



Spring 2017 NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY RAAC Report

TRUMP FY18 BUDGET PROPOSES CUTS TO HISTORY & HUMANITIES FUNDING: On March 16, President Trump sent an outline of his proposed fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget to Congress. It includes devastating cuts to federal history and humanities funding including elimination of the NEH, NEA, IMLS, and more. The budget proposes a \$54 billion increase in defense and public safety spending that is offset by equivalent cuts in discretionary non-defense programs.

NCH Executive Director Lee White puts this in perspective:

“The administration has only submitted a bare-bones budget summary for ‘major’ federal agencies. As a result, smaller agencies of interest to NCH members such as the National Archives (which includes NHPRC) and the Library of Congress are not included.

“The major point to remember is that Congress ultimately controls appropriations. Many Republicans and Democrats on the Hill have already dismissed the Trump proposal as ‘dead on arrival.’ The president is posturing and this budget plays to his base by delivering on his promise to ‘drain the swamp.’

“So while our community should and will fight vigorously against these proposed cuts, I cannot stress enough that there is no need to panic. This is a war of attrition that will be fought through the appropriations process in both houses of Congress. We will need to focus our attention, as we always have, on the appropriations subcommittees with jurisdiction over the programs that affect our constituents.

“Since convening in January, Congress has been focused on confirming Trump administration officials and also preoccupied with repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act. As a result, there has been scant attention paid to issues concerning our community. This will obviously change as the appropriations process cranks up in the coming months.

“NCH will be issuing a number of legislative alerts as the FY 18 budget moves through the appropriations process. Over the years we have built lasting relationships in Congress that we can draw upon, including the History Caucus in the House. The National Humanities Alliance held its annual Humanities Advocacy Day in March with a record 250+ attendees. Early reports are that there remains strong support on the Hill for our programs. So our work has just begun.” -- Lee White, Executive Director, NCH

NATIONAL ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTOR OF THE GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY: Archivist of the United States David Ferriero announced the appointment of retired Brig. Gen. Patrick X. Mordente as the new Director of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, effective February 6. In making the announcement, Ferriero affirmed that Mordente’s federal experience leading large organizations, “especially team building, process improvement, and crisis management,” would greatly benefit both the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, and the National Archives. As always, learn more at <http://historycoalition.org/> ...

—Jan Zastrow
zastrow@hawaii.edu
RAAC-NCH Representative