

## OMNIBUS INCLUDES \$3.6B IN OPIOID FUNDING; MARKET STABILIZATION MEASURES LEFT OUT

Congressional leaders unveiled a \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill that includes an additional \$3.6 billion for opioid-addiction and mental-health services. The bill does not include marketplace stabilization measures or brand drug industry-backed changes to the Part D program.

The bill would provide the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) \$78 billion in budget authority, which is \$10 billion more than the 2017 level, according to the House appropriations committee release. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) would get the largest increase, \$3 billion, while most other agencies would get slight bumps or stayed flat.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would receive \$4 billion for administrative expenses, the same as last year. As in previous years, the HHS budget would bar CMS from using program funds for the risk corridor program and require HHS detail all spending on the ACA since its enactment in its next budget request.

Insurers who had been strongly urging lawmakers to include stabilization measures, particularly funding for cost-sharing payments and reinsurance, immediately expressed their dismay with the bill. ■