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City Priorities Shine Through in FY18 Omnibus Spending Bill.

Funding proposal reflects strong federal-city partnership

WASHINGTON — March 22, 2018 — The House and Senate have reached a deal on the omnibus appropriations bill (H.R. 1625), a $1.3 trillion spending proposal that maintains or increases funding for key programs that cities use to fund infrastructure, economic development and public safety, among others. The bill comes after more than 1,000 city leaders lobbied Congress over the past year to save Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), TIGER grants, workforce development and education programs, and energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

“The spending bill before Congress shows that our federal partners have heard the thousands of city leaders urging them to reject the severe budget cuts proposed by the administration and that were required under sequestration,” said NLC President Mark Stodola, mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas. “This bill makes clear that city leaders are part of the solution to our country’s greatest challenges. It’s a victory not only for America’s 19,000 cities, towns and villages, but for the more than 250 million residents that rely on safe and reliable infrastructure and strong local economies that contribute 91 percent of the nation’s GDP.”

The bill also includes additional funding for water infrastructure through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, including for lead testing and lead reduction in schools, which NLC has been calling for in its Rebuild With Us infrastructure campaign. NLC also supports the bill’s reauthorization of the brownfields redevelopment program, which helps cities clean up contaminated properties, the expansion of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to make up for losses in affordable housing stemming from tax reform, and the extension of the National Flood Insurance Program until July 31, 2018.

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