Their absence meant Democrats did not have the votes to end debate on Lisa Cook’s nomination to the Federal Reserve board. Cook, who would become the first Black woman to join the Fed, has faced a series of obstacles. A senior Senate Democratic aide said Republican objections forced Cook’s cloture vote to go ahead as planned yesterday. Senators voted 47-51, blocking the motion to end debate and proceed to a final vote. Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., changed his vote to “no” and filed a motion to reconsider Cook’s nomination at a later date. Even if Democrats had mustered a Senate tie, Harris couldn’t have broken it because she too is isolating after testing positive. Her office said late Tuesday that she has taken the antiviral drug Paxlovid following consultation with her medical team and receiving a prescription. The three absences also impacted a planned Tuesday vote on Federal Trade Commission nominee Alvaro M. Bedoya. Both Bedoya and Cook had deadlocked in committee and advanced to the floor on party-line votes. Schumer was able to withdraw his motion to invoke cloture on the Bedoya nomination.

House: Convenes at noon to consider 15 bills under suspension of the rules.

Senate: Convenes at 2 p.m. to resume consideration of the district judge nomination of Sherilyn Peace Garnett, with a cloture vote at 3:30 p.m. and a confirmation vote expected later in the day. Additional roll call votes are expected.

Committee Activity:

- **Surface Transportation Construction Workforce**
House Transportation and Infrastructure - Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Committee - Subcommittee Hearing
April 27, 2 p.m., [Link Here](#)

- **Farm Bill-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**
House Agriculture Committee - Full Committee Hearing
April 28, 10 a.m., [Link Here](#)