



Washington Weekly

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— Top News Stories: 75th Anniversary of D-Day; Pres. Trump to put 5% tariff on exports from Mexico—

Agriculture

- The research grant arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture could pick up an extra \$30 million in the 2020 fiscal year if House appropriators get their way.
- The USDA spending bill, which went through markup in the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, sets aside \$445 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. That USDA program allocates federal money for scientific projects that address challenges ranging from climate change to food allergies.
- The House Appropriations Committee approved its Agriculture-FDA spending bill after adopting amendments on gene-editing of human embryos and USDA swine slaughter inspections. The panel voted 29-21 to send the fiscal 2020 measure to the House floor. The bill includes a total of \$24.3 billion in discretionary funding for USDA and FDA, which is \$5.1 billion more than the White House requested in its budget plan, according to the committee.

Appropriations and Budget

- The House is set to vote next week on a five-bill minibus. The \$987 billion measure would include funding for Defense, Labor-HHS-Education, Energy-Water, State & Foreign Ops, and the Legislative Branch.
- This week, President Donald Trump signed a package that would deliver \$19.1 billion in disaster relief to communities across the country that are still recovering from a spate of catastrophic hurricanes, wildfires and flooding
- Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) said Monday night that negotiators could reach a deal within the next week to raise budget caps and prevent severe sequestration cuts over the next two years.

Cybersecurity

- The State Department has formally notified Congress of its long-delayed plan to create a cybersecurity bureau, outlining an approach to confronting global cyber issues through improved international diplomacy and cooperation.

Defense



- The Senate will likely consider annual defense policy legislation the week of June 17, Armed Services Chairman Jim Inhofe said Wednesday. That timeline to debate the National Defense Authorization Act, the Oklahoma Republican added, was "not officially" locked down. But Inhofe says he wants once again to enact the legislation before the Oct. 1 start to the new fiscal year, and earlier floor debate would aid in that process.
- The House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee approved its mark of the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 2500 (116), the sixth and final subcommittee to do so before the full Armed Services Committee debates the bill next week.
- A House Armed Services subcommittee released its proposals to curb the use of PFAS in firefighting foam and boost climate resilience at military bases, which it will seek to include in this year's defense authorization measure.
- The Readiness Subcommittee's mark of its portion of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act includes provisions to formally ban the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS at military installations by September 2029 and to require the Navy to write new standards for firefighting foam free of the toxic chemicals by January 2025. The Senate Armed Services Committee last month included a provision to phase-out the use of foam containing PFAS by October 2021.

Education

- Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden has rolled out legislation seeking to stop wealthy families from making tax-deductible donations to colleges to help their children get admitted to elite schools, in the wake of the recent higher education bribery scandal.
- A free speech advocacy group with the backing of the Trump administration this week suffered its second legal loss as a federal judge shot down its claims that the University of Texas at Austin was quashing student speech.

Health

- On Wednesday, the Trump administration imposed new restrictions on federal use of fetal tissue obtained from abortions, barring NIH from conducting that internal research and canceling an existing HIV research contract with the University of California, San Francisco.
- HHS also said it will impose new ethics reviews on government-funded research at universities and other scientific centers seeking to use fetal tissue. It will also continue to explore if there are alternatives to using the tissue at all.
- This week, the House sent to President Donald Trump a bill to reauthorize HHS efforts to respond to disasters and threats from emerging infectious diseases and chemical or biological agents.
- The Senate passed the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act, S. 1379 (116), in May. Today's voice vote in the House capped repeated efforts to renew the health agency's pandemic response unit dating to the last session.



Space

- The Senate Armed Services Committee this week considered the nomination of two top-ranking officials tapped to be leaders in the military space community:
 - Gen. John Raymond, who leads Air Force Space Command, has been nominated to run the new U.S. Space Command. His answers to advance policy questions are [here](#).
 - Christopher Scolese, the director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, is being considered to lead the National Reconnaissance Office, which builds and operates the Pentagon's spy satellites.

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