



## BUDGET DIGEST – Week of Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>

### Discretionary Spending and the CR

Fiscal year 2015 will end on September 30, 2015. To date, the House has passed 6 of the 12 annual appropriations bills for fiscal year 2016 (Commerce Justice Science, Defense, Energy & Water, Legislative Branch, Military Construction & Veterans Affairs, Transportation Housing & Urban Development); the remaining bills have been reported by the House Appropriations Committee. The Senate Appropriations Committee has reported 12 appropriations bills, but none has been passed by the full Senate. If appropriations bills are not enacted by September 30, Congress may pass a continuing resolution or “CR” to keep discretionary programs operating when the new fiscal year begins on October 1, 2015.

**What is a Continuing Resolution?** A CR is legislation that keeps annual discretionary programs operating beyond the end of the fiscal year. It provides funding—usually at the same level as the previous year’s enacted amount—for a limited amount of time, and typically keeps current policy in place, although anomalies or “riders” are possible.

**Discretionary Spending since 2008.** Discretionary spending in FY15 is \$76 billion below 2008 levels and \$176 billion below 2010 levels. The FY2016 budget proposed base discretionary spending consistent with the Budget Control Act caps as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 - Discretionary Appropriations since FY2008 (BA in billions)**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013 Pre- Sequester	2013 Post- Sequester	2014	2015	2016 Budget
Base	933	1,013	1,091	1,050	1,043	1,043	988	1,012	1,013	1,017
Defense	499	534	554	552	554	552	518	520	521	523
Non-Defense	434	478	537	498	489	491	470	492	492	493
OCO	187	154	165	159	127	99	93	92	74	96
Emergency	56	338	20	2	0	42	40	0.2	5	0
Disasters <sup>1</sup>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10	12	11	6	6	7
Program Integrity	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	0.5	0.5	1	1	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>1,276</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,120</b>

<sup>1</sup>Prior to FY 2011 there was no disaster designation; the designation was created in the Budget Control Act of 2011.