



Winter 2018 NATIONAL COALITION FOR HISTORY RAAC Report

TAX BILL THREATS AVERTED, BUDGET STILL UP IN THE AIR: The final Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, signed by President Trump, did not include the taxation of graduate tuition waivers or the elimination of the Historic Tax Credit, both of which were threatened in earlier versions of the legislation. Regarding the budget, federal funding for history-related agencies and programs remains uncertain. Unfortunately, Congress continues to delay passage of a FY18 federal budget. The current deadline is January 19, but another continuing resolution extending into mid-February looks likely. Some have even suggested that Congress may avoid passing a FY18 budget altogether, keeping programs funded at FY17 levels instead. Stay tuned!

NEH AWARDS \$12.8 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING: The National Endowment for the Humanities recently announced the awarding of \$12.8 million to support 253 humanities projects across the country. Projects range from digitization of historic African American church records to archival research for a book on the Nazi plunder of musical instruments and manuscripts during World War II, to an educational game exploring the ratification of the Constitution, and hundreds of other vital projects. See the full list of awards at https://www.neh.gov/files/press-release/december_2017_neh_grant_awards.pdf.

FAVORABLE ORAL HISTORY REVISIONS MAY BE SHELVED: Following extensive advocacy efforts from the NCH and its partners, in January 2017 the Obama administration released revisions to the federal Common Rule governing research with human subjects. These changes, meant to take effect on January 19, 2018, would exempt oral history projects from disruptive and unnecessary Institutional Review Board oversight. However, the Department of Health and Human Services is now proposing an indefinite halt on the implementation of the revisions, a move that could continue to hamper the work of historians across the country. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) would need to approve the new rule before January 19 in order to avoid the regulations taking effect. It is unclear what the impact would be if OIRA were to approve the delay after the deadline.

IMLS REAUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION INTRODUCED: Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) recently introduced legislation to reauthorize the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the primary federal agency that funds museum programs across the country. NCH will be advocating for the bill's passage. This year's reauthorization must be passed by both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives before it can be sent to the President to be signed into law.

As always, learn more at <http://historycoalition.org/> or contact me with any questions.

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