

**Memorandum**

**TO:** Miami-Dade County

**FROM:** Greenberg Traurig

**DATE:** June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**RE:** June 2022 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 June. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

***Overview***

Throughout the month of June, 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, Public Safety and PPE, Justice, 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.

***Budget & Appropriations***

The House Appropriations Committee in mid-June adopted subcommittee allocations for fiscal 2023 that would spend \$132 billion above the fiscal 2022 enacted level, a 9 percent increase. The committee approved the subcommittee allocations, which are in line with the \$1.6 trillion discretionary budget ceiling (H Res 1151) the chamber adopted last month, in a 31-26 party-line vote.

Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., said the funding levels will meet veterans' growing health care needs, build on the current fiscal year's increases for nondefense spending programs and maintain a robust commitment to the military. The Interior-Environment, Legislative Branch and Military Construction-VA bills received the largest percentage increases among the dozen spending measures at roughly 18 percent, while the Defense and Homeland Security spending bills received under 5 percent increases.

### House Appropriations Committee "302(b)" allocations

| Bill                     | FY22 enacted (\$B) | FY23 House allocations (\$B) | Increase (\$B) | Increase (%) |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Agriculture              | 25.1               | 27.2                         | 2.1            | 8.3%         |
| Commerce-Justice-Science | 75.8               | 85.5                         | 9.8            | 12.9%        |
| Defense                  | 728.5              | 761.7                        | 33.2           | 4.6%         |
| Energy-Water             | 52.9               | 56.3                         | 3.4            | 6.4%         |
| Financial Services       | 25.5               | 29.8                         | 4.3            | 16.8%        |
| Homeland Security        | 57.5               | 60.3                         | 2.8            | 4.9%         |
| Interior-Environment     | 38.0               | 44.8                         | 6.8            | 17.8%        |
| Labor-HHS-Education      | 197.0              | 224.4                        | 27.4           | 13.9%        |
| Legislative Branch*      | 5.9                | 7.0                          | 1.1            | 18.1%        |
| Military Construction-VA | 127.6              | 150.5                        | 23.0           | 18.0%        |
| State-Foreign Operations | 56.1               | 64.6                         | 8.5            | 15.1%        |
| Transportation-HUD       | 81.0               | 90.9                         | 9.9            | 12.2%        |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>1,470.8</b>     | <b>1,602.9</b>               | <b>132.1</b>   | <b>9.0%</b>  |

\*Includes Senate-only items not included in initial House bill

Note: Figures exclude certain cap adjustments and other exemptions from the base subcommittee allocations for specific programs like wildfire suppression, disaster relief, biomedical research and harbor maintenance projects.

Sources: House Appropriations Committee, Congressional Budget Office

The House is moving forward with bill markups without a bicameral, bipartisan appropriations agreement on the topline spending figures. This means the figures will likely be far apart from the final numbers enacted in the fiscal 2023 appropriations process. For example, in the fiscal 2022 process, the final topline discretionary ceiling was \$58 billion less than the House's deeming resolution adopted last year (H Res 467) for a total of \$1.47 trillion. Topline negotiations have stalled as Republicans are pushing for a significant increase to defense spending. Senate Appropriations Chair Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., said earlier this month that Republicans are pushing

for a stopgap funding resolution instead of a spending deal and will not negotiate until after the midterm elections.

As for the Senate, the Senate Appropriations Committee is set to start marking up its fiscal 2023 appropriations bills after the July Fourth recess, according to panel chairman Pat Leahy, (D-VT). Leahy said he would set the subcommittee allocations and the Senate would move forward with markups without a bipartisan, bicameral appropriations deal, just as the House has done this month. "I'm just going to give all the subcommittee chairs an allocation, and tell them to mark up their bills," he said. "I hope the Republicans will join us, and they will be welcome to any of the markups and the negotiations, but we can't sit around and wait forever."

If Leahy can successfully mark up his chamber's bills in committee next month, it would be a significant improvement over last year when mired in a similar topline funding dispute, Senate appropriators were only able to mark up three of the 12 fiscal 2022 spending bills, just before the August recess.

### ***Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)***

The House on June 8<sup>th</sup> passed H.R. 7776, The Water Resources Development Act, a water policy bill to allow the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out dozens of projects and studies on a host of topics, including ecosystem protection, flooding, navigation and infrastructure.

Passage, by a 384-87 vote, came a day after Rep. Chip Roy, R-Tex., forced the delay by requesting a roll call vote rather than voting by voice. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee advanced the bill in May. It would authorize more than 100 environmental infrastructure projects, including projects on wastewater, stormwater and water access. It would also approve \$150 million in new funding for projects in California, Missouri and Oregon, 18 new construction projects for the corps, as well as 72 feasibility studies for water projects and nine feasibility studies about modifying existing water projects.

Except for the period between 2007 and 2014, Congress has approved the bill, known as the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA, every two years since the 1980s.

### ***Gun Violence Legislation***

The House cleared bipartisan gun violence reduction legislation on June 24<sup>th</sup>, delivering President Joe Biden a legislative victory ahead of his departure for Europe. The 234-193 final passage vote came as the bipartisan success was overshadowed by the Supreme Court's opinion overturning the abortion rights protections in *Roe v. Wade*. All House Democrats supported the bill (S 2938) along with 14 Republicans.

"This package represents the most significant action to prevent gun violence in nearly three decades and is a necessary step to honor our solemn duty as lawmakers to protect and defend the American people," Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said on the House floor ahead of the vote. "Importantly, the bipartisan Safer Communities Act has earned strong support from gun owners, gun survivors and law enforcement alike." The measure includes mental health, school

security and gun control provisions. It garnered broader Republican support when it passed the Senate 65-33, with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., headlining the list of 15 GOP votes in support of the final vote on the motion to concur. The Senate passed the legislation the night before leaving Washington for the July Fourth recess.

The legislation would provide new funding for states to set up crisis intervention court systems and ramp up mental health funding. There's also funding that could incentivize more states to enact "red flag" laws, allowing legal action to bar certain people who are determined to pose a risk to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing firearms.

The bill came together after bipartisan negotiations led by Democratic Sens. Christopher S. Murphy of Connecticut and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Republican Sens. John Cornyn of Texas and Thom Tillis of North Carolina. The four came together, with the support of Senate leadership, in the aftermath of mass shootings both in Buffalo, N.Y., and Uvalde, Texas. They released a framework June 12 with the support of 20 senators — 10 from each caucus — and eventually legislative text.

The legislation is the first major piece of gun legislation to move through Congress since the Brady Bill in November, 1993.

The legislation would:

- ❖ Beef up criminal background checks for those under age 21
- ❖ Incentivize states to provide records of criminal convictions and mental health crises to the National Instant Background Check System for people 16 and older
- ❖ Create grants for states to support crisis intervention programs
- ❖ Expand restrictions on gun ownership for individuals convicted of domestic violence against a dating partner
- ❖ Allocate \$300 million for school security grants, including \$100 million for a program that can be used to “harden” schools to make them more difficult to target

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

Throughout June, 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: June 23, 2022**

### **Top Stories for the Day**

- McConnell called the bipartisan gun violence package (S 2938) a "sweet spot" that will "make our country safer without making it less free." He highlighted the bill's funding for law enforcement, school security and mental health treatment and said it "strengthens the existing background check system without expanding it." Senators plan to take a small but important procedural step toward passage of a broad bipartisan bill to combat mass shootings today. The vote planned for midday would be on agreeing to invoke cloture on a motion to concur in the House amendment to the legislative vehicle for the bipartisan gun violence package (S 2938), with a further Senate amendment. A majority on the vote would put Democratic Leader Charles E. Schumer closer to his goal for the Senate to vote on the bill before it leaves Washington for the July Fourth recess. Including Thursday, there are five planned legislative days left to meet that goal. The draft text released Tuesday after closed-door negotiations would make background checks for those under age 21 more rigorous over the next 10 years and create grants for states to adopt and implement crisis intervention laws, often called red flag laws. It also includes \$100 million in grants in response to Republicans' call to "harden schools" to make them more difficult to target. But the funds for school security in the bill are dwarfed by the several billion dollars invested in mental health resources, including \$2

billion that could be used for school-based mental health care. Schumer said he expects "robust bipartisan support" to invoke cloture on the bipartisan gun violence package (S 2938) this morning and he intends to work with Republicans "to secure a vote on final passage before the day is out."

- The Food and Drug Administration ordered JUUL to remove all of its remaining vaping products from the market, citing "insufficient and conflicting data" about the potential for leaching chemicals that precluded the agency from completing a proper risk assessment.
- House appropriators continue work on fiscal 2023 spending today with a full committee markup of the draft bills for agriculture, and military construction and veterans funding, followed later in the day by two hefty subcommittee markups. On agriculture, members at the subcommittee level proposed discretionary funding of \$27.2 billion — \$2.1 billion more than the fiscal 2022 enacted level. The bill would provide \$195 billion in total discretionary and mandatory funding. It also includes 134 projects of congressionally directed spending, or earmarks, with \$192 million in funding. And the Military Construction-VA Appropriations Subcommittee approved a draft spending bill that would provide \$314.1 billion in funding for veterans health care and military infrastructure projects. Of the total, \$150.5 billion is discretionary, an increase of \$23 billion from fiscal 2022 levels. Both drafts will be marked up by the full committee this morning (10 a.m., 1100 Longworth). And later today the panel's Transportation-HUD (4 p.m., 2359 Rayburn) and Labor-HHS-Education (5:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn) subcommittees gavel in. The draft fiscal 2023 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill would provide \$242.1 billion in discretionary funding. It aims to boost medical research and educational grants and attempts to remove longstanding abortion riders. It's a proposed \$28.5 billion increase from enacted fiscal 2022 levels, or a 13 percent bump, including an increase of \$15.6 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services. There's also a proposed funding boost for the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development departments in that draft bill. Funding for the two departments combined would increase 12 percent over the fiscal 2022 enacted level, with \$27.8 billion going to the Transportation Department and \$62.7 billion going to HUD.

**House:** Convenes at noon to consider four bills under suspension of the rules, including a measure related to mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (HR 6411). Lawmakers could also begin consideration of a LGBTQ data bill (HR 4176).

**Senate:** Convenes at 10 a.m. to resume consideration of the nomination of Jessica G. L. Clarke to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of New York. Senators are also expected to vote around 11 a.m. on agreeing to the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the legislative vehicle for the bipartisan gun violence package (S 2938) with a further Senate amendment.

#### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY:

- **National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization**  
Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee - Full Committee  
Hearing  
June 23, 10 a.m., 538 Dirksen Bldg.
- **FY2023 Appropriations**  
House Appropriations - Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and  
Urban Development, and Related Agencies Committee - Subcommittee  
Markup  
June 23, 4 p.m., 2359 Rayburn Bldg.
- **FY2023 Appropriations**  
House Appropriations - Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee - Subcommittee  
Markup  
June 23, 5:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn Bldg.