

Dear COSLA Members – Sharing some positive news on the legislative front to end the week:

Regarding FY19 appropriations, the House Labor HHS Subcommittee passed a budget bill this morning that includes level funding for IMLS. At this point we know only the top line number (\$240 million) but ALA Washington Office will be reviewing the committee report early next week to see the specific program numbers (Grants to State, discretionary programs, administration, etc.). From here the bill will go to the full committee and then the House floor. There is no schedule for those actions yet. Level funding is not our ideal but it is also not our worst case scenario, and our stronger chances at increases lately have rested in the Senate in any case, which should be taking up their FY19 budget bills later this month.

Regarding the MLSA reauthorization, both Susan McVey and the ALA Washington Office shared this week that Rep. Tom Cole (OK) has agreed to be a co-sponsor of a House version of the reauthorization bill, soon to be introduced by Rep. Grijalva (AZ). This is significant for a few reasons. Rep. Cole is a Republican and the chair of the House Labor HHS Subcommittee, and his co-sponsorship may clear the way for other Republicans to also sign on. The ALA Washington Office is hopeful, for example, in interest expressed by Rep. Leonard Lance (NJ), also a Republican. Bipartisan support for the reauthorization would be a strong positive for an agency (IMLS) that was marked for elimination in the President's budget.

That may be all the news for today, but know that your Public Policy Committee Leadership – Julie Walker (GA) and Susan McVey (OK) – had a productive meeting this week and will have more to share on several fronts next week.

A good weekend to all,

Tim

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