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ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR **2017**



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ANNUAL REPORT

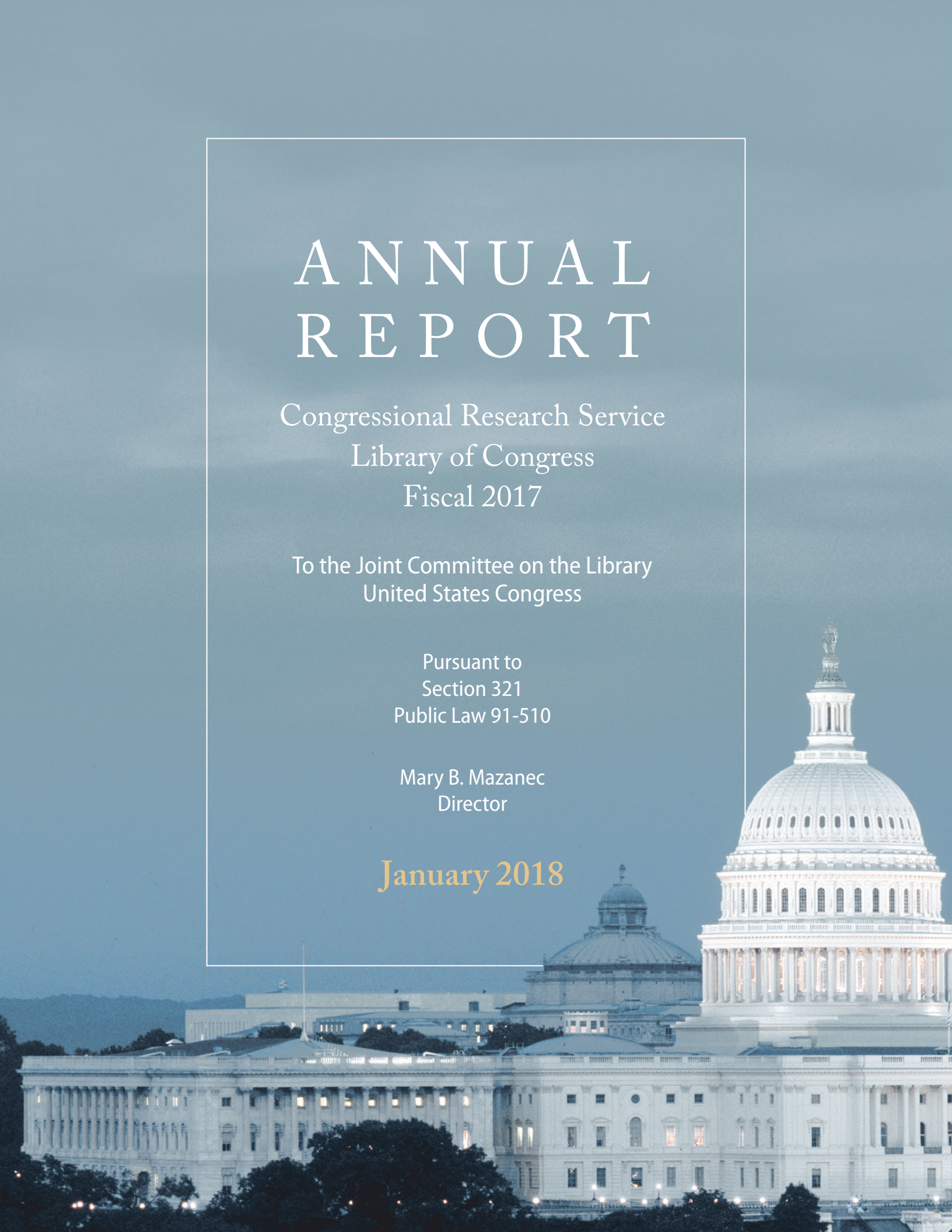
Congressional Research Service
Library of Congress
Fiscal 2017

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United States Congress

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Mary B. Mazanec
Director

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Library of Congress
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Mary B. Mazanec, *Director*

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) for fiscal year 2017. This report highlights the Service's accomplishments and reflects its continued commitment to provide authoritative, objective, nonpartisan, confidential and timely research and analysis to Congress.

In the past fiscal year, CRS offered significant support to Congress on a broad range of policy issues associated with the federal budget, health care reform, federal programs requiring reauthorization, environmental regulation, immigration, federal land management and intellectual property. CRS experts also provided critical research and analysis on emergent issues, including a Supreme Court nomination, the opioid crisis, developments in the Middle East and North Korea, and federal emergency management challenges brought about by multiple natural disasters.

In response to specific requests from Members and congressional staff, the Service provided more than 61,400 custom products and consultations. In addition, it held over 250 events for nearly 8,600 congressional participants. Among the programs was a highly successful and well-attended "Legislative Issues and Procedures: The CRS Seminar for New Members," held in cooperation with the U.S. House of Representatives, Jan. 6-9, 2017, in Williamsburg, Virginia.

In the past fiscal year, the Service explored innovative uses of technology. This included joining the Skype for Business Federation with the House, Senate and Architect of the Capitol, opening new paths for communicating with congressional clients. CRS also began modernization of information technology systems with the release of a Request for Information (RFI) for an Integrated Research and Information System (IRIS), a joint initiative with the Library to leverage the latest technological advances. CRS continued to develop new product formats, such as podcasts, which enable congressional clients to listen to discussions of legislative issues while on the go. The Service worked with the Library to complete enhancements to Congress.gov, the official website for U.S. federal legislative information.

Moreover, CRS looked for opportunities to maximize efficiencies. A pilot to embed information professionals in the research divisions was made permanent, to better integrate their efforts with the work of the researchers and analysts. The Service also combined four support offices into two new organizational units. These changes provide for more effective oversight, optimal use of resources and strengthening of internal collaboration and coordination.

At CRS, we consider it an honor and a privilege to serve the U.S. Congress. We are dedicated to meeting the needs of the modern Congress and remain committed to our unique mission to provide expert research and analysis, grounded in more than 100 years of institutional knowledge.



LEADERSHIP

Mary B. Mazanec
Director

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Counselor to the Director

Robin D. Grove
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Laura B. Shrestha
Assistant Director
Domestic Social Policy

Michael L. Moodie
Assistant Director
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Jeffrey W. Seifert
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Government and Finance

Lillian W. Gassie
Assistant Director
Knowledge Services Group

Dana A. Shea
Assistant Director
Resources, Science and Industry

MISSION

To provide Congress, throughout the legislative process, comprehensive and reliable legislative research, analysis and information services that are confidential, objective, nonpartisan, authoritative and timely, thereby contributing to an informed national legislature.



VISION

CRS is a trusted, respected, prime source for Congress for expert and authoritative information and analysis on critical issues facing the nation.



CORE VALUES

Confidentiality ★ Objectivity ★ Nonpartisanship ★ Authoritativeness ★ Timeliness

FACTS AT A GLANCE

In fiscal 2017, Members and congressional staff viewed the CRS website approximately 1,599,500 times, including more than 658,300 views of the Service’s reports and general-distribution products. Notably, the Service’s In Focus products were viewed more than 115,600 times and video views were over 7,500. CRS held 250 seminars, institutes and training programs that nearly 8,600 congressional participants attended.

CRS received more than 61,400 requests for custom analysis and research. The service produced and made available to congressional clients more than 11,100 reports and products. These included more than 1,100 new products and 2,100 updated products. CRS analysts summarized nearly 7,900 bill versions for Congress.gov and the Legislative Information System. CRS served over 99 percent of Member and committee offices.

Below are selected data on products and services provided to Congress. This data is derived from the request management system, the web metrics application and other applications that measure output. Support for Congress also comes in the form of personal client interactions that may not always be captured by these systems.

CUSTOM PRODUCTS AND SERVICES



- **2,573** Confidential memoranda
- **3,010** Background and miscellaneous services¹
- **5,200** In-person briefings, consultations and testimony
- **23,481** Telephone responses
- **27,152** Email responses

GENERAL-DISTRIBUTION PRODUCTS



- **1,121** New CRS reports and other general-distribution products
- **2,134** Updates to CRS reports and other products
- **7,895** Bill summaries in LIS/Congress.gov

¹ Summary of categories with small total counts, such as revising existing reports upon demand for a specific client, supplying DVDs of a recorded event, sending non-CRS created materials, etc.



WEB ACTIVITY

1,599,507

Congressional views on CRS.gov pages²

658,343

CRS report and general-distribution product views

115,678

In Focus product views

32,157

Legal Sidebar product views

29,850

Insight product views

7,580

Video views (Video Briefs and recorded events)

910

Testimony product views

OTHER DATA

9,871 CRS reports and product titles available at year end

8,596 Congressional participants in seminars, institutes and training programs

3,180 MyCRS subscriptions (approximate active users at year end)



◀ Member/standing committee offices provided custom services³

² Includes the selected highlights listed here plus other pages on CRS.gov such as the home page, issue area pages and event pages.

³ Percentage for which at least one custom service was provided during the year, rounded to the nearest 1 percent.





SERVING CONGRESS

A strategic goal of the Service is to:

Serve a diverse Congress with a wide spectrum of informational, research and analytical needs while maintaining adherence to core values of confidentiality, objectivity, nonpartisanship, authoritativeness and timeliness.

While fulfilling its legislative, oversight and representational responsibilities, Congress called upon CRS research and analytical expertise at every stage of the legislative process and across all public policy issues on its agenda. The Service responded with a range of support for Congress: examining the nature and extent of policy problems, identifying and assessing policy options, assisting with the preparation of hearings to monitor the implementation of federal policy and programs.

In addition to providing public policy expertise, the Service also supported legislative activities through its websites, events and products. In 2017, CRS continued to contribute to the development and daily operations of Congress.gov, the official website for federal legislative information. CRS revised content for “The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation,” the nation’s preeminent constitutional law resource along with collaborating with the Library of Congress on a new design for the CONAN website. The Service hosted a very successful New Member Seminar at the start of the 115th Congress. Finally, CRS continued to develop GIS (geographic information systems) products and tools to respond to congressional interest in geospatial analysis.

MAJOR ISSUES OF THE YEAR

Agriculture and Food

Agricultural Trade. Changes in U.S. trade policy as outlined by the Trump administration, including the withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the decision to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, raised issues and concerns among many Members of Congress with agricultural constituencies. The Service assisted Congress in discerning the potential ramifications of these policy developments for the U.S. food and agricultural industries and consulted extensively with congressional clients about the possible consequences of this shift in trade policy, providing research that ranged from sector-wide assessments to analysis tailored to the possible effects on specific farm commodities.

Agriculture Budget and Executive Agency

Nominees. The Service provided analysis and insight to congressional staff on issues involving the Trump administration's fiscal 2018 budget request for programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the confirmation of Cabinet and sub-Cabinet level nominees in the department. The administration's budget request included a proposed 21 percent reduction in the department's budget and the elimination of rural development and foreign food aid programs. These proved to be particularly high-profile matters for Members from rural districts and states with significant rural populations. CRS provided a balanced perspective by analyzing the potential implications of these proposals in its written products and consultations. When the Trump administration began to reorganize the department's long-standing agency structure, CRS analyzed the plan and its potential effects on oversight and other congressional responsibilities. The Service also provided timely assistance to committees charged with reviewing nominees for high-level executive branch posts at the department by developing relevant questions for Members to pose.

Federal Disaster Assistance for Agricultural Producers.

Natural disasters, including a prolonged drought in the Midwest, devastating hurricanes that struck multiple U.S. states and territories and wildfires in the West, took a severe toll on U.S. agriculture during the first session of the 115th Congress. Staff provided authoritative information and analysis related to agricultural losses, the operational side of federal disaster assistance programs, available funding sources, legislative options for supplemental appropriations and alternative funding measures.

The Next Farm Bill. Reauthorization of the 2014 farm bill, which is scheduled to expire in 2018, has been a major focus of Congress. Congress held numerous hearings as a prelude to drafting legislation, and the Service provided in-depth analysis of the Congressional Budget Office baseline for agricultural programs, as well as historical perspective to inform Congress's understanding of the funding issues associated with the reauthorization effort. Consultative support and written analyses, including a series of "Farm Bill Primers," provided congressional staff with an overview of current programs to be affected by the reauthorization and potential issues to be considered in the upcoming debate.

Budget and Appropriations

Appropriations. An interdivisional team of analysts produced and maintained the annual appropriations reports for fiscal 2017, which, as a set, has been the most accessed CRS product. The team responded to a number of cross-cutting appropriations requests and was also responsible for updating the perennially popular Appropriations Status Table to ensure its continued usefulness to congressional clients. The Service provided advice and analysis to congressional staff on appropriations procedures and issues presented in specific policy areas and continued its efforts to provide a database of historical appropriations data that extends back to the mid-1970s.

Budget, Debt and Deficit (Federal Fiscal Condition).

The Service provided a wide range of analyses related to fiscal policy and the budgetary implications of legislation. Congress relied upon CRS for support throughout its process of deliberating discretionary fiscal 2017 and 2018 funding for federal agencies. CRS assisted Congress in addressing broader budgetary policy issues, such as the appropriate fiscal trajectory of the federal government, changes in the composition and structure of federal outlays and revenues, and trends in recent and projected net interest payments. Additionally, the Service informed Congress's understanding of the effect of the Budget Control Act of 2011, as amended, on budgetary trade-offs. Experts monitored trends in federal credit, fine and fee collection, and trust fund finances. During the congressional suspension of the federal debt limit in September 2017, CRS provided historical context and analysis of federal debt policy and the consequences of allowing the debt limit to constrain Treasury operations. Experts also analyzed how federal deficits interact with economic performance and summarized the implications of current fiscal policies on the long-term sustainability of federal operations.

Budget Process. Analysts assisted Congress in their examination and use of the process for considering budgetary issues. The most salient of this work involved the effort by Congress to pass a budget reconciliation bill affecting the Affordable Care Act. The Service advised congressional staff on the procedures associated with development and consideration of the reconciliation bill passed by the House in May 2017. Experts across the Service provided analysis of appropriations floor amendments and options concerning continuing resolutions while Congress considered the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017. CRS also provided information regarding budget process constraints on new authorization provisions and the implications of the expired provisions, and assisted Members and staff with proposals to change the rules that govern consideration of budgetary legislation.

Defense Budget, Personnel and Critical Related

Issues. The Service provided information and analysis on the challenges to defense appropriations presented by the change of presidential administrations. Analysts supported Congress's examination of a range of issues, including changes in defense and military personnel policy between the Obama and Trump administrations, defense acquisition reform and defense readiness.

The International Affairs Budget and the State

Department. The submission of the president's initial request to fund the State Department budget provided Congress with its first glimpse of the administration's international affairs priorities. Congress drew upon CRS information and in-depth analyses as it focused on the administration's proposal for reductions in and the reorganization of several foreign affairs programs. Often under tight time constraints, analysts identified key issues presented by the proposed changes, provided comparisons of budget proposals in previous fiscal years and explained the State Department's budget request in the broader budgetary context.

Legislative Branch Appropriations. The Service conducted research and analysis to assist Congress in the consideration of the annual legislative branch appropriations acts. Analysts compared the legislative branch budget with the total discretionary budget authority of the federal government and provided advice on the timing of Congress's consideration of the appropriations bills, staffing levels and policies, and the cost of various programs.

Banking and Finance

Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy. The Federal Reserve Board played a central role in the response to the financial crisis and recession and gained additional regulatory authority over large financial firms in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. Many of the board's actions, shaping monetary policy and financial regulation, have proven controversial. The Service provided expert

consultation and a portfolio of written products that analyzed the relevant issues in order to support Congress in its oversight of the board and consideration of comprehensive legislation to reform the body.

Financial Regulation and Reform. In 2012, Congress enacted the Jumpstart Our Businesses Startup Act of 2012 (JOBS Act), aimed at stimulating corporate capital formation, particularly for newer and smaller firms. It attempted to do so by giving such firms regulatory relief from various Securities and Exchange Commission disclosure requirements. CRS provided analytical and consultative assistance to Congress while it considered securities-related proposals that, in many instances, would extend the JOBS Act's focus on corporate regulatory relief. Analysts assessed the major legislative proposals and explained the frequent tradeoffs between fostering capital formation and potentially reducing some disclosure-based investor protections. The Service also provided information and legal analysis of judicial decisions relating to financial services, consumer protection, fair housing laws and constitutional challenges to implementing the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. Analysts and attorneys provided advice on proposals to modify the financial services regulatory regime, such as H.R. 10, the Financial CHOICE Act of 2017, which was passed by the House. CRS also applied its legal expertise to questions related to electronic and digital payment systems, securities, banking access for marijuana-related businesses operating under state law, payday lending, debt collection, credit-card anti-surcharge legislation, matters of international financial law and the regulation of systemically important financial institutions.

Congressional Process, Administration and Elections

Campaign Finance and Elections. The Service supported Congress with research and consultation while the House and Senate prepared for and assessed the 2016 election cycle. Experts advised Congress

on reported foreign interference in U.S. elections, cybersecurity concerns, voting rights and election administration. Congress turned to CRS when it considered appropriations legislation that contained provisions to fund the Federal Election Commission and to restrict other agencies from requiring disclosure of political contributions and expenditures. Experts consulted with Members when Congress considered legislation and conducted oversight concerning the presidential public financing program, politically active tax-exempt organizations, super PACs and proposals to alter the election commission. The Service also advised on legal challenges to state election laws, voter photo identification requirements, early voting, same-day registration, preregistration and the purging of voter rolls.

Census. Staff provided advice and analysis to Congress on issues related to Census Bureau operations and appropriations, the upcoming 2020 decennial census, the American Community Survey and related topics. Issues of interest to congressional staff included the need to control decennial census costs, perceptions of the American Community Survey and demographic and other statistics derived from census data.

Legislative Branch Management and Administration.

Staff provided analytic and informational support to congressional staff on the administration and management of Member offices and other institutions within the legislative branch. Throughout the year, research and analysis focused on areas that included congressional communications, casework management and other constituent services, congressional staffing levels and tenure, staff and Member pay, the House Wounded Warrior Program, the management of congressional offices and other aspects of congressional operations. Experts also provided consultation on a myriad of issues such as the legislative branch budget, the Members' Representational Allowance and the Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account, congressional advisory commissions, government information practices, Capitol Hill and district office

security, casework, congressional nominations to military service academies and congressional staff benefits.

Legislative Process. Analysts provided assistance to Members and staff in understanding complex congressional rules and practices related to the consideration of legislation, from introduction to enactment. The experts provided significant strategic consultations to a wide range of leadership, committee and personal offices on virtually all legislation considered on each chamber floor and during the drafting and committee consideration of numerous proposals, such as proposals for rules or procedure changes in each chamber. Additionally, analysts undertook projects related to the Senate’s change of procedure regarding the consideration of Supreme Court nominations, procedures for House leadership elections, elements of House special rules, a comparison of key Senate committee rules and privileged legislation in both the House and Senate. They assisted with the development and application of new, expedited procedures under the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act and advised on the timing and procedures for congressional action on resolutions to disapprove regulations under the Congressional Review Act.

Lobbying and Ethics. Experts examined a range of topics related to ethics, including ethics pledges in the executive branch, the work of the Office of Government Ethics and the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The Service also provided research and analysis on the regulation of lobbying activity, including requirements under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Defense and Intelligence

A Changing U.S. Military in a Changing World

Environment. Events on the Korean Peninsula and elsewhere in East Asia, the Levant and Eastern Europe have resulted in greater focus on potential U.S. military responses to deal with the crises such developments could foster. In response to these concerns, CRS provided consultation and analysis on both U.S. strategic choices and the military capabilities to support those choices.

Experts advised on the implications of increasing the size of the Navy and how acquisition alternatives may allow the Coast Guard to develop its capabilities. The Service also conducted analysis on the range of options for a larger Navy fleet, challenges facing the Air Force’s aircraft modernization in light of the Budget Control Act and the Army’s continuing efforts to regularize its major weapons acquisition programs. CRS analysis placed these issues in their strategic context, from the more narrowly focused assessment of the structure and operations of the National Security Council, to the broader evaluation of changes in the international global security order that are shaping the geopolitical and technological environments in which U.S. forces must operate.

National Security Law. The Service provided Congress with legal expertise when it considered the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, passed as the only veto override during the Obama administration. The legal team also advised Congress on issues related to criminal prohibitions on the disclosure of classified information and anti-terrorist/anti-money laundering enforcement actions. While Congress considered the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, attorneys and analysts worked collaboratively to provide information on existing economic sanctions applicable to foreign financial institutions conducting transactions with Russia, Iran and North Korea.

Unconventional War and Unconventional Weapons.

Congress looked to CRS for information and analysis of policy options to address the changes across the globe in the conduct of war, as well as the risks created by nuclear and chemical weapons in the arsenals of potential adversaries. Experts provided in-depth analysis of a variety of issues, including the use of unconventional weapons, Russian compliance with the Treaty on Intermediate Nuclear Forces, potential U.S. deployment of nuclear weapons to South Korea, North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs and U.S. options regarding the Iran nuclear agreement. The Service also provided Congress with critical information and insights

on both U.S. defense cyberspace operations and North Korean cyber capabilities.

Education

Education Law. Attorneys explored legal questions related to Congress's authority to protect freedom of speech on college campuses, proposals to amend the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act to enhance student privacy, the use of federal funds to provide transportation to students attending magnet schools, application of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to military and maritime service academies, and standards of proof applied by colleges to evaluate sexual assault allegations. Attorneys also evaluated the extent to which the Higher Education Act of 1965 preempts state laws that regulate student loan servicers, the preemption of state limitations on the use of federal educational funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as well as constitutional questions posed by the provision of federal funds to historically black colleges and universities.

Higher Education Act. Congress relied extensively on CRS to support its consideration of a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Experts provided in-depth analysis of a host of related proposals, which included modifications to student loan repayment benefits, alterations to the design of Pell Grants and changes to the federal student aid need analysis formula. The Service also provided substantial support for the development of legislative proposals for improving the consumer information available to prospective students.

School Choice. Congress requested the expertise of CRS analysts to explain and analyze options and relevant policy considerations at issue in the Trump administration's proposed expansion of elementary and secondary school choice programs. Analytical products provided an overview of existing public and private school choice options, current student attendance patterns and the types of policy approaches

that facilitate school choice, and analyzed the potential implications of implementing such proposals. Analysts also assisted congressional staff in examining the potential pros and cons, unanticipated effects and feasibility considerations associated with different school choice approaches.

Energy and Natural Resources

Coal Industry. With increased domestic natural gas production and tighter emissions regulations, U.S. coal production and consumption have declined in recent years. In 2016, electricity generation from natural gas exceeded coal-fired generation on an annual basis for the first time. Coal mining and coal mine employment have also declined. The Trump administration has taken steps to attempt to stem losses in the coal industry. To assist Congress in its examination of these issues, the Service provided consultation and research on the history and prospects of the coal industry in the context of market forces and environmental regulation, and authored new products on the industry and coal mining on federal lands.

Comprehensive Energy Legislation. CRS provided support to Congress while it considered comprehensive energy and natural resources legislation. Experts provided advice and analysis on the most important issues presented by the bill, including electric grid modernization, security and reliability; carbon capture, utilization and storage; renewable energy incentives; oil and natural gas supply and trade; energy efficiency; energy sector regulation; critical minerals supply and mineral development on federal land.

Energy Imports and Exports. With the expansion of unconventional oil and natural gas supplies over the past decade, the United States is poised to become a net exporter of natural gas in the coming year and a net exporter of petroleum within a decade. The Service provided analysis and consultation while Congress grappled with questions regarding the ability of the United States to prevent energy price shocks with the

strategic use of domestic oil and gas supplies, as well as the potential to use those supplies in a geopolitical context.

Energy Infrastructure Security and Resiliency. The security, safety and stability of U.S. pipelines, power lines and other energy infrastructure has moved to the forefront of policy discussions over the past few years in response to attempted physical and cyberattacks and the occurrence of major hurricanes. While Congress examined these issues, CRS provided consultation and analysis on infrastructure resiliency, electric grid and pipeline cybersecurity, and physical security.

Energy Markets and Economics. Congress and some stakeholders have raised questions about the potential for sudden price increases in gasoline and diesel fuel due to events abroad and domestically, such as the recent hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and the continued role for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The Service addressed these questions with information and analysis on the reserve, price volatility and the effects of hurricanes on fuel prices.

Federal Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programs. Congress continued to enact appropriations that fund programs to expand energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. At the same time, the Trump administration has proposed a reduction in funding for the Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in favor of spurring private investment in energy efficiency and renewables research and development. As part of the president’s fiscal 2018 budget request, the Trump administration proposed eliminating several federal programs that support energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts at the state and local level. Congress turned to CRS for analysis and consultation as it sought to address these competing policy objectives.

Federal Lands and National Monuments. Congress continued to address an array of issues pertaining to management of federal lands, in particular



access for hunting, fishing and energy development; the presence of Confederate symbols on federal lands; presidential authority to proclaim and amend national monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906; and the oversight and funding of land management programs. Analysts, attorneys and information professionals collaborated to provide advice and analysis as Congress debated these issues.

Nuclear Power. Congress continued to show interest in the prospects for nuclear power and civilian nuclear waste disposal in the United States. Despite growing signs of a U.S. “nuclear renaissance” a few years ago, several

reactors have permanently shut down over the past five years, and others have been identified as “at risk.” The Service assisted Congress in understanding the changing landscape in this sector with information on the financial status of U.S. nuclear plants, the status of new reactor projects and developments in nuclear waste disposal.

Pipeline Permitting and Construction. Two high-profile pipeline projects, the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Keystone XL Pipeline, focused congressional attention on the federal role in the permitting, siting and construction of oil and gas pipelines in the United States. Several federal agencies may be involved in the decision of whether to approve the pipeline, depending on the proposed route and the type of fuel to be transported, among other factors. Experts assisted Congress with questions about the role of and coordination among various federal agencies in administering these projects and the economic and environmental costs and benefits of pipeline development.

Puerto Rico. Experts worked collaboratively to inform Congress on the breadth of complex issues related to Puerto Rico and to anticipate evolving policy concerns. Information and analysis focused on issues spanning a broad set of policy areas, including economic conditions, tax policy, health care funding, debt adjustment processes, energy systems, environmental protection, transportation, population migration and the political status of Puerto Rico. While Congress monitored the implementation of the recently enacted Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act, the Service provided assistance on economic growth in Puerto Rico, as well as GAO research mandated by the act. Further, experts informed Congress’s understanding of the workings of the Oversight Board and related fiscal adjustment processes set up by the act. CRS also advised Congress on the implications of the recently held referendum on Puerto Rico’s political status and assessed options for disaster response in the wake of the destruction caused by hurricanes in September 2017.

Statistics on Federal Lands and Wildfires. The Service continued to track, compile and curate a variety of data related to federal land acreage, national monuments and wildfire statistics. In addition to tracking information across fiscal years, research librarians standardized data elements for consistency and responded to congressional requests for data on federal land by state and congressional district.

Water Resources. Five consecutive years of drought affecting California water users and ecosystems, coupled with interest in authorizing new water resource infrastructure throughout the country, prompted Congress to enact an omnibus water authorization bill in December 2016. Above-average rain and snowfall in the winter and spring of 2016 and 2017 ended the drought in California, yet resulted in widespread flooding and safety concerns related to Oroville Dam, one of the country’s largest dams, which is owned by the state of California. Still later in 2017, multiple major hurricanes made landfall, stressing flood risk management infrastructure, affecting coastal communities and resources, and requiring significant congressional attention. Throughout fiscal 2017, experts provided analysis and consultative assistance used to inform the legislative and oversight activities of Congress on these and other water resource issues.

Wildfire. As the severity of wildfires has increased, the funding necessary to suppress and manage wildfires has been an issue of growing congressional interest. While wildfire spending has increased over time, Congress continues to debate the level and direction of federal spending on wildland fire management. Congress considered legislation to address these concerns, and CRS provided in-depth analysis and evaluation of congressional proposals to reform federal wildfire suppression spending, including options to fund some federal wildfire suppression activities through mechanisms that have been used to provide additional spending for major disaster recovery.

Environmental Policy

Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.

Experts assisted congressional clients on issues related to drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, ranging broadly from state and federal roles and responsibilities to the funding of particular projects. The lead contamination found in the drinking water in Flint, Michigan, focused the attention of Congress on drinking water issues and culminated in the enactment of legislation to revise the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds program and the authorization of funding to assist the city. The Service supported Congress's consideration of this legislation with analysis of funding allocation options, federal versus state and local responsibilities, and the relative merits of infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, versus new and expanded facilities and connection lines.

Environmental Law and Policy. CRS marshaled its expertise to support Congress's examination of actions by the Trump administration to review, delay or rescind a number of environmental regulations that address climate change and control of greenhouse gases, as well as its consideration of legislative proposals to block implementation of various Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules. These regulations included the EPA's Clean Power Plan, which regulates greenhouse gas emissions from power plants; the Bureau of Land Management's rule to reduce methane emissions from oil and natural gas operations on federal land; and rules issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA, which defines the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act. Experts provided Members and staff with context and analysis of the potential implications of these decisions, as well as the scope of federal agency authority to review, reconsider, delay or repeal environmental regulations. Congress also turned to the Service for an assessment of the likely impact of the administration's intended withdrawal from the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. CRS assisted Members and their staff in preparing for high-level meetings related to climate change, including the 22nd annual Conference

of the Parties to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Environmental Review of Infrastructure Projects.

Growing congressional interest in infrastructure and border security projects fueled a debate over whether existing statutory authorities that mandate environmental reviews, such as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, posed barriers to undertaking these initiatives. CRS assisted congressional clients in weighing legislative options for reducing environmental review requirements, both statutorily and by delegation of waiver authority to executive agencies.

Federal Government Operations and Rulemaking

Emergency Management. The Service worked closely with Members, committees and congressional staff to provide information and analysis on all phases of emergency management. This included analysis that assisted with the congressional role in preparing for, responding to, recovering from and mitigating natural and man-made disasters. Analysts provided broad disaster-related support to Members and their staff throughout unusually active tornado, flood, hurricane and wildfire seasons. In particular, this support focused on assisting Congress with questions related to reauthorization and the borrowing authority of the National Flood Insurance Program, as well as funding levels for the FEMA disaster relief fund. In response to other emergency management questions, CRS focused its research on FEMA disaster declarations, cost-shares and preliminary damage assessments, public assistance, individual and household assistance, and questions relating to the impact of the Budget Control Act on the provision of federal funding for disasters.

Ethics. Attorneys assisted congressional clients on questions regarding the applicability of various federal ethics law requirements to the president of the United States, including those governing financial disclosure, disqualification, divestiture and nepotism. Attorneys

also advised on conflicts of interest requirements for presidential nominees.

Executive Branch Organization. The Service conducted research and analysis when Congress considered legislative proposals to reassign statutory functions, alter agency leadership arrangements, abolish agencies and functions to reduce the size of the federal government, and otherwise rearrange the federal bureaucracy. Additionally, analysts advised congressional staff on alternative approaches to interagency coordination of policymaking and implementation in areas such as national security and homeland security, and provided research on proposals to create national commissions and other temporary study panels for the examination of various policy issues and developments.

Executive Branch Transition. The advent of the Trump administration generated congressional requests for background information on nominees for Cabinet positions, transcripts for the confirmation hearings of previous Cabinet secretaries, background information on previous efforts to reorganize or eliminate particular federal agencies, the funding and staffing histories for particular agencies, executive orders from the Obama administration related to the EPA and energy, and the experience of specific agencies in previous presidential transitions. Research librarians and analysts worked collaboratively to provide Congress with timely, authoritative information on these and other transition-related issues.

Federal Grants Management. CRS supported Congress with expert analysis and consultation regarding several aspects of grants management, including identifying and preventing waste, fraud and abuse; resolving unobligated balances in expired grant accounts; pre- and post-award oversight of federal grants; transparency; and the design and mechanics of specific federal grant programs. Analysts advised congressional staff on federal grant funding issues for sanctuary cities and the funding status for several federal grant programs, and assisted

in developing ideas to improve the performance and oversight of federal grants. In addition, the Service provided research assistance on the availability of funding (usually federal, but also state, local and private) for projects in a variety of areas, including parks and recreation, historic preservation, water infrastructure, transportation (roads, highways and bridges), energy efficiency, rural development, firefighting equipment and small businesses.

Federal Pay and Personnel. CRS supported Congress's examination of current policies and legislative proposals for the administration and management of executive branch personnel. Among matters of particular interest were those related to the acquisition workforce; administrative leave; appointment authorities, including Senior Executive Service and noncompetitive conversions to the civil service; demonstration projects; hiring, including direct-hire authority; human resources management flexibilities; and implementation of the Office of Management and Budget memorandum on workforce reductions and performance management. Analysis also focused on issues connected to leave policies, including family leave; the Office of Personnel Management's mission and functions; pay flexibilities and adjustments; qualification requirements and certification; reauthorization of the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Special Counsel; recruiting and retaining millennials and cybersecurity expertise; and workplace flexibilities. In addition, experts provided analysis on legislative proposals to modify rules for disciplining or removing federal civil service employees, due process protections owed to civil service employees and judicial review of Merit System Protection Board decisions.

Government Information Policy. Congress consulted with CRS on questions regarding access to and protection of government information. Analysts provided congressional staff with information, advice and analysis on issues, including the processing of information requests under the Freedom of Information Act, the



creation and operation of the federal government's more than 1,000 federal advisory committees, and requirements governing the collection and retention of paper and electronic records by federal agencies, including those created by electronic means. The Service also advised Congress on questions regarding congressional access to classified executive branch information and access to classified materials by presidential candidates and their transition staff.

Government Procurement. Congressional interest in government procurement spanned a variety of issues and topics, such as small business contracting and programs; domestic preference legislation and statutes, like the Buy American Act; noncompetitive procedures; sourcing policy; federal supply schedules; and suspension and debarment. Congress drew upon CRS expertise to analyze legislative proposals and to assist in the preparation of hearings to examine these issues. The Service also advised on defense acquisition reform proposals in both the House and Senate-passed versions of the National Defense Authorization Acts for Fiscal Year 2018; the presidential executive order Buy American and Hire American; the role of government contracts in the federal response to Hurricanes Harvey,

Irma and Maria; waste, fraud and abuse in the funding of government contracts, particularly those related to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and significant court decisions that address government use of contracting preferences and small business set-aside programs. Utilizing the federal government's procurement database, CRS provided procurement data tailored to the needs of Members and committees.

Indian Health Service Reform. During the past year, there was significant congressional interest in examining ways in which to strengthen the Indian Health Service (IHS). Much of this attention came in the wake of news and inspector general reports related to the quality of care and patient safety issues at various IHS facilities. Analysts and attorneys provided information and analysis to Members and staff on the history of the service, key challenges facing the agency and proposed reforms.

Information Technology. Issues related to the management of information technology (IT) in the federal government have been an area of interest to the 115th Congress. CRS provided congressional staff with information and policy analysis on a range of IT-related issues, including IT modernization efforts,

IT program management and oversight of high-risk IT investments, government-wide IT funding streams and appropriation levels, and IT development methods (e.g., agile development).

Inspectors General (IG). Experts assisted congressional staff with a variety of policy issues related to IGs, including the appropriation and staffing levels provided to IG offices, salary levels, the status of IG vacancies and the impact on oversight capabilities, the role of IGs in investigations of agency personnel practices related to government reorganization (e.g., employee reassignments, reductions-in-force, buyouts) and the ability of IGs to access agency records as part of their oversight responsibilities.

Postal Service. The financial difficulties and concurrent cost-cutting and proposed service reductions of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) have heightened congressional interest in postal policy and the role the USPS may play in the 21st century. Congress regularly sought the advice and assistance of experts on a broad range of issues involving the operations of the USPS, including post office closures, postal finances, USPS employee pensions and health care, and pending postal reform legislation. Experts also provided assistance on issues related to international postal issues, including proposed changes intended to prevent the importation of opioids and other illicit drugs through international mail.

Regulations and Rulemaking. The Service provided significant support to Congress on the topic of federal administrative rulemaking. Much of this assistance involved evaluating and advising staff on the executive orders and statutory requirements that govern the current rulemaking process, the past practices of outgoing administrations to engage in “midnight rulemaking” and actions to freeze or repeal the previous administration’s regulations. Notably, experts provided information on and analysis of the Congressional Review Act, which was used to overturn 14 Obama administration regulations at the start of the 115th Congress. CRS also analyzed several legislative proposals that would change various

aspects of the administrative rulemaking process and advised on the legal standards governing judicial review of agency action, judicial deference to an agency’s interpretations and constitutional constraints upon agency structure and design.

Security Clearances and Background Investigations.

Following the breaches of the Office of Personnel Management’s (OPM’s) databases and the growing backlog of background investigations within OPM, Congress relied upon the Service to advise on a range of issues related to the protection of government information in the context of security clearances and background investigations. Analysts and attorneys provided information and analysis of ongoing developments in security clearance procedures, including the establishment of the National Background Investigations Bureau and insider threat programs to be implemented in response to the unauthorized disclosure of classified information by vetted federal employees and contractors. CRS provided Congress with information on the history of investigative responsibilities for background investigations and security clearances, analysis of administrative recommendations and legislative proposals for security clearance reform, and assessment of the implications of the OPM data breaches.

Federal Judiciary and Constitutional Law

Constitutional Law. Congress relied upon CRS legal expertise in exercising its constitutional advice and consent responsibilities for the consideration of the nomination of Neil Gorsuch to the United States Supreme Court. The Service contributed timely and insightful analysis of Gorsuch’s jurisprudence as a federal circuit judge and his likely impact on the Court. Attorneys also advised Members of Congress and congressional staff on novel constitutional law questions regarding the legal authority of special counsels, free speech concerns that arise in the context of legislative proposals to limit boycotts of the State of Israel, First Amendment issues presented by proposals to amend federal law to hold certain online entities liable for sex trafficking advertisements and constitutional constraints

on the collection of data from electronic communication devices. In addition, CRS advised on various aspects of the constitutional amendment process, including the potential use of an Article V convention to propose amendments to the Constitution, the Electoral College and Congress's role in the framework of separation of powers between the branches of the federal government.

Judiciary. The Service provided research and analytical support to the Senate as it addressed issues related to the filling of vacancies in the lower federal courts. Analysts and attorneys conducted analysis of the judicial appointment process and utilized the CRS internal judicial nominations database to keep Congress informed about the status of current and past nominations. CRS also advised congressional staff on issues related to judicial administration, including the caseloads of various courts, authorization of new judgeships, and appropriations levels for the judiciary.

Foreign Affairs

The Challenge of North Korea. With the acceleration of North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile development programs in 2017, countering the North Korean threat emerged as one of the top foreign policy priorities of Congress and the Trump administration. Meeting this challenge involves addressing a number of difficult interrelated foreign policy issues, such as U.S. relations with South Korea, China, Japan and Russia, as well as North Korean trade, cyber capabilities and human rights abuses. To assist Congress in its consideration of these issues, analysts across disciplines and areas of expertise collaborated to produce a major body of work on North Korea and frequently briefed Members, staff, committees and congressional delegations visiting the region. As tensions with Pyongyang intensified, Members and staff relied on CRS expertise to identify and explain possible U.S. policy approaches. The Service also examined several variations of legislative proposals for imposing additional economic sanctions on North Korea and assisted congressional staff as these proposals were drafted, revised and compared to one another and

to existing policy. Throughout the year, experts examined a range of political, diplomatic, security and economic policy options and assessed the positions of key regional actors with respect to North Korea, including China and Japan, and the dynamics of the U.S.-South Korean relationship.

Conflict, Political Instability and Democratic Retreat

in Africa. CRS supported Congress's examination of the surge of civil conflict and political violence across the African continent. This roiling instability has implications for U.S. global aid funding, the safety of U.S. diplomatic personnel serving in Africa and long-standing bipartisan efforts by successive administrations and Congresses to promote stability and democracy in Africa. Analysts assisted Member and committee efforts to address political, security and humanitarian policy issues arising from conflicts in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, the Central African Republic and Mali, among others. The Service also provided a range of support to Member and committee offices considering legislative proposals and conducting oversight related to political crises in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.

Confronting Terrorist Threats in Africa. Congress has increasingly focused on the threat posed by terrorist groups in Africa as well as the contours of the U.S. responses. The Service provided support through analysis of possible approaches to groups such as Boko Haram in Nigeria, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in the Sahel region of West Africa and Al Shabaab in Somalia.

Europe. The 115th Congress was presented with several issues with respect to U.S. relations with Europe, such as the Trump administration's views on the relevance of the European Union and a trade agreement with Europe; the future U.S. role in NATO; relations with the United Kingdom; the U.S. commitment to the stability of Ukraine; the threat of terrorism in Europe; the ongoing migration crisis and the rise of populist political parties in the Netherlands, Austria, France and Germany.

Congress turned to CRS for information and analysis as it conducted oversight, drafted legislative proposals and traveled to the region to examine these critical issues.

International Law. In response to congressional queries about the Trump administration's plan to withdraw from various international treaties, the Service provided legal analysis of the rules governing termination of treaties and other international agreements and applied those principles to two high-profile international commitments: the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action related to Iran's nuclear program.

Iranian Nuclear Agreement and Potential Options. CRS provided comprehensive analyses and assessments of the nuclear-related Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran while Congress continued to monitor the agreement's implementation. Analysts were called upon to evaluate the effect of sanctions relief stemming from the JCPOA and responded to a number of congressional inquiries regarding the imposition of potential sanctions in response to those aspects of Iranian behavior not addressed specifically in the JCPOA. Experts also advised Congress on other issues related to Iran, including Tehran's ballistic missile program and the role of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, both within Iran and throughout the region, and provided Congress with ongoing updates and analysis of developments related to Iran's political environment, foreign policy and nuclear program.

Latin America and the Caribbean. Analysts provided significant support to Congress on two specific issues in the Latin America and Caribbean regions: the peace process and counter-narcotics policies in Colombia and the evolving political, social and economic crisis in Venezuela. The Service supplied Congress with critical evaluations of the context in which the various Venezuelan political factions were involved; the possible impact of outside influences, including Iran, Cuba and Russia; and the potential impact of U.S. policy toward

Venezuela on overall U.S. Latin America policy and U.S. domestic energy policy. Experts informed Congress's understanding of the new peace agreement between the government of Colombia and the Marxist guerilla insurgency, which engulfed the country for over 50 years, and its impact on Colombia's counter-narcotics strategies, a long-standing issue of congressional concern. Similarly, CRS supported a number of congressional delegations to the region, providing background information, developing questions and assisting in the formulation of responses to developments in Colombia and Venezuela.

Managing Tensions, Promoting Peace and Prosperity in Asia. The Service examined the complex and multidimensional issues arising in the increasingly important region of East Asia, including the implications of China's continued rise in global affairs, the changing nature of U.S. alliance relationships in the Asia-Pacific region, the North Korea threat, deepening U.S. engagement with India, fraying U.S. ties to Pakistan, maritime disputes and economic engagement, and the Obama administration's proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership. CRS offered expert analysis to Congress while it considered policy options related to China's relationship with North Korea, U.S.-China trade and investment, and territorial disputes in the South China Sea and Taiwan. Congressional staff also relied on CRS expertise to assess Islamist terrorist threats in Southeast Asia and the Trump administration's proposed fiscal 2018 foreign assistance budget for Asian countries. Analysts kept Congress informed about ongoing domestic crackdowns in China and efforts to restrict Hong Kong's democracy movement.

Middle East Turmoil: Terrorism and Instability. The United States continues to confront crises in the turbulent Middle East and North Africa region. As a result, the Service provided Congress with information and analysis about the international struggle against the Islamic State (IS) organization and other terrorist groups throughout the region, as well as in Europe and Asia. Increasingly, as the IS hold on territory has weakened, CRS research

and analysis has focused on complex dynamics in Iraq and Syria that involve a number of state and nonstate actors, among them the increasingly prominent Kurds, whose impact has emerged as a key dynamic influencing potential outcomes in these and other important regional states. In light of the Trump administration's strategic review and its announcement of a new strategy for U.S. military operations in the ongoing conflict, CRS responded to increased congressional interest in Afghanistan. The Service also provided analysis related to the U.S.-Turkey relationship, which attracted significant congressional attention in the wake of a controversial constitutional referendum in Turkey and a violent confrontation involving President Erdogan's bodyguards during his May 2017 visit to Washington. CRS provided extensive analysis on matters affecting Israel and the Palestinians, particularly legislation proposing boycotts or other economic measures against Israel or Israeli settlements and bills imposing conditions on U.S. aid to the Palestinians in connection with Palestinian terrorism-related payments.

Political and Humanitarian Crisis in Burma.

In August 2017, the Burmese military launched a "clearance operation" against the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, an ethno-nationalist insurgency. The military campaign triggered a wave of displacement in Rakhine state, mostly of ethnic Rohingya civilians, and allegedly involved widespread human rights abuses by the Burmese military. Approximately 500,000 people, the vast majority of them Rohingya, fled to Bangladesh. The Service provided in-depth analysis and information in a variety of formats to support Congress's understanding of the issues related to these developments.

Russia. Throughout the year, Congress increasingly focused attention on the many challenges posed by Russia's foreign engagements, which included Russian actions in Ukraine and Syria, violations of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, increased military activity in Europe, an expanded disinformation campaign in Europe and elsewhere, changing relations in

the Middle East and with North Korea, and cyber-related influence operations that, according to the U.S. intelligence community, targeted countries in Europe, as well as the 2016 U.S. presidential election. CRS provided analytical and consultative support to Congress as it examined these matters and took legislative action to respond to Russian political, military and financial activities abroad, notably the Countering Russian Influence in Europe and Eurasia Act of 2017, which codified and strengthened existing U.S. sanctions on Russia, recommended new measures and required congressional review of any presidential move to ease or lift such sanctions.

Strategic Transformation in South Asia. As the Indian subcontinent assumed a higher profile in U.S. foreign policy, the Service responded to Congress's growing interest in the numerous economic, security and global issues in and around that region, including a number of bilateral initiatives underway in pursuit of a "strategic partnership" between the United States and India and U.S. relations with Pakistan. Experts provided research and analysis on links between Pakistan and terrorism in the United States, Pakistan-India tensions and conflict, Pakistan's relations with China and nuclear weapons proliferation in the region. CRS also assisted Congress in evaluating the Islamist militant threat in Bangladesh and reform and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

Health Care

Federal Health Insurance Programs. Congress relied on CRS expertise when it addressed a number of concerns with respect to federal Medicaid and Medicare programs, including the proposed elimination of Medicaid disproportionate share hospital allotment reductions required under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), the Medicaid funding cliff in Puerto Rico and the chronic health care needs of Medicare beneficiaries. The Service monitored developments regarding the expansion of Medicaid under the ACA, as well as regulatory approval of waivers allowing states additional flexibility to make major changes to the Medicaid program. Experts also assisted

Congress in exploring legislative options to address reauthorization of funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program and multiple Medicare provider payment provisions set to expire after fiscal 2017, and in understanding the potential implications of the expiration of these programs.

Health Care Reform. The Service provided Congress with programmatic, procedural and legal expertise on the use of the budget reconciliation process as a legislative tool to modify selected private health insurance and Medicaid provisions in the ACA. CRS also advised congressional staff on efforts to add new programs and requirements not directly related to the ACA, such as restructuring Medicaid financing and banning the federal funding of Planned Parenthood. Analysts and attorneys examined the potential effects of various reform proposals, including their impact on specific populations such as individuals with preexisting conditions and Native Americans/Alaskan natives. The Service supported congressional staff in their drafting of alternative health care reform proposals, including the creation of a single-payer system and the expansion of health insurance coverage through Medicare and/or Medicaid buy-in options. CRS also provided legal advice and information on the status and likely impacts of various high-profile ACA cases; questions concerning health insurance exchanges, premium tax credits and certain nondiscrimination provisions in the ACA; and health coverage for Members and congressional staff.

Opioids. The Service worked closely with congressional staff to examine opioid-related crime and health issues, including the increasing incidents of overdose deaths due to heroin and fentanyl and effective responses to opioid overdoses. Staff provided expert testimony on the economic aspects of the opioid crisis and supported Congress in its review of the content and implementation of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016.

Private Health Insurance. Congress continued to oversee implementation of the ACA's private health insurance provisions and considered amendments to the law. During this time, analysts and attorneys provided in-depth analysis of important issues relevant to the private insurance marketplace, including payments to insurers for the law's cost-sharing subsidies; the evolving status of health insurance exchanges, including trends in health plan participation, premiums and benefit design; ACA risk mitigation programs; and Section 1332 waivers, which provide states with the option to waive specified health insurance requirements of the ACA. The Service also responded to questions regarding current legal challenges to the ACA.

Homeland Security and Immigration

Border Security. There has been renewed congressional focus on border security, in part due to President Trump's initiative to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border as a security measure. Experts provided information and analysis to inform Congress's examination of budget proposals tied to the construction and maintenance of border infrastructure. Analysts and attorneys advised Members and congressional staff on the efficacy and security implications of wall construction, executive branch authority to construct fencing along the southwest border and relevant technical specifications, including the location and length covered by existing barriers and technologies that work in conjunction with border barriers.

Immigration Law and Policy. CRS informed Congress's examination of the many complex questions associated with immigration, an issue that continued to be prominent on the legislative agenda. Analysts clarified the relative roles and responsibilities of the legislative and executive branches, as well as nongovernmental entities, in setting and implementing refugee admission and resettlement policy; analyzed the implications of proposed legislative changes to the existing refugee admissions and resettlement

process; and provided insight on the implications of the president’s executive orders on immigration. Experts advised congressional staff on legislative proposals addressing “sanctuary jurisdictions” – states and localities that limit or restrict their cooperation with federal immigration law enforcement agencies. Congress relied on CRS legal expertise to address questions regarding modification of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, federal authority to deny U.S. entry to aliens and the potential implications of legal challenges to the Trump administration’s exercise of that authority.

Transportation Security Administration. The Service supported Congress in the consideration of a number of reforms to Transportation Security Administration (TSA) operations as part of the reauthorization of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including administrative changes, passenger security screening initiatives, airport access controls and perimeter security, air cargo security, information sharing and cybersecurity, surface transportation security measures and security enhancements in public areas of transportation facilities. Experts assisted congressional staff in hearing preparation, markup sessions and during floor debate on the TSA provisions in the DHS legislation.

Justice and Law Enforcement

Domestic Terrorism. The violence that erupted during protests in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017 sparked congressional interest in domestic terrorism – namely, white supremacist extremism. CRS provided information and advice about domestic terrorism threats, how the federal government investigates and prosecutes it, and factors that distinguish it from other forms of criminality, such as hate crime and foreign terrorism. Experts also analyzed various legislative proposals intended to address these issues.

Firearms Regulation. The Service provided Congress with information and analysis regarding congressional action on proposals to address firearms eligibility and issues related to mental incompetency, background

checks for individuals on terrorist watch lists, and the nature and scope of current federal gun laws and developments in jurisprudence regarding the Second Amendment to the Constitution. Further, CRS continued to build upon its extensive database and research related to mass shooting incidents and advised congressional staff on issues concerning gun-related crime, suicides and the federal regulation of firearms.

Human Trafficking. CRS assisted Congress with the development of legislation for reducing labor and sex trafficking, including proposals for reducing the demand for commercial sex involving minors and trafficking within certain sectors, such as transportation. Analysts also provided critical consultation for congressional staff working to reauthorize programs and grants for trafficking victims and law enforcement under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The grant programs were set to expire at the end of fiscal 2017.

Science and Technology

Cybersecurity. Issues related to the protection of digital information were of particular interest to Congress this year. Experts provided research and analytical assistance to congressional staff on a variety of related issues and developments, including encryption, data breaches in the private and public sectors, and the development and implementation of a federal cybersecurity strategy. In addition, the Service advised Congress on the protection of the U.S. election infrastructure and other critical infrastructure sectors and the cybersecurity of emerging technologies.

Disruptive Technologies. The Service sponsored a series of seminars on disruptive technologies, which are defined as innovative technologies that have significant social and economic impacts. Each session brought together a panel of outside experts on a specific topic to explain relevant technologies and their implications and to explore legislative options on the issues raised by the technologies. The seminars focused on cybersecurity, gene editing and autonomous vehicles.

Intellectual Property. During the last year, Congress examined questions regarding the adequacy of existing copyright and patent law regimes. As a result, CRS advised congressional staff on a broad range of intellectual property issues, including reforming the copyright music licensing system, improving legal mechanisms to address online piracy of copyrighted content and the sale of counterfeit products, revising the administrative structure of the Copyright Office, amending the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, reforming the patent litigation system, examining the constitutionality of administrative patent validity proceedings and changing statutory requirements for patentable subject matter eligibility in response to recent Supreme Court decisions.

Pharmaceutical Drug Development, Coverage and Spending. Congress relied upon CRS while it examined prescription drug development, distribution and pricing issues. Analysts provided information and analysis to support Congress's work on reauthorizing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) user fee in advance of the passage of the FDA Reauthorization Act. The Service provided expertise to address questions regarding generic drug competition, drug importation and restricted drug distribution systems and assisted in Congress's inquiry into price increases of existing and new medications and rising pharmaceutical spending in programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. Analysts also examined the interplay between patent and food and drug law, including the implications that recent Supreme Court decisions may have for provisions within the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act related to the pricing of biologics.

Technology Policy and Competitiveness. The Service provided expertise to Congress while it worked to develop policies to address the ability of U.S. industry, national laboratories and other stakeholders to provide innovative science and technology breakthroughs. Analysts and attorneys provided research, analysis and consultation to assist Congress's efforts to reauthorize

the Small Business Innovation Research program and examine the role of the federal government in supporting science, engineering and mathematics education.

Telecommunications and Internet Policy. Analysts and attorneys examined the implications of a shifting net neutrality policy as proposed by a new commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission. CRS also assisted congressional staff with the analysis and development of policies to extend broadband technologies to remote areas, particularly tribal lands.

Television Industry. The proposed acquisition of Tribune Media Company's broadcast television stations by Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. drew Congress's attention because of the consolidated company's potential to reach more than 70 percent of U.S. households. In addition, the Federal Communications Commission completed the periodic review of its media ownership regulations. The Service assisted Congress in its oversight activities and efforts to draft legislation to address the issues associated with these developments. When Congress grew increasingly concerned with the transmission of programming by RT (formally known as Russia Today) on broadcast and cable television, analysts and attorneys provided analysis of legislative options to enable U.S. companies that transmit the programming to exercise editorial control and require greater disclosure by RT regarding its relationship with the Russian government.

Social Welfare and Housing

Child Care. Congress called upon CRS to inform the legislative debate on the appropriate role and vehicle for the federal government in supporting child care for working families. Analyses encompassed both tax benefits and spending programs, comparing subsidy levels and the distribution of benefits by family type and income group. Experts used microsimulation modeling to estimate eligibility and receipt of child care benefits under various legislative proposals and to examine

the effects of proposed policy changes on American families.

Home Visiting. The Service supported Congress’s efforts to reauthorize the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, which provides home visiting services to vulnerable families with young children. Experts provided background information on the program’s requirements and analyzed how other federal programs and states provide financial support for home-visiting services. When the House prepared to pass its reauthorization bill, CRS provided technical and analytical advice on various draft bills and amendments. Experts also examined the potential effects on beneficiaries if program authorization were to lapse and reported on the differences between current law and the House and Senate reauthorization bills.

Poverty. CRS provided Congress with a snapshot of the composition of people in poverty, supplementing its earlier analysis of poverty rates among different groups. Analysts explained trends in poverty and the demographic, economic and social characteristics of the poor. The Service also examined the economic and social drivers of poverty and the effectiveness of policy responses over time, including social insurance, public assistance, tax credits and noncash programs, with an emphasis on the central role of work, and the income derived therefrom, in the lives of people in poverty.

Taxes and the Economy

Tax Law and Policy. In support of Congress’s deliberations on the ongoing budget negotiations and tax reform debate, the Service examined over 200 tax provisions for a biennial publication, “Tax Expenditures: Compendium of Background Material on Individual Provisions.” The compendium provides a description and assessment of each provision along with an updated bibliography of the current economic literature for that provision. The Service also informed the legislative debate on tax reform and tax “extenders” with a number of products highlighting key issues. Tax law experts

assisted congressional clients in understanding key tax provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and analyzed the impact of constitutional tax uniformity requirements on efforts to provide health-related tax incentives when Congress considered legislation to repeal and replace the act. CRS also provided advice and analysis on questions involving international and corporate taxation, congressional committee access to individual tax returns and “speech or debate” clause protection for their disclosure, legislation requiring the disclosure of the president’s tax returns and state taxation of internet sales.

Trade

Domestic Content Laws. Due to “Buy American” laws, national security agencies are required to purchase domestically made textiles and apparel, footwear, food, and hand or measuring tools. “Buy America” provisions require domestic sourcing of some materials and equipment, particularly iron and steel in federally funded projects involving highways, public transportation, aviation and Amtrak. CRS worked with Members and committees while Congress considered changes to these requirements as part of the fiscal 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and in light of proposed actions by the Trump administration to reinvigorate domestic manufacturing and infrastructure investment.

International Trade and Economic Challenges. The Service assisted Congress while it confronted a number of significant international trade policy questions related to U.S. economic sanctions against Russia and the U.S. review of the national security implications of foreign direct investment in the United States, especially by China. Experts analyzed legislative proposals for reforming the U.S. foreign investment review process and worked to inform Congress of the current system, as well as the role of foreign investment in the U.S. economy. In the area of international finance, CRS supported Congress in its examination of the role of the International Monetary Fund in the Greek debt crisis



and the operations and programs of the U.S. Export-Import Bank. The evolving global economy and its growing complexity and impact on the United States were also a primary focus of support for Congress.

Trade Policy. Congress called upon CRS for support as it considered new initiatives and developments in the global trade arena. Work included analyzing the implications and legal issues associated with U.S. withdrawal from the largest and most complex free trade agreement the United States has ever negotiated, the Trans-Pacific Partnership; the Trump administration’s formal renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement; and the potential negotiation of a new bilateral free trade agreement with the United Kingdom. The Service also assisted Congress in its consideration of other issues, such as the renewed use of statutory investigations authority to examine the impact on U.S. national security of steel and aluminum imports, ongoing dialogue with China to address areas of concern

in the U.S.-China trade relationship and the U.S. trade deficit. Further, CRS provided legal analysis of the president’s authority over trade, the imposition of trade tariffs and the interplay between contemplated border adjustment taxes and U.S. obligations under World Trade Organization agreements.

Transportation

Federal Aviation Administration. Congress debated legislation to reauthorize civil aviation programs, including operations of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), airport improvement grants and subsidies for air service to small communities. A key issue, particularly in legislation under consideration by the House, was whether to reorganize FAA’s air traffic control operations as either a private entity or an independent government-owned corporation. Both houses considered various provisions related to the financing of airport improvement projects, modernization of the air traffic system, aviation safety,

regulation of unmanned aircraft, training standards for airline pilots, hiring of air traffic controllers, staffing of control towers at smaller airports, and the comfort and safety of airline seats. Analysts and attorneys offered extensive analytical support to Congress in its exploration of these issues.

Surface Transportation. Although multi-year surface transportation authorization legislation passed in fiscal 2016, many aspects of highways, public transportation and railroads were of interest to Members of Congress in fiscal 2017. The Service provided extensive support on car and truck safety, freight and passenger railroad safety and funding, financing issues and highway disaster assistance.

Veterans

Veterans Benefits. CRS assisted Congress in understanding Veterans Administration (VA) personnel and accountability issues addressed in the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017. Analysts provided guidance to congressional staff when they examined unexpected funding shortfalls for the Veterans Choice Program addressed in the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017 and considered veterans education benefits provisions included in the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017. Staff also analyzed data on the backlog of pending veterans' appeals and appeals process choke points in support of Congress's consideration of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017.

Workforce and Labor

The Gig Economy. The Service continued to monitor and advise on the labor market implications of the gig economy, a market characterized by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work, as opposed to permanent jobs. Experts provided information and analysis on the gig workforce, the implications of the gig economy for federal labor standards and livelihoods,

and the evolving judicial consideration of employment-related claims and classification of gig workers. CRS also provided consultative support on existing and potential worker benefits and protections in the emerging marketplace.

Overtime Pay. Congress has been keenly interested in a 2016 Department of Labor regulation that updated the overtime pay requirements under the Fair Labor Standards Act, which was subjected to a federal court injunction. Analysts and attorneys provided analytical support to Congress in understanding the act's overtime pay requirements as well as the implications of the new regulations. CRS also evaluated the Department of Labor's approach to calculating the rate of increase in the overtime salary threshold and compared the final rule adjustment to historical adjustments made since the law's enactment in 1938.

Paid Leave. CRS provided Congress with information on paid family leave in the United States, including the prevalence of employer-provided paid leave policies and state-level family leave insurance programs; an overview of such policies in other advanced-economy countries; and a summary of recent federal proposals to increase access to paid family leave.

Pensions and Retirement Security. The Service advised congressional staff on the implications of an early 2017 action by the Trump administration to review the Department of Labor's regulation on investment advice (the "Fiduciary Rule"). Experts also assisted Congress while it considered action under the Congressional Review Act to rescind 2016 regulations that would have facilitated efforts by state and local governments to provide increased retirement savings opportunities to workers without pensions. Further, CRS provided assistance on issues related to health and pension benefits for retired members of the United Mine Workers of America.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Congress.gov

As a part of the Library’s multi-departmental team, CRS contributed to continuing development and daily operations of the next-generation legislative information system platform and services on Congress.gov. Through a multi-year Library-wide strategy, Congress.gov is replacing two legacy legislative information systems – Legislative Information System (LIS) and THOMAS – with a single, modern system. CRS provided data analysis, subject matter expertise, consultation, system and user testing, coordination of data partner relationships and support for congressional users and data partners. The Service also continues to support the use of the Congress-only LIS until equivalent capability is fully developed for the new Congress.gov. Accomplishments included the adoption of an agile software development methodology, which resulted in more frequent releases with a significantly lower overall risk of adverse impacts on operations. Notable features and functionality released in fiscal 2017 include enhancements to alerts, saved searches, the Query Builder search form, global and advanced search, downloadable search results, and search results for legislation. Access to the Congressional Record and committee information was also improved. This progress moves the Library significantly closer to the goal of retiring the legacy LIS from congressional view prior to the start of the 116th Congress.

“The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation”

“The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation,” popularly known as the Constitution Annotated or CONAN, is a statutorily required Senate document in which attorneys provide legal analysis and interpretation of the Constitution, based primarily on Supreme Court case law. CONAN serves Members of Congress, their staff and the general public, including practicing attorneys and others interested in learning about the Supreme Court or



the nation’s founding document. CONAN addresses the meaning of each constitutional provision and can be especially useful for research on the constitutional implications of specific issues or topics. Following CONAN’s 100th anniversary celebration on Sept. 23, 2014, CRS completed a comprehensive independent review of the content, organization, methodology and presentation of the published versions of this legal reference document.

Efforts during fiscal 2017 included the authoring and review of a substantive initial batch of revised CONAN content to replace nearly 400 pages of the current 2,500-page version. An initial design and search prototype for the next generation CONAN website was developed in collaboration with the Library. A modernized CONAN will enable the nation’s preeminent source of objective, authoritative and nonpartisan constitutional analysis to be easily accessed, understood and used by Congress and the public, including educators and students. The revised CONAN will be an integral part of a broader platform that showcases the Library’s rich historical collections and, in particular, constitutional history.



New Member Seminar

The Service hosted “Legislative Issues & Procedures: The CRS Seminar for New Members” in cooperation with the U.S. House of Representatives, Jan. 6-9, 2017, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Forty-three out of 56 newly elected Members (77 percent) attended, as well as one Member who was first elected in 2014. The seminar was designed to provide newly elected Members with critical information and training to help them be effective performing their duties. Nationally recognized experts from inside and outside of CRS gave presentations on legislative and budget processes as well as domestic and foreign policy issues. The seminar also introduced Members to CRS and key services provided by the Library of Congress. Members placed nearly 80 requests for follow-up at the seminar, and, by the end of fiscal 2017, the offices of the freshmen who attended placed 4,362 requests.

Interactive Maps

Geospatial analysis and mapping products illustrate complex public policy data and can improve understanding of multidimensional public policy issues. The Service completed 185 GIS-related requests on issues of interest to Congress, such as federal lands, energy, military installations, education, national monuments, floods and wild fires. Both the House and the Senate actively promoted the use of GIS tools, and the CRS GIS team collaborated with the House and Senate GIS working groups in several educational and networking programs during the year. In addition, the Service successfully deployed an internal ArcGIS portal to test interactive mapping in March 2017, and, in early September 2017, successfully installed and tested the production ArcGIS portal to produce and serve maps to congressional clients. CRS also developed guidelines for reviewing maps. A method to create interactive maps to complement other products is in development.



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SUSTAINING A PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE

CRS's second strategic goal is to:

Sustain a professional workforce with the skills and expertise necessary to serve a contemporary Congress.

In fiscal 2017, the Service maintained an effective workforce management program that focused on providing valuable recruitment, training and retention mechanisms to ensure that the foremost national talent pool delivered exceptional nonpartisan information and analysis to Congress. Through innovative and targeted programs, CRS focused on the recruitment and retention of analytical talent in specialized areas of knowledge, as well as the enhancement of staff competencies and expertise. CRS leveraged collaboration across the Service and with the Library of Congress to facilitate effective performance management and exhibit a strong commitment to ensuring a diverse, productive and inclusive workforce.

Special projects supporting a professional workforce included staff training and development, continuing efforts to review and disseminate CRS policies and guidelines as well as an initiative to strengthen employee engagement.

GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

The Policy Working Group's review and dissemination of CRS policies and guidelines continued in fiscal 2017. This effort preserves core values and ensures that staff and the research and analysis they provide Congress consistently meet those core values. The group reviewed policies and guidelines for accuracy, clarity and applicability. It updated and revised policies as necessary to ensure that employees are informed about the rules

that govern products and services for Congress, as well as their ethical and professional responsibilities. It sought staff input prior to publishing revised policies to ensure that the policies are clear and meaningful. The working group is headed by a legal advisor in the Office of the Counselor to the Director and includes first-line supervisors from all research divisions and infrastructure offices.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

The Service launched the initiative Strengthening Employee Engagement to address select areas in the CRS strategic plan and respond to feedback from the 2016 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. In fiscal 2017, efforts focused on diversity and communications.

CRS established a Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group, composed of bargaining and nonbargaining unit staff, to look at various aspects of diversity and inclusion, and to identify related goals and objectives. The group produced proposals that defined diversity



and inclusion, described their importance and offered strategies for moving forward. Based on this work, a diversity and inclusion strategy was established. The strategy included the establishment of two working groups to focus on workplace inclusion and recruitment and retention.

The Service established a Communications Advisory Group, which also included both bargaining unit and nonbargaining unit staff and managers. The group explored how to improve internal communications, examined best practices, assessed effectiveness of current communication processes and identified gaps in current efforts.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Service continued to develop staff through several special programs, including the leadership development training for first-line supervisors. In fiscal 2017, CRS expanded this program to nonsupervisory staff who aspired to leadership. The courses in this program strengthened the core competency areas of communication, coaching and results-oriented problem solving. CRS continued its mentoring program for new staff members and made the pilot mentoring program for existing staff members permanent. This program matches CRS employees with managers to explore career goals, share knowledge and network. CRS regularly held contractor-led training sessions on presentation delivery and writing. In addition, the Service continued its Core Writing Curriculum program, in which long-serving staff members provide newer analysts with guidance, tools and best practices in preparing effective analytical writing for congressional clients.







MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

CRS's third strategic goal is to:

Creatively and proactively manage resources to effectively and efficiently ensure that CRS successfully fulfills its statutory mission.

CRS advanced this goal in fiscal 2017 through its strategic planning process, technology enhancements and targeted initiatives that consolidated offices and realigned staff to maximize efficiency. These initiatives span two or more of CRS's strategic goals, improving service to Congress and strengthening our staff as well as making the Service more efficient.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Service continued its strategic planning initiative with the execution of the CRS Operations Plan, which complements the CRS Strategic Plan. The Operations Plan, a detailed roadmap for accomplishing strategic goals and objectives, includes action items, milestones, timeframes, dependencies and resources. On a quarterly basis, CRS reported on status, tracked activities and made adjustments when necessary to ensure that strategic goals and objectives were met.

In an effort to lay the groundwork for the next strategic plan, the Service hosted a senior management offsite meeting, at which senior leaders discussed the agency's products and services portfolio, staff composition, organizational model and prioritization. CRS will begin work on a new strategic plan in fiscal 2018.

In 2017, the Service fully participated in the Library of Congress "Envisioning 2025" initiative, which will inform the Library's future direction and priorities. A CRS staff member served on the Thinking Forward Group, which helped structure the initiative within the framework established by the Strategic Planning and Performance Management Office. The Service was represented on all 11 teams that researched, explored and reported on topics to inform the future vision of the Library. Additionally, several people in CRS, including the Director and Deputy Director, participated in the Envisioning Leadership Forum. Currently, a staff member is engaged with the Envisioning Working Group, which continues to work on items that resulted from the leadership forum activities.

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS

The Service joined the Skype for Business Federation with the House, Senate and Architect of the Capitol. With the Skype Federation, CRS hosted multiple online webinars for congressional staff, in addition to online Instant Messaging (IM) for short factual responses or courtesy messages, content sharing and audio/video

teleconferencing. The implementation of Skype for Business maintains all of the enhanced security features currently implemented by federated partners. All federated communications are encrypted, providing the ability to collaborate securely via IM, content sharing and audio/video teleconferencing. The Service continues



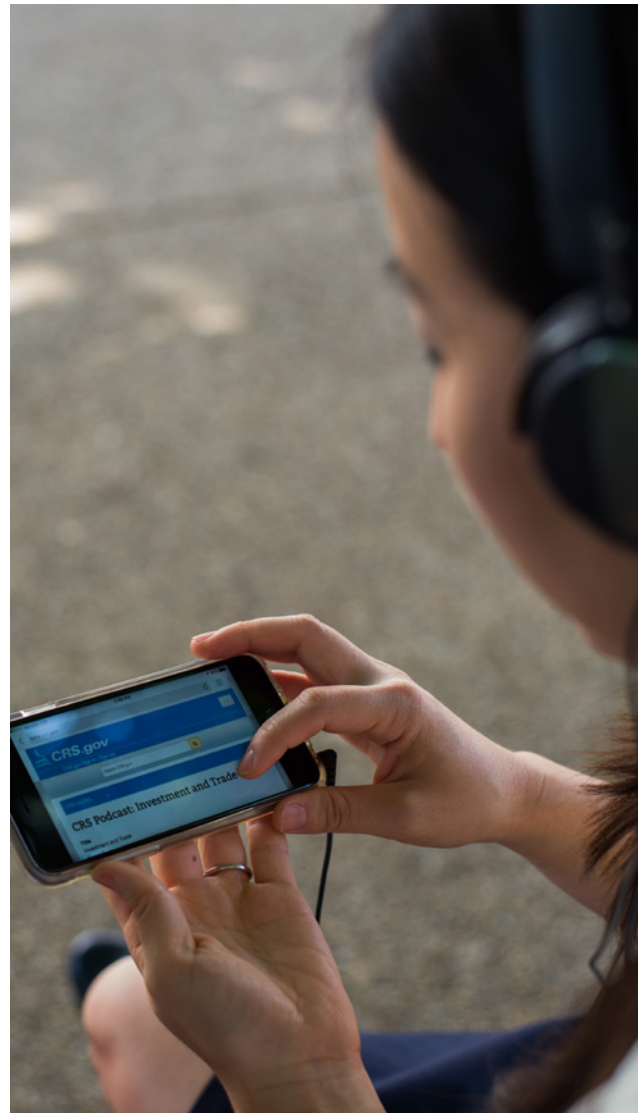
to offer in-person, phone or email consultations, tailored confidential memoranda, expert testimony, programs and events, as well as access to a library of thousands of products and videos on CRS.gov covering legislative issues, congressional operations and more.

The Service conducted a pilot of a new podcast product, enabling congressional clients to listen to analysts discussing legislative issues while on the go. The initial pilot contained three podcasts from the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division on the topics of investment and trade, the F-35 aircraft and human trafficking. In the future, CRS intends to build a stable of audio products by converting short, existing products into a podcast format, with a focus on enduring topics that are informational and foundational in nature.

To initiate modernization of the Service's information technology (IT), CRS posted a Request for Information (RFI) for the Integrated Research and Information System (IRIS). IRIS will leverage the latest advances in web-based technologies to provide an agile and flexible infrastructure that will enable efficient plug-and-play of technologies for rapid deployment and use by CRS staff and Congress. The new integrated environment will support Congress in four key areas: information research, policy and data analysis, content creation and product delivery.

Based on the industry responses to the IRIS RFI, the Service is currently evaluating multiple technologies that will introduce a new content management system (CMS) for enabling a component-based approach to content production and delivery. A modern CMS will help reduce the amount of staff time spent on administrative and production issues and allow for more focus on research, analysis and consultations for Congress.

If funding is available, CRS plans to pilot a flexible workflow automation and task management tool integrated with the new CMS and authoring tool. This system will automate tracking of the full lifecycle of product creation from request to assignment, editing,



review and delivery. A fully optimized workflow tool will streamline work, make it easier to track and allow for enhanced timeliness and efficiency. The Service also plans to pilot a new authoring and dissemination tool that will support component-based content creation integrated smoothly with the new CMS and workflow automation tool. The authoring tool is the heart of product development, and the current tool constrains CRS to rigidly styled, print-centric product formats. The new authoring tool will reduce the time and effort required to create and assemble new products from existing components and enable more flexible importing and manipulating of interactive graphics, tables and charts.

ORGANIZATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

Office Consolidations

The Service continued to focus on supporting its research division staff so that they were best prepared to meet the policy and research needs of Congress. Leaders made the decision to combine the Office of Finance and Administration and the Office of Workforce Management and Development into one office, the Office of Administrative Operations. This move maximizes efficiency, provides more effective oversight of operations and performance, and strengthens internal collaboration and coordination.

In addition, CRS combined the Program Office and Communications Office into one unit, the Congressional Programs and Communications Office. Programs and Communications staff have a history of working closely together on activities including the New Member Seminar, promotional materials, photography and video production. The new office will continue to manage CRS's internal communication; provide communications plans, guidance, writing and editing; and handle media inquiries. It will continue to plan and carry out events for Congress, produce multimedia products and contribute to congressional outreach strategic planning and activities.

Information Professionals (IP) Pilot

In March 2016, the Service began a one-year pilot to explore whether greater efficiency and coordination could be achieved in providing information research and services to Congress. As part of the pilot, research librarians in the Knowledge Services Group (KSG) moved directly into two research divisions to better align with the work of analysts and meet the divisions' research priorities and requirements. CRS assigned other information professionals to work in KSG's Reference and Information Services Section to focus on information, collections and knowledge management and to enable more efficient access to critical information.

An assessment of the pilot confirmed that it was more efficient for research librarians to report directly to the research divisions. This change facilitated collaboration between research librarians and analysts, resulting in more effective integrated products. As a result, in August 2017, research librarians in KSG consulting sections permanently moved to the respective research divisions, which allowed the restructured KSG to focus on improving information and knowledge management, such as the development of a research portal that will enable analysts to quickly find and share knowledge and information.





APPENDIXES



APPENDIX A. ORGANIZATION CHART



APPENDIX B. OFFICES AND DIVISIONS

LEADERSHIP AND RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICES

The Office of the Director is headed by Director Mary B. Mazanec, who was selected by the Librarian of Congress in consultation with the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress in 2011. Director Mazanec works to advance and fulfill the Service's statutory mission, as well as define strategic directions, set priorities, supervise the research divisions and research support offices, oversee the multidisciplinary approach to research and analysis in support of Congress, and create and execute the budget. In consultation with the Director, Deputy Director T.J. Halstead is responsible for research and management, formulation and implementation of Service policies, and serving as CRS spokesperson and liaison. Deputy Director Halstead also oversees the Review Office and the Congressional Programs and Communications Office, which are housed in the Office of the Director. The Review Office ensures that the Service meets its congressional clients' expectations for timely research and analytical support by reviewing all products for accuracy, objectivity and lack of partisan bias. The Congressional Programs and Communications Office coordinates seminars and programs for congressional clients; engages in outreach to Congress; and manages media requests, social media, websites and internal communication.

The Office of the Counselor to the Director examines and defines the range of legal and policy questions and issues that arise from the operations of CRS and its relationships with Congress, other service units within the Library of Congress and other legislative support agencies. It also serves as the principal legal and policy advisor to the Director, Deputy Director and other senior management officials. The office is responsible for

formulating, negotiating, advising and implementing policies and legal positions on matters that emerge from interactions between management and the labor organization. Additionally, the office is responsible for managing the receipt and assignment of congressional requests that come into the Service through the Congressional Services Section, providing authoritative guidance on policy questions involving sensitive or complex congressional requests and supporting outreach to congressional clients.

The Office of Administrative Operations manages the business operations of the Service and oversees all human resources management capabilities. It also serves as the Service's primary liaison to the Library in performing supportive functions or operations and collaborating on strategic human resources issues. The business operations section of the office directs finance and budget, procurement, facilities management and administrative programs. This includes the coordination of the internal control programs, preparation of the annual budget request, evaluation of resource requirements, and formulation and execution of the fiscal operating plan. The office controls all contracting and procurement actions as well as the acquisition and distribution of research materials and support for travel and training activities. The office administers payroll, property and workplace security, and space utilization. The human resources management section of the office provides a comprehensive package of services and programs designed to attract, develop and retain quality talent that can respond to the research and information needs of Congress. The section also employs specific recruitment strategies to maintain a diverse and

inclusive workforce, develops training seminars and professional development opportunities for staff, and administers the performance management system.

The Office of Congressional Information and Publishing facilitates and enhances congressional access to timely and authoritative legislative information and public policy expertise. In close consultation with authors, the office reviews, edits, publishes and provides graphics and production support for reports and related products. It organizes, analyzes and publishes legislative information, such as summaries of pending legislation provided through the Congress.gov platform and the Legislative Information System (LIS). The office also works in partnership with other Library units, the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, the Government Publishing Office and other legislative branch offices to ensure accurate, timely and complete access to legislative information. The office

develops innovative tools to improve the understanding of legislative documents, responds to congressional queries about the use and content of the legislative information systems, and maintains authoritative Member and staff data for the handling of research requests.

The Office of Information Management and Technology establishes the information and technical capabilities required to provide research and analysis for Congress. This includes planning, procurement, project management, development, data management, operations, and security and maintenance of the information technology infrastructure and systems required to support the mission. The office identifies opportunities to improve efficiency through emerging and innovative technologies. The office is also responsible for the overall enterprise architecture, records management, archiving, taxonomy and content management.

RESEARCH DIVISIONS

The American Law Division provides legal advice on a range of matters arising in the legislative context or otherwise of interest to Congress. Some of these issues relate to Congress's institutional prerogatives and activities, including how the national legislature's work is shaped and informed by the Constitution. Division attorneys work on a broad array of constitutional and statutory issues implicating separation of powers, individual rights, federalism, and the interpretation and application of legislative enactments by the executive and judicial branches. Administrative law, business law, civil rights, criminal law, environmental law and international law are regular subjects of the division's work. In addition, the division prepares "The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation," popularly known as the Constitution Annotated or CONAN, a statutorily mandated treatise that explains what every provision of the Constitution means for Members of Congress and the public.

The Domestic Social Policy Division offers Congress research and analysis in the broad area of domestic social policies and programs. Issue and legislative areas include education and training, health care and financing, Social Security, public and private pensions, welfare, nutrition assistance, housing, immigration, drug control, crime and criminal justice, labor and occupational safety, unemployment and workers' compensation, and other issues related to children and families, persons with disabilities, the aged, the poor and veterans. Analysts use multiple disciplines in their research, including program and legislative expertise, quantitative methodologies and economic analysis.

The Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division is organized into eight regional and functional sections that follow critical worldwide security, political and economic developments for Congress. These include U.S. relations with individual countries, regional

trends and transnational issues such as terrorism, refugees and other humanitarian crises, global health, nonproliferation and global institutions such as the United Nations. The division also addresses U.S. foreign aid programs, strategies, resource allocations, State Department budget and functions, international debt, public diplomacy and legislation on foreign relations. Research responsibilities include national security policy; military strategy; conflict dynamics; intelligence; U.S. and foreign weapons systems; military operations; defense acquisition; compensation, health, and social issues in the military; the defense budget; cybersecurity in defense and intelligence; and U.S. domestic and overseas military bases. The division examines key international economic developments and the roles and responsibilities of international financial institutions in addition to trade-related legislation, policies, programs and U.S. trade performance and investment flows. Attention is also given to trade negotiations and agreements, export promotion, import regulations and tariffs.

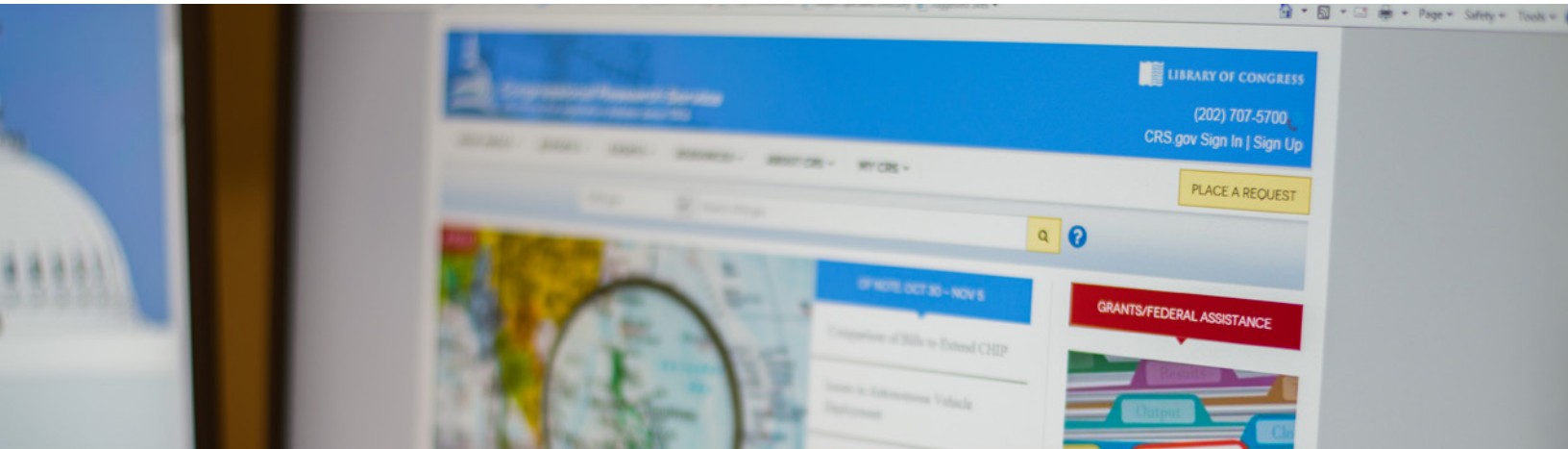
The Government and Finance Division focuses on the organization, structure, operations and management of Congress and its support agencies as well as the appropriations and legislative process and the congressional budget. Among the financial issues covered by the division are banking, financial institutions, insurance, mortgages and securities, taxation, public finance, fiscal and monetary policy and the public debt. Other research addresses the interaction between taxes and interest rates and macroeconomic policy. In addition, the division responds to requests on the organization, management and funding of the federal executive and judicial branches, judicial and executive branch nominations, government personnel and the civil service, the presidency and vice presidency, and government information policy and privacy issues. The division is responsible for policy work in the areas of

intergovernmental relations and forms of federal aid; federalism, statehood and U.S. territories; economic development; federal planning for and response to emergencies, disasters and acts of terrorism in the United States; the census; reapportionment and redistricting; elections; and campaign finance, lobbying and political parties. Last, the division plays a leading role in addressing congressional needs in the area of cybersecurity.

The Knowledge Services Group is comprised of information professionals who respond to general reference questions from congressional clients and supports the work of CRS staff by ensuring access to relevant and authoritative information resources. KSG staff provide document delivery services, manage research subscriptions and print collections, catalog and digitize research materials, and provide geographical information systems (GIS) analysis and services. The KSG is also responsible for managing institutional knowledge in CRS; information professionals create collaborative platforms for staff to share information and documents and help manage projects.

The Resources, Science and Industry Division covers an array of legislative issues for Congress involving natural resources and environmental management, science and technology, and industry and infrastructure. Resources and management work includes policy analysis on public lands, water and other natural resources issues, environment, agriculture, food, fisheries and energy. Science and technology coverage includes policy analysis of general science and technology issues, civilian and military research and development, information technology and telecommunications, and space and earth sciences. Industry and infrastructure support issues include policy analysis on transportation and related infrastructure issues, industrial market structure and regulation and sector-specific industry analysis.

APPENDIX C. RESEARCH SERVICES AND PRODUCTS



Throughout fiscal 2017, the Service provided Congress with analysis, research and information to support its policymaking needs in the formats described below.

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE TO CONGRESS

Reports for Congress

The Service prepares reports, analyses and studies on specific policy and legal issues of congressional interest. These reports clearly define topics in legislative contexts. The basic requirements of these and other written products include relevance, authoritativeness and objectivity. Analysts define and explain technical terms and concepts, frame issues in understandable and timely contexts, and in some instances, provide appropriate and valid quantitative data. A summary appears on the first page of most reports. Shorter report formats include Fact Sheets, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), In Brief reports and CRS Experts lists. Active reports are updated as relevant events occur and are archived when they no longer reflect the current legislative agenda. These archived products remain available to Congress to provide background and historical context. Reports are available to the congressional community on CRS.gov.

Short Products

In response to congressional feedback, the Service introduced in the past few years several short products designed to better meet client needs. These shorter products include CRS Insights, brief information and analysis on policy issues; Legal Sidebars, brief legal analyses of current topics; In Focus, two-page products that provide an overview of a specific topic area; Testimony, transcripts of testimony given by staff; and Infographics, graphical representations of analysis. All of these short products provide facts and analysis to clients in clear and concise formats and can be found on CRS.gov.

Congressional Distribution Memoranda

The Service prepares congressional distribution memoranda when the interest of a relatively small number of congressional readers is anticipated or when the transiency of an issue or product makes its inclusion as a listed report inappropriate. If an issue becomes important to a larger congressional audience, the product may be recast as a report.

ONLINE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

CRS.gov

The Service's website for Congress gives clients the ability to access a wide variety of products and resources, register for seminars, place online requests and stream video of briefings or events. Reports, in both short and long formats, are listed by issue area and are accessible via an online search. These reports include Legal Sidebars, Insights, In Focus, Infographics and Testimony. The site also contains guides to legislative procedures and resources for constituent services and other congressional office functions. In fiscal 2017, the Service introduced a podcast pilot. Podcasts allow congressional clients to listen to analysts discuss legislative issues in their respective research areas. The CRS Twitter account, @CRS4Congress, regularly showcases new work. Clients use the website to order DVDs of seminars and briefings and to set up personalized accounts in MyCRS, where they can subscribe to topics, receive notifications of updates to products associated with these topics, save searches, place a request and register for an event with ease. The site also provides access to "The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation," popularly known as the Constitution Annotated or CONAN. The website is available on the secure CAPNET network to congressional clients and select legislative branch agencies.

Appropriations

Experts tracked and provided comprehensive legislative analysis for the 12 regular Senate and



House appropriation bills. CRS assisted Congress with continuing resolutions, a disaster assistance supplement and the budget resolution. The Service continues to maintain and update the Appropriations Status Table on CRS.gov for legislation tracking.

On the Floor

On the Floor, a weekly compendium of products relevant to scheduled or expected floor action, is available on CRS.gov and by email subscription to all Members, committees, subcommittees and congressional staff. All bills and related products listed on this page link to the bills themselves on the Bill Summary and Status pages and to the products on the website. On the Floor is updated throughout the week as needed.

Programs Electronic Mailing List

This email notification system provides subscribers with descriptions of upcoming programs and links to easily register online.

CUSTOM SERVICES

The Service responds to requests for custom services from Members and committees and their staff. Analysts respond with confidential policy and legal analyses, in memorandum format; consultations in person, by phone, Skype or email; and briefings on virtually all legislative and policy issues, each tailored to address specific questions from a Member, committee or their staff.

Confidential Memoranda

CRS prepares confidential memoranda to meet specific congressional requests. These memoranda are prepared for the use of the requester and are not distributed further unless the requester grants permission. This format is often used by attorneys, for example, to respond to highly focused inquiries about the legal implications of statutory provisions, proposed legislation or executive actions.

Individual Staff Briefings

Individual or group staff briefings constitute another form of tailored response to congressional inquiries. Experts provide in-person briefings to Members, committees and staff on specific policy issues. These briefings might focus on bills in formulation, foreign or domestic policy issues before Congress, the legislative process, congressional operations or general orientations to CRS services and products.

Telephone, Skype and Email Responses

Telephone and email responses are a vital element of interactions with Congress. In fiscal 2017, the Service added Skype as a way to interact with Congress. Experts are now directly accessible by

phone, Skype or email, and, on a given day, the Service provides numerous responses through these modes of communication, ranging from quick consultations to briefings and interactive discussions. In these instances, CRS goals are to provide expertise, ease of access and personalized immediate response.

Briefing Books

The Service prepares briefing books for use by congressional delegations traveling abroad. These materials support specific purposes of a congressional trip and may include maps, selected products such as CRS reports, brief tailored written work on background and current issues regarding U.S. relations and questions Members might ask when meeting with government and other officials.

SEMINARS, INSTITUTES AND OTHER PROGRAMS

Seminars

The Service conducted numerous seminars for Members and staff on a wide variety of issues of interest to Congress. Highlights of the year included the following public policy seminars:

- “Hurricane Matthew Recovery: Office Hours”
- “Separation of Powers”
- “Trade Adjustment Assistance”
- “The Congressional Review Act”
- “The Changing Electric Power Sector”
- “How Can Data be Leveraged to Improve Management of DOD Business Operations?”
- “The Budget Reconciliation Process: House and Senate Procedures”
- “The Dodd-Frank Act: What’s in It? What are the Policy Proposals?”
- “Open House on Information Warfare: Russian Activities & the U.S. Election”
- “The International Monetary Fund and the Eurozone Crisis”
- “Strengthening U.S. Manufacturing”
- “Defense Budget and Policy Issues: What to Watch For”
- “Reaching the Debt Limit”
- “Emergency Management for the 115th Congress: Office Hours”
- “Sanctuary Jurisdictions: Selected Federal Funding Issues”
- “The Federal Budget Outlook: The Way Forward”
- “Public Health: An Overview of ‘The System’ and its Role in Access to Health Care”
- “Foreign Investment and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S.”
- “Basics of Financial Risk and Regulation”
- “Social Media in Congress: Evolution and the Impact of Electronic Communications”



- “Fiscal 2018 Defense Budget: Issues for Congress”
- “Fiscal 2018 International Affairs Budget: Issues for Congress”
- “The National Flood Insurance Program and Issues for Reauthorization”
- “Research and Development Funding in President Trump’s Fiscal 2018 Budget”
- “Kenya’s August 2017 Elections: U.S. Efforts to Support a Peaceful and Credible Process”
- “Hurricanes Harvey and Irma Response and Recovery: CRS Open House”
- “International Corporate Tax Reform: An Economic and Legal Discussion”
- “International Humanitarian Crises and U.S. Assistance”
- “The Debt Limit and Federal Budget: Background and Issues”
- “Burma’s Pursuit of Peace and the Crisis in the Rakhine State”

115th Congress New Member Programs

In addition to the New Member Seminar, the Service hosted two programs for the 115th Congress freshman class: “New Member Orientation: Legislative Process Overview” and “Budget Reconciliation” as a follow-up lunch. CRS also held a version of the legislative process training at NMS for staff: “Seminar for New House Offices: The Legislative Process.”

115th Congress Issues and Policy Seminar

In April 2017, the Service hosted the “115th Congress: Issues and Policy Seminar.” This all-day program included breakfast office hours and lunch with CRS experts. Discussion topics included agriculture/farm bill, challenges from North Korea, the Congressional Review Act, infrastructure investment, national security law, poverty, space, tax reform and tax policy. It included a general session, “The First Branch: An Overview of the Powers of Congress,” and breakout sessions on transportation, debt and deficits, poverty and economic opportunity, the geopolitics of Asia, challenges in the Middle East, federal education policy and key issues in U.S. trade policy.

Seminar Series

The Service also presented several public policy issues in a series of seminars. The “Implications of a Changing Global Order” series included “Understanding the ‘New’ Geopolitics of Asia” and “Emerging Nuclear Challenges: Deterrence, Regional Conflicts, Alliance Relationship, and Arms Control.” CRS also kicked off the Disruptive Technology Series with sessions that included “Cybersecurity: How Can Congress Get Ahead of the Curve?” “Advances in Gene Editing: Balancing Promise and Risk” and “Autonomous Vehicles and the 115th Congress.”

Building on the legislative process institute, the Service continued the “Mastering the Legislative Process” series. These lunch-hour discussions on legislative processes used relevant examples to illustrate the impact of rules

and procedures on legislative outcomes. Geared toward experienced staff, the sessions sought to assist those who incorporate knowledge of procedures into their strategic legislative planning. Sessions included “The Role of the House Parliamentarian,” “The Role of the Senate Parliamentarian” and “Amending Appropriations Bills in Practice.”

Legislative and Budget Process Institutes

Congressional staff became acquainted with the practice of legislative procedures and the congressional budget process at a series of increasingly complex institutes held at regular intervals during the course of the year. CRS staff conducted 12 introductory institutes on legislative procedures and resources, including a session held in the Senate. CRS held three advanced legislative institutes and two advanced legislative process series for congressional staff. The Service conducted seven introductory programs on legislative concepts in conjunction with the House Learning Center. Seminars on the budget process, offered in 21 sessions, provided congressional staff with an integrated overview of how federal budgeting works, as well as a more advanced look at separate aspects of the process. CRS specifically tailored the District Institutes, offered six times during fiscal 2017, to the needs of staff working in Members’ home state offices. Last, in partnership with the Senate Office of Education and Training, CRS held pre-conference institutes for state-based Senate staff.

Legal Programs

For nearly three decades, the Service has offered continuing legal education credits to Members and congressional staff through its Federal Law Update (FLU) series. The program consists of 12 sessions offered over two weeks in both the spring and fall. Attorneys provide updates on important issues of law and policy directly related to the legislative agenda.

The 2017 Spring FLU, held March 28, 2017 through April 6, 2017, included the following sessions:

- “Supreme Court’s October 2016 Term and Beyond: Cases and Jurisprudence”
- “The Reach and Limitations of Executive Branch Authority in Energy and Natural Resources Matters”
- “Tariffs, Taxes and Trade: Legal Issues Related to U.S. Trade Policy Proposals”
- “Withdrawal from Treaties and Other International Agreements”
- “Redistricting Law: Drawing Lines and Voting”
- “Sanctuary Jurisdictions, Immigration Enforcement and Federal Grant Funding: Legal Issues”
- “The Affordable Care Act and Legal Considerations in Health Care Reform – Part I”
- “The Affordable Care Act and Legal Considerations in Health Care Reform – Part II”
- “Understanding the Civil Service”
- “Climate Change Regulations and Litigation Update”
- “Rule Repeals and Administrative Change”
- “Nondiscrimination Under the Model Rules: Ethical Considerations for Attorneys”

The 2017 Fall FLU, held Sept. 26, 2017 through Oct. 5, 2017, covered the following topics:

- “Supreme Court’s October 2016 Term: A Review of the Court’s Major Rulings”
- “Supreme Court’s October 2017 Term: A Preview of the Court’s Major Cases”
- “Chevron Deference: Is It Here to Stay?,”
- “Suing Foreign Companies in U.S. Courts: Recent Judicial Developments”
- “Arbitration Agreements and the Federal Arbitration Act”



- “Patents and Pills: Developments in Patent Law and Health Care Innovation”
- “Mergers and Antitrust: Federal Agency Review and Legal Developments”
- “Privatization and the Constitution: Limits on Congress’s Power to Privatize”
- “The ‘Travel Ban’ and the Federal Government’s Power to Exclude Aliens”
- “Federal Courts Update: Congressional Jurisdiction Stripping and Injunctions”
- “Federalism and Foreign Affairs: States’ Power over International Relations”
- “The Model Rules of Professional Conduct and Government Attorneys”

Congressional Legal Instruction Programs

Through close collaboration with the Law Library of Congress, the Service co-sponsored a series of programs on legal research for congressional staff. Topics included using print and electronic sources to conduct legislative history and statutory research, tracing federal regulations and a general introduction to legislative research. CRS held 24 of these programs during fiscal 2017.

Visiting Foreign Dignitaries

The Service supports establishing and expanding country-specific expertise and relationships. Toward this end, staff held substantive meetings and exchanges with representatives from countries such as Argentina, Botswana, Burma, Canada, China, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and the United Kingdom, among others, and from institutions such as the European Parliament, NATO and the Royal College of Defense Studies. CRS also supported delegations of visiting Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff for the House Democracy Partnership. The countries that participated during fiscal 2017 were Burma, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Peru, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

Orientations and Briefings

The Service hosted 29 programs for organizations that sponsored congressional fellows. Staff prepared introductory orientations on CRS services, legislative process, and policy-specific briefings. CRS conducted 28 orientations on services for new congressional staff, 52 briefings for incoming congressional interns and volunteers, and numerous other briefings for congressional offices and fellowship groups.

Online Intern Orientation

The Service continued to offer an online version of its orientation program for interns and volunteers through its learning content management system. An increasing number of interns, including those in district and state offices, have taken the course at their convenience from computers within the Capitol Hill network. The online course features video, learning activities and quizzes to support learning.

Webinars

CRS explored new technology for delivering presentation material and held three beta webinars: “Defense Budget Basics: Searching Defense Budget Documents,” “Understanding Constituent Problems with the Military” and “DOD Response to Hurricane Harvey and Irma.” These programs explored topics that were of interest to D.C.-based staff as well as to those in district and state offices. The webinar technology allowed staff from field offices to participate.

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The Service provided a variety of multimedia products and technical assistance to Congress. Videos of public policy and budget briefings, educational seminars and special events were available on demand to congressional staff on DVD or online. CRS posted 51 videos to CRS.gov, including short-format videos on FAA reauthorization and infrastructure investment, reviews of

the 2016 Supreme Court term and a preview of its 2017 term, and a series on the changing electric power sector and disruptive technologies. The Service also posted videos of seven sessions of the Federal Law Update and compiled DVDs of 42 programs. The Service continued to provide two hours of television programming each weekday on the Senate closed-circuit television system.



APPENDIX D. BUDGET, RESOURCES AND OTHER FUNDING



During fiscal 2017, the Service managed \$107.94 million in appropriated funds and \$672,362 in grant funds. CRS conducted seminars for Members of Congress and their staff with supplemental funding from nonprofit foundations such as the Democracy Fund, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Henry Luce Foundation, The Catherine D. and John T. MacArthur Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts. Of the grant funds secured in fiscal 2016, \$356,481 was expensed for “Legislative Issues and Procedures: The CRS Seminar for New Members,” which was held in early January 2017. The program was the 11th policy seminar to be organized and conducted by CRS as part of the official U.S. House of Representatives orientation for newly elected Members.

Grant funds also supported the “115th Congress, First Session: Issues and Policy Seminar.” This all-day program provided congressional staff with an objective and nonpartisan overview of the most pertinent issues facing the 115th Congress and a forum to discuss those issues with legislative colleagues and CRS experts in a confidential setting.

Additionally, grant funds enabled the Service to host 22 senior staff seminars during fiscal 2017. Of these almost two dozen programs, CRS conducted the following three thematic series:

- “Mastering the Legislative Process.” This series built on its success from the previous year and used recent floor examples to examine how rules and procedures have an impact on legislative outcomes.
- “Implications of a Changing Global Order: A CRS Series for Congressional Staff.” This series provided analysis and insight to help participants understand and respond to the potential impact on U.S. interests of the critical factors and trends that are shaping global order and restructuring the international system.
- “Disruptive Technology.” This series provided an opportunity for congressional staff to better understand the impact of disruptive technologies and the policy challenges and opportunities that they create.

APPENDIX E. SENIOR LEVEL POSITIONS

TITLE, GRADE LEVEL AND INCUMBENT

As of Oct. 1, 2016			As of Sept. 30, 2017		
Position	Grade	Incumbent	Position	Grade	Incumbent
Director, Congressional Research Service	EX III	Mary B. Mazanec	Same	Same	Same
Deputy Director, Congressional Research Service	SL	T.J. Halstead	Same	Same	Same
Counselor to the Director, Office of the Counselor to the Director	SL	Lizanne D. Kelley	Same	Same	Same
Associate Director, Office of Congressional Information and Publishing	SL	Cliff Cohen	Same	Same	Same
Associate Director, Office of Finance and Administration and Senior Specialist in Social Science and Information Services	SL	Francois A. DiFolco	Associate Director, Office of Administrative Operations ¹	Same	Same ²
Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management and Technology	SL	John E. Rutledge	Associate Director, Office of Information Management and Technology ³	Same	Same ⁴
Associate Director, Office of Workforce Management and Development and Senior Specialist in Social and Information Sciences	SL	Francois A. DiFolco ⁵	Associate Director, Office of Administrative Operations ¹	Same	Vacant
Assistant Director, American Law Division and Senior Specialist in American Public Law	SL	Karen J. Lewis	Same	Same	Same
Assistant Director, Domestic Social Policy Division and Senior Specialist in Social Legislation	SL	Laura B. Shrestha	Same	Same	Same
Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division and Senior Specialist in International Policy	SL	Michael L. Moodie	Same	Same	Same

¹ The Office of Finance and Administration and the Office of Workforce Management and Development merged and became the Office of Administrative Operations on March 16, 2017.

² Francois A. DiFolco was temporarily promoted to Associate Director, Office of Finance and Administration, from Aug. 9, 2015 to Sept. 2, 2017, and appointed Associate Director, Office of Administrative Operations, on Sept. 3, 2017.

³ Position was changed from Chief Information Officer to Associate Director, Office of Information Management and Technology.

⁴ John E. Rutledge was temporarily promoted to Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management and Technology, from July 10, 2016 to May 13, 2017, and appointed Associate Director, Office of Information Management and Technology, on May 14, 2017.

⁵ Francois A. DiFolco temporarily acted as Associate Director, Office of Workforce Management and Development, from July 24, 2016 to April 16, 2017.

As of Oct. 1, 2016			As of Sept. 30, 2017		
Position	Grade	Incumbent	Position	Grade	Incumbent
Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division and Senior Specialist in American National Government	SL	John R. Haskell ⁶	Same	Same	Jeffrey W. Seifert ⁷
Assistant Director, Knowledge Services Group and Senior Specialist in Social and Information Sciences	SL	Lillian W. Gassie	Same	Same	Same
Assistant Director, Resources, Science and Industry Division and Senior Specialist in Environmental Policy	SL	Dana A. Shea ⁸	Same	Same	Same
Deputy Counselor to the Director, Office of the Counselor to the Director	SL	Vacant	Same	Same	Vacant
Deputy Assistant Director, American Law Division and Specialist in American Law	SL	Andrew L. Nolan ⁹	Same	Same	Jeanne M. Dennis ¹⁰
Deputy Assistant Director, Domestic Social Policy Division and Specialist in Social Legislation	SL	Richard J. Rimkunas ¹¹	Same	Same	Sharmila Choudhury ¹²
Deputy Assistant Director, Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division and Specialist in Foreign Affairs	SL	Patrick A. Garvey	Same	Same	Same
Deputy Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division and Specialist in American National Government	SL	Steven R. Maguire ¹³	Same	Same	C. Stephen Redhead ¹⁴
Deputy Assistant Director, Knowledge Services Group and Senior Specialist in Social and Information Science	SL	Julia Taylor	Same	Same	Vacant ¹⁵

⁶ John R. Haskell resigned on Dec. 9, 2016.

⁷ Jeffrey W. Seifert was temporarily promoted to Coordinator of Division Research Planning, Government and Finance Division, from May 1 to Dec. 11, 2016, and then detailed to Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division, from Dec. 12, 2016 to June 24, 2017. He was appointed to this position on June 25, 2017.

⁸ Dana A. Shea was temporarily promoted to Assistant Director, Resources, Science and Industry Division, from July 1, 2016 to May 13, 2017, and appointed to this position on May 14, 2017.

⁹ Andrew L. Nolan was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, American Law Division, from Aug. 7 to Dec. 5, 2016.

¹⁰ Jeanne M. Dennis was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, American Law Division, from April 16 to Dec. 11, 2017. Carrie N. Lyons was temporarily promoted to this position from Dec. 11, 2016 to April 9, 2017.

¹¹ Richard J. Rimkunas retired April 29, 2017.

¹² Sharmila Choudhury was appointed Deputy Assistant Director, Domestic Social Policy Division, on May 14, 2017.

¹³ Stephen R. Maguire was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division, from June 12 to Oct. 9, 2016. Jennifer E. Lake was temporarily promoted to this position from Oct. 16, 2016 to Feb. 12, 2017, and Julie Kim from Feb. 19 to June 18, 2017.

¹⁴ C. Stephen Redhead was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division, from June 25 to Oct. 22, 2017.

¹⁵ Julia Taylor was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Knowledge Services Group, from June 12 to Oct. 1, 2016. Brendon W. Mast was appointed to this position from Oct. 2, 2016 to Jan. 30, 2017.

As of Oct. 1, 2016			As of Sept. 30, 2017		
Position	Grade	Incumbent	Position	Grade	Incumbent
Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science and Industry Division and Specialist	SL	Brent D. Yacobucci ¹⁶	Same	Same	Michael L. Ratner ¹⁷
Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director, and Senior Specialist	SL	Jeremiah Gertler	Same	Same	Vacant ¹⁸
Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director, and Senior Specialist	SL	Lisa M. Hoppis	Same	Same	Same ¹⁹
Senior Specialist in American National Government	SL	Robert Jay Dilger	Same	Same	Same
Senior Specialist in American National Government	SL	Michael L. Koempel	Same	Same	Same
Senior Specialist in American National Government	SL	Walter J. Oleszek	Same	Same	Same
Senior Specialist in American Public Law	SL	Charles Doyle	Same	Same	Same
Senior Specialist in Economic Policy	SL	Jane G. Gravelle	Same	Same	Same
Senior Specialist in Science and Technology	SL	Eric A. Fischer	Same	Same	Same
Coordinator of Division Research and Specialist	SL	Karen Spar	Same	Same	Kristen M. Finklea ²⁰
Coordinator of Division Research Planning	SL	Jeffrey W. Seifert	Same	Same	Vacant ²¹
Coordinator of Review and Specialist in Social and Information Sciences	SL	Robin D. Grove	Same	Same	Same
Specialist on the Congress	SL	Judy Schneider	Same	Same	Same
Specialist in Environmental Policy	SL	James E. McCarthy	Same	Same	Same
Specialist in Resources and Environmental Policy	SL	Claudia Copeland	Same	Same	Vacant ²²

¹⁶ Brent D. Yacobucci was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science and Industry Division, from July 7 to Oct. 29, 2016.

¹⁷ Michael L. Ratner was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science and Industry Division, from June 11 to Sept. 30, 2017. Betsy A. Cody was temporarily promoted to this position from Oct. 30, 2016 to Feb. 18, 2017 and Glenn J. McLoughlin from Feb. 19 to June 10, 2017.

¹⁸ Jeremiah Gertler was temporarily promoted to Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director, from Aug. 7 to Dec. 5, 2016. Nathan J. Lucas was temporarily promoted to this position from Dec. 11, 2016 to April 9, 2017.

¹⁹ Lisa M. Hoppis was temporarily appointed Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director, from July 5 to Nov. 19, 2016, and reassigned to this position on Nov. 20, 2016.

²⁰ Kristen M. Finklea was temporarily promoted to Coordinator of Division Research, Domestic Social Policy Division, from July 23 to Nov. 19, 2017. Jerome P. Bjelopera was temporarily promoted to Coordinator of Division Research, Domestic Social Policy Division, from March 19 to July 16, 2017.

²¹ Jeffrey W. Seifert was detailed to Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division, from Dec. 12, 2016 to June 24, 2017. He was appointed to this position on June 25, 2017.

²² Claudia Copeland retired Jan. 31, 2017.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Jerome P. Bjelopera was temporarily promoted to Coordinator of Division Research, Domestic Social Policy Division, from March 19 to July 16, 2017.

Sharmila Choudhury was appointed Deputy Assistant Director, Domestic Social Policy Division, on May 14, 2017.

Betsy A. Cody was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science and Industry Division, from Oct. 30, 2016 to Feb. 18, 2017.

Claudia Copeland retired Jan. 31, 2017.

Jeanne M. Dennis was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, American Law Division, from April 16 to Dec. 11, 2017.

Francois A. DiFolco temporarily acted as Associate Director, Office of Workforce Management and Development, from July 24, 2016 to April 16, 2017. He was temporarily promoted to Associate Director, Office of Finance and Administration, from Aug. 9, 2015 to Sept. 2, 2017 and appointed Associate Director, Office of Administrative Operations, on Sept. 3, 2017.

Kristen M. Finklea was temporarily promoted to Coordinator of Division Research, Domestic Social Policy Division, from July 23 to Nov. 19, 2017.

Jeremiah Gertler was temporarily promoted to Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director, from Aug. 7 to Dec. 5, 2016.

John R. Haskell resigned Dec. 9, 2016.

Lisa M. Hoppis was temporarily appointed Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director, from July 5 to Nov. 19, 2016, and reassigned to the position on Nov. 20, 2016.

Julie Kim was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division, from Feb. 19 to June 18, 2017.

Jennifer E. Lake was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division, from Oct. 16, 2016 to Feb. 12, 2017.

Nathan J. Lucas was temporarily promoted to Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director, from Dec. 11, 2016 to April 9, 2017.

Carrie N. Lyons was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, American Law Division, from Dec. 11, 2016 to April 9, 2017.

Stephen R. Maguire was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division, from June 12 to Oct. 9, 2016.

Brendon W. Mast was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Knowledge Services Group, from Oct. 2, 2016 to Jan. 30, 2017.

Glenn J. McLoughlin was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science and Industry Division, from Feb. 19 to June 10, 2017.

Andrew L. Nolan was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, American Law Division, from Aug. 7 to Dec. 5, 2016.

Michael L. Ratner was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science and Industry Division, from June 11 to Sept. 30, 2017.

C. Stephen Redhead was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division, from June 25 to Oct. 22, 2017.

Richard J. Rimkunas retired April 29, 2017.

John E. Rutledge was temporarily promoted to Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management and Technology, from July 10, 2016 to May 13, 2017, and appointed Associate Director, Office of Information Management and Technology on May 14, 2017.

Jeffrey W. Seifert was temporarily promoted to Coordinator of Division Research Planning, Government and Finance Division, from May 1 to Dec. 11, 2016, and then detailed to Assistant Director, Government and Finance Division, from Dec. 12, 2016 to June 24, 2017. He was appointed to this position on June 25, 2017.

Dana A. Shea was temporarily promoted to Assistant Director, Resources, Science and Industry Division, from July 1, 2016 to May 13, 2017, and appointed to this position on May 14, 2017.

Karen Spar retired Feb. 28, 2017.

Julia Taylor was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Knowledge Services Group, from June 12 to Oct. 1, 2016.

Brent D. Yacobucci was temporarily promoted to Deputy Assistant Director, Resources, Science and Industry Division, from July 7 to Oct. 29, 2016.

POSITION CHANGES

As of Oct. 1, 2016		As of Sept. 30, 2017	
Position	Grade	Position	Grade
Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management and Technology	SL	Associate Director, Office of Information Management and Technology	SL
Associate Director, Office of Workforce Management and Development	SL	Associate Director, Office of Administrative Operations	SL
Associate Director, Office of Finance and Administration	SL	Associate Director, Office of Administrative Operations	SL

APPENDIX F. NEW PRODUCTS

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Advanced Gene Editing: CRISPR-Cas9, by Marcy E. Gallo, John F. Sargent Jr., Amanda K. Sarata, and Tadlock Cowan. 34 p. (R44824)	Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Randy Schnepf. 1 p. (WPE10660)
Amended Sugar Agreements Recast U.S.-Mexico Trade, by Mark A. McMinimy. 2 p. (IF10693)	Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Kelsi Bracmort and Renée Johnson and Tadlock Cowan. (WPE10669)
Defining “Industrial Hemp”: A Fact Sheet, by Renée Johnson. 8 p. (R44742)	Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Randy Schnepf and Tadlock Cowan. (WPE10661)
Defining “Specialty Crops”: A Fact Sheet, by Renée Johnson. 5 p. (R44719)	Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Joel L. Greene and Mark A. McMinimy. (WPE10664)
Expanding Federal Support for Urban Agriculture, by Renée Johnson. 2 p. (IF10498)	Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Jim Monke, Mark A. McMinimy, Randy Schnepf and Tadlock Cowan. (WPE10662)
Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Joel L. Greene, Jim Monke, Mark A. McMinimy, Randy Alison Aussenberg, Kelsi Bracmort, Megan Stubbs, Renée Johnson, Randy Schnepf, and Tadlock Cowan. (WPE10663)	Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Renée Johnson and Randy Schnepf. (WPE10671)
Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Jim Monke, Katie Hoover, Randy Alison Aussenberg, Kelsi Bracmort, Megan Stubbs, Renée Johnson and Tadlock Cowan. (WPE10666)	Farm Bill Primer: ARC and PLC Support Programs, by Randy Schnepf. 2 p. (IF10711)
Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Jim Monke and Mark A. McMinimy. (WPE10659)	Farm Bill Primer: Disaster Assistance Programs, by Megan Stubbs. 2 p. (IF10698)
Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Jim Monke, Katie Hoover and Megan Stubbs. (WPE10670)	Farm Bill Primer: Energy Title, by Kelsi Bracmort. 2 p. (IF10639)
Farm Bill 101: Programs, Policies and Issues, by Randy Alison Aussenberg. (WPE10665)	Farm Bill Primer: Federal Programs Supporting New Farmers, by Renée Johnson, Tadlock Cowan, Jim Monke and Megan Stubbs. 2 p. (IF10641)
	Farm Bill Primer: Forestry Title, by Katie Hoover. 2 p. (IF10681)
	Farm Bill Primer: Horticulture Title Provisions, by Renée Johnson. 2 p. (IF10624)

The following acronyms are used: AST = appropriations product, IF = in focus, IG = infographic, IN = insight, R = Report, TE = testimony, WPD = podcast, WPE = seminar, WRE = recorded event, WSLG = legal sidebar, and WVB = video brief

- Farm Bill Primer: Program Eligibility and Payment Limits, by Randy Schnepf and Megan Stubbs. 2 p. (IF10722)
- Farm Bill Primer: Rural Development Title Provisions, by Tadlock Cowan. 2 p. (IF10629)
- Farm Bill Primer Series: A Guide to Omnibus Legislation on Agriculture and Food Programs, by Mark A. McMinimy. 6 p. (R44913)
- Farm Bill Primer: SNAP and Other Nutrition Title Programs, by Randy Alison Aussenberg. 2 p. (IF10663)
- Farm Bill Primer: Sugar Program, by Mark A. McMinimy. 2 p. (IF10689)
- Farm Bill Primer: The Conservation Title, by Megan Stubbs. 2 p. (IF10679)
- Farm Bill Primer: The Farm Safety Net, by Randy Schnepf. 2 p. (IF10638)
- Farm Bill Primer: The Marketing Assistance Loan Program, by Randy Schnepf. 2 p. (IF10714)
- Farm Bill Primer: Title I Commodity Programs, by Randy Schnepf. 2 p. (IF10718)
- Farm Bill Primer: Trade and Export Promotion Programs, by Renée Johnson and Mark A. McMinimy. 2 p. (IF10637)
- Farm Bill Programs Without a Budget Baseline Beyond FY2018, by Jim Monke. 7 p. (R44758)
- Farm Safety-Net Payments Under the 2014 Farm Bill: Comparison by Program Crop, by Randy Schnepf. 37 p. (R44914)
- Federal Agricultural Recovery Resources for Hurricane-Related Losses, by Megan Stubbs. 3 p. (IN10770)
- Federal Disaster Assistance for Agriculture, by Megan Stubbs. 2 p. (IF10565)
- Industry Divided over Biodiesel Tax Credit, by Mark A. McMinimy. 2 p. (IN10615)
- NAFTA Renegotiation: Issues for U.S. Agriculture, by Renée Johnson. 2 p. (IF10682)
- NASS and U.S. Crop Production Forecasts: Methods and Issues, by Randy Schnepf. 37 p. (R44814)
- New Canadian Dairy Pricing Regime Proves Disruptive for U.S. Milk Producers, by Mark A. McMinimy and Joel L. Greene. 3 p. (IN10692)
- The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and U.S. Agriculture, by Renée Johnson. 34 p. (R44875)
- The President's FY2018 Budget Outline for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, by Jim Monke. 3 p. (IN10675)
- The President's FY2018 Budget Request for Agriculture Appropriations and the Farm Bill, by Jim Monke. 6 p. (IN10710)
- Previewing a 2018 Farm Bill, by Renée Johnson, Randy Alison Aussenberg, Tadlock Cowan, Joel L. Greene, Sonya Hammons, Katie Hoover, Mark A. McMinimy, Jim Monke, Randy Schnepf and Megan Stubbs. 51 p. (R44784)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance, by Benjamin Collins, Rachel F. Fefer, and Mark A. McMinimy. (WVB00124)
- Trade Adjustment Assistance, by Benjamin Collins, Rachel F. Fefer and Mark A. McMinimy. (WRE00164)
- Trans-Pacific Partnership: Agriculture, Government Procurement, and State-Owned Enterprises, by Brock R. Williams, Ian F. Fergusson, and Mark A. McMinimy. (WVB00126)
- Trans-Pacific Partnership: Agriculture, Government Procurement, and State-Owned Enterprises, by Brock R. Williams, Ian F. Fergusson and Mark A. McMinimy. (WRE00165)
- Understanding Process Labels and Certification for Foods, by Renée Johnson and Alexis N. Boytim. 2 p. (IF10650)

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- Updated Standards for SNAP-Authorized Retailers, by Randy Alison Aussenberg. 15 p. (R44650)
- U.S. Beef: It's What's for China, by Joel L. Greene. 3 p. (IN10724)
- USDA's Actively Engaged in Farming (AEF) Requirement, by Randy Schnepf. 19 p. (R44656)
- USDA's Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices Regulations, by Renée Johnson. 2 p. (IF10622)
- USDA Announces Plans to Modify School Meal Nutrition Standards: Background and Context, by Randy Alison Aussenberg. 3 p. (IN10700)
- USDA Releases GIPSA Rules, by Joel L. Greene. 2 p. (IN10638)
- U.S. Farm Program Eligibility and Payment Limits, by Randy Schnepf and Megan Stubbs. 25 p. (R44739)
- U.S. Stakeholders Critical of U.S.-Mexico Sugar Agreements, by Mark A. McMinimy. 2 p. (IF10517)

APPROPRIATIONS

- The ACA Prevention and Public Health Fund: In Brief, by Sarah A. Lister. 9 p. (R44796)
- The Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF): An Overview, by Rachel Y. Tang and Bart Elias. 11 p. (R44749)
- Allowances and Office Staff for Former Presidents, FY2016-FY2018 Appropriations, by Barbara L. Schwemle. 3 p. (IN10759)
- Army Corps of Engineers: FY2018 Appropriations, by Nicole T. Carter. 2 p. (IF10671)
- Budget Actions in 2017, by Grant A. Driessen and Megan S. Lynch. 17 p. (R44799)
- Calculation and Use of the Disaster Relief Allowable Adjustment, by William L. Painter. 2 p. (IF10720)
- Child Welfare Funding in Brief: FY2017 Final Funding and the President's FY2018 Request, by Emilie Stoltzfus. 11 p. (R44863)
- Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) FY2018 Appropriations: Trade-Related Agencies, by M. Angeles Villarreal and Michael Fleischmann. 9 p. (R44882)
- Comparing DHS Component Funding, FY2018: In Brief, by William L. Painter. 7 p. (R44919)
- Congressional Action on the FY2013 Disaster Supplemental, by William L. Painter and Jared T. Brown. 18 p. (R44937)
- Consideration of Appropriations Bills in the House, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE10522)
- Consideration of Appropriations Bills in the House, by James V. Saturno. (WPE10550)
- Consideration of Appropriations Bills in the Senate, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE10551)
- Continuing Resolutions: Components and Procedures for Congressional Consideration, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE10583)
- Continuing Resolutions: Components and Procedures for Congressional Consideration, by James V. Saturno. (WPE10641)
- Continuing Resolutions: Components and Procedures for Congressional Consideration, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE10582)
- Defense Primer: Defense Appropriations Process, by James V. Saturno and Lynn M. Williams. 2 p. (IF10514)
- Department of Health and Human Services: FY2018 Budget Request, by Jessica Tollestrup and Karen E. Lynch. 17 p. (R44885)

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- Department of Homeland Security Appropriations: FY2018, by William L. Painter. 21 p. (R44927)
- Department of Homeland Security Appropriations, FY2018: Current Action, by William L. Painter. 2 p. (IN10760)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): FY2018 Budget Request Fact Sheet, by Maggie McCarty. 5 p. (R44862)
- Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs: FY2018 Budget and Appropriations, by Susan B. Epstein, Marian L. Lawson and Cory R. Gill. 29 p. (R44890)
- Department of Transportation (DOT): FY2018 Appropriations, by David Randall Peterman. 17 p. (R44915)
- DHS Appropriations FY2017: Departmental Management and Operations, by William L. Painter, Barbara L. Schwemle and Jerome P. Bjelopera. 6 p. (R44661)
- DHS Appropriations FY2017: Protection, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery, by William L. Painter, Jared T. Brown, Frank Gottron, Diane P. Horn, Chris Jaikaran, Lennard G. Kruger, Bruce R. Lindsay and Francis X. McCarthy. 21 p. (R44660)
- DHS Appropriations FY2017: Research and Development, Training, and Services, by William L. Painter, William A. Kandel, Daniel Morgan and Frank Gottron. 14 p. (R44658)
- DHS Appropriations FY2017: Security, Enforcement, and Investigations, by William L. Painter, Carla N. Argueta, Bart Elias, John Frittelli and Alison Siskin. 24 p. (R44666)
- DOE Fossil Energy Research & Development: Funding for CCS, by Peter Folger. 2 p. (IF10589)
- DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: FY2017 Appropriations and the FY2018 Budget Request, by Kelsi Bracmort and Corrie E. Clark. 2 p. (IF10661)
- Energy and Water Development: FY2018 Appropriations, by Mark Holt and Corrie E. Clark. 27 p. (R44895)
- Farm Bill Programs Without a Budget Baseline Beyond FY2018, by Jim Monke. 7 p. (R44758)
- Financial Regulation: FY2018 Appropriations and the Financial CHOICE Act (H.R. 10), by Baird Webel and Marc Labonte. 3 p. (IN10769)
- Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) FY2017 Appropriations: Independent Agencies and General Provisions, by Baird Webel, Michelle D. Christensen, Robert Jay Dilger, Patricia Moloney Figliola, R. Sam Garrett, Darryl E. Getter, Wendy Ginsberg, Raj Gnanarajah, Garrett Hatch, Kristy N. Kamarck, Sean Lowry, Rena S. Miller, Barbara L. Schwemle, Gary Shorter, Mark P. Sullivan and Jacob R. Straus. 33 p. (R44701)
- Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) FY2018 Appropriations: Overview, by Baird Webel. 7 p. (R44933)
- Forest Service: FY2017 Appropriations and FY2018 Budget Request, by Katie Hoover. 2 p. (IF10670)
- FY2017 Status Table of Appropriations, by Justin Murray and Jared C. Nagel.
- FY2018 Appropriations for Department of Justice Grant Programs, by Nathan James. 13 p. (R44893)
- FY2018 Appropriations for the Department of Justice, by Nathan James. 15 p. (R44938)
- FY2018 International Affairs Budget: Issues for Congress, by Susan B. Epstein, Marian L. Lawson and Cory R. Gill. (WVB00166)
- FY2018 International Affairs Budget: Issues for Congress, by Susan B. Epstein, Marian L. Lawson and Cory R. Gill. (WRE00198)
- FY2018 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations: Status and Issues, by Karen E. Lynch and Jessica Tollestrup. 3 p. (IN10751)

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- HUD FY2018 Appropriations: In Brief, by Maggie McCarty. 6 p. (R44931)
- In Brief: Highlights of FY2018 Defense Appropriations Actions, by Lynn M. Williams and Pat Towell. 6 p. (R44908)
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- 115th Congress: Issues & Policy Seminar, by Christopher M. Blanchard, Emma Chanlett-Avery, Jared P. Cole, Joseph Dalaker, Grant A. Driessen, Bart Elias, Gene Falk, Matthew E. Glassman, Douglas Grob, James K. Jackson, Kenneth Katzman, K. Alan Kronstadt, Susan V. Lawrence, Maggie McCarty, Andrew Nolan, Rebecca R. Skinner, David P. Smole, Adam Stoll, Brock R. Williams and Jim Zanotti. (WPE10501)

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- Congress: An Introduction to Process and Resources (Senate), by Jennifer E. Manning, Michele L. Malloy, Mark J. Oleszek and Ida A. Brudnick. (WPE10594)
- Congress: An Introduction to Process and Resources (held Senate-side), by Ida A. Brudnick. (WPE10452)
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Orientation for Interns and Volunteers, by Patrice M. George. (WPE10488)	Orientation for Interns and Volunteers, by Patrice M. George. (WPE10490)
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Orientation for Interns and Volunteers, by Patrice M. George. (WPE10412)	Spring 2017 Federal Law Update (FLU) Preview, by Robert H. Nickel. (WVB00141)
Orientation for Interns and Volunteers, by Patrice M. George. (WPE10391)	Violence Against Members of Congress and Their Staff: A Brief Overview, by R. Eric Petersen. 2 p. (IN10719)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Advances in Gene Editing: Balancing Promise and Risk, by Marcy E. Gallo. (WVB00151)	Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) in the United States, by Peter Folger. 17 p. (R44902)
Advances in Gene Editing: Balancing Promise and Risk, by Marcy E. Gallo. (WRE00189)	Challenges in Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development, by Boris Granovskiy. 2 p. (IF10654)
AT&T-Time Warner Merger Overview, by Dana A. Scherer. 2 p. (IF10526)	The Changing Electric Power Sector: Future Power Generation Portfolio/Fuel Diversity, by Brent D. Yacobucci. (WRE00170)
Autonomous Vehicles and the 115th Congress, by Bill Canis. (WRE00196)	The Changing Electric Power Sector: Future Power Generation Portfolio/Fuel Diversity, by Brent D. Yacobucci. (WVB00131)
Autonomous Vehicles: Emerging Policy Issues, by Bill Canis. 2 p. (IF10658)	Clean Air Act Issues in the 115th Congress: In Brief, by James E. McCarthy. 13 p. (R44744)
Broadband Data Privacy and Security: What's Net Neutrality Got to Do With It?, by Kathleen Ann Ruane and Gina Stevens. 1 p. (WSLG1816)	Commercial Space Industry Launches a New Phase, by Bill Canis. 21 p. (R44708)
Can the President Withdraw from the Paris Agreement?, by Stephen P. Mulligan. 1 p. (WSLG1699)	

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- CRISPR: A Revolutionary Tool for Editing the Code of Life?, by Marcy E. Gallo and John F. Sargent Jr.. 3 p. (IN10610)
- CRISPR Gene Editing Research in Embryos Generates Scientific and Ethics Debate, by John F. Sargent Jr., Amanda K. Sarata and Judith A. Johnson. 3 p. (IN10773)
- The Current State of DHS's Efforts to Secure Federal Networks, by Chris Jaikaran. 4 p. (TE10015)
- The Current State of Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform and Management, by Patricia Moloney Figliola. 19 p. (R44843)
- Cybersecurity: Anatomy of a Breach, by Chris Jaikaran. (WRE00157)
- Cybersecurity: Anatomy of a Breach, by Chris Jaikaran. (WVB00117)
- Cybersecurity: Federal Agency Roles, by Eric A. Fischer. 2 p. (IF10602)
- Cybersecurity: How Can Congress Get Ahead of the Curve?, by Eric A. Fischer. (WVB00145)
- Cybersecurity: How Can Congress Get Ahead of the Curve?, by Eric A. Fischer. (WRE00183)
- Defense Primer: RDT&E, by John F. Sargent Jr. 2 p. (IF10553)
- Department of Defense Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E): Appropriations Structure, by John F. Sargent Jr.. 21 p. (R44711)
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- Did a Thermostat Break the Internet?, by Chris Jaikaran. 2 p. (IN10600)
- Disruptive Technology Series -Session I. Cybersecurity: How Can Congress Get Ahead of the Curve?, by Eric A. Fischer and Chris Jaikaran. (WPE10479)
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- Disruptive Technology Series -Session III. Autonomous Vehicles and the 115th Congress, by Bill Canis. (WPE10541)
- DOE Fossil Energy Research & Development: Funding for CCS, by Peter Folger. 2 p. (IF10589)
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- Federal Research and Development Funding: FY2018, by John F. Sargent Jr., Robert Esworthy, Marcy E. Gallo, Laurie A. Harris, Judith A. Johnson, Jim Monke, Daniel Morgan and Harold F. Upton. 65 p. (R44888)
- FirstNet's Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network Moves Forward, by Lennard G. Kruger. 2 p. (IN10682)
- Free to Offend: Supreme Court Rules that the Prohibition on Disparaging Trademarks Violates the Free Speech Clause (Part I), by Caitlain Devereaux Lewis. 1 p. (WSLG1834)
- Free to Offend: Supreme Court Rules that the Prohibition on Disparaging Trademarks Violates the Free Speech Clause (Part II), by Caitlain Devereaux Lewis. 1 p. (WSLG1835)

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- Inter Partes Review of Patents: Innovation Issues, by John R. Thomas. 22 p. (R44905)
- Issues in Autonomous Vehicle Deployment, by Bill Canis. 14 p. (R44940)
- The National Science Foundation: FY2017 Appropriations and Funding History, by Laurie A. Harris and Frank Gottron. 17 p. (R44679)
- The National Space Council, by Daniel Morgan. 11 p. (R44712)
- Net Neutrality: Back to the Future (Part One), by Kathleen Ann Ruane. 1 p. (WSLG1810)
- Net Neutrality: Back to the Future (Part Two), by Kathleen Ann Ruane. 1 p. (WSLG1811)
- New Executive Order Directs Agencies to Revise or Rescind Climate Change Rules and Policies, by Linda Tsang. 1 p. (WSLG1789)
- Overview of Artificial Intelligence, by Laurie A. Harris. 2 p. (IF10608)
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- Paris Agreement: U.S. Climate Finance Commitments, by Richard K. Lattanzio. 9 p. (R44870)
- Paris Climate Change Agreement to Enter into Force November 4, by Jane A. Leggett. 2 p. (IN10590)
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- Patent Boxes: A Primer, by Gary Guenther. 25 p. (R44829)
- Patent Law: A Primer and Overview of Emerging Issues, by Caitlain Devereaux Lewis and Kathryn B. Armstrong. 43 p. (R44962)
- Potential Implications of U.S. Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, by Jane A. Leggett. 2 p. (IF10668)
- The President's FY2018 Budget Request for the National Science Foundation, by Laurie A. Harris. 4 p. (IN10718)
- President Trump's Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement Raises Legal Questions: Part 1, by Stephen P. Mulligan. 1 p. (WSLG1817)
- President Trump's Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement Raises Legal Questions: Part 2, by Stephen P. Mulligan. 1 p. (WSLG1818)
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- Remedies for Patent Infringement, by John R. Thomas. 15 p. (R44904)
- Research and Development Funding in President Trump's FY2018 Budget, by John F. Sargent Jr., Daniel Morgan, Judith A. Johnson, Laurie A. Harris and Jim Monke. (WVB00168)
- Research and Development Funding in President Trump's FY2018 Budget, by Laurie A. Harris, Judith A. Johnson, Jim Monke, Daniel Morgan and John F. Sargent Jr. (WPE10567)
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- Research and Development Funding in President Trump's FY2018 Budget, by Laurie A. Harris, Judith A. Johnson, Jim Monke, Daniel Morgan and John F. Sargent Jr. (WPE10578)
- Science and Technology Issues in the 115th Congress, by Frank Gottron, Kelsi Bracmort, Nicole T. Carter, Laura B. Comay, Tadlock Cowan, Agata Dabrowska, Patricia Moloney Figliola, Kristin Finklea, Eric A. Fischer, Peter Folger, Marcy E. Gallo, Angele A. Gilroy, Boris Granovskiy, Joel L. Greene, Gary Guenther, Laurie A. Harris, Mark Holt, Judith A.

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- Johnson, Lennard G. Kruger, Jane A. Leggett, Sarah A. Lister, Jim Monke, Daniel Morgan, Amanda K. Sarata and John F. Sargent Jr.. 37 p. (R44786)
- Sinclair Broadcast Group Acquisition of Tribune Media: Competitive and Regulatory Issues, by Dana A. Scherer. 26 p. (R44892)
- Social Costs of Carbon/Greenhouse Gases: Issues for Congress, by Jane A. Leggett. 2 p. (IF10625)
- Supreme Court October Term 2016: A Review of Select Major Rulings, by Andrew Nolan, Cynthia Brown, Michael John Garcia, Caitlain Devereaux Lewis, and Sarah Herman Peck. 33 p. (R44949)
- Supreme Court Reverses Federal Circuit on Patent Exhaustion (Part I), by Kathryn B. Armstrong. 1 p. (WSLG1826)
- Supreme Court Reverses Federal Circuit on Patent Exhaustion (Part II): Implications for the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Industries, by Kathryn B. Armstrong. 1 p. (WSLG1827)
- UPDATE: Climate Change Litigation Update: “Children’s Crusade” Case Against the United States Goes Forward, by Stephen P. Mulligan. 1 p. (WSLG1715)
- Update: D.C. Circuit Pauses the Clean Power Plan Litigation, by Linda Tsang. 1 p. (WSLG1797)
- U.S. Climate Change Regulation and Litigation: Selected Legal Issues, by Linda Tsang. 41 p. (R44807)
- The U.S. Tsunami Program Reauthorization in P.L. 115-25: Section-by-Section Comparison to P.L. 109-479, Title VIII, by Peter Folger. 29 p. (R44834)
- The Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017: Congressional Direction to NOAA in P.L. 115-25, by Peter Folger. 8 p. (R44838)
- Withdrawal from International Agreements: Legal Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Iran Nuclear Agreement, by Stephen P. Mulligan. 26 p. (R44761)

SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL INSURANCE

- The 21st Century Cures Act (Division A of P.L. 114-255), by Amanda K. Sarata, Judith A. Johnson, Agata Dabrowska, Sarah A. Lister, C. Stephen Redhead, Elayne J. Heisler, Erin Bagalman, Jim Hahn, Cliff Binder, Susannah V. Gopalan, Paulette C. Morgan, Annie L. Mach, Frank Gottron, Robert Pirog and Kirsten J. Colello. 93 p. (R44720)
- Finding Medicare Enrollment Statistics, by Michele L. Malloy. 8 p. (R44735)
- Frequently Asked Questions About Prescription Drug Pricing and Policy, by Suzanne M. Kirchhoff, Judith A. Johnson and Susan Thaul. 33 p. (R44832)
- The Growing Gap in Life Expectancy by Income: Recent Evidence and Implications for the Social Security Retirement Age, by Katelin P. Isaacs and Sharmila Choudhury. 31 p. (R44846)
- Health Benefits for United Mine Workers of America Retirees, by John J. Topoleski. 2 p. (IF10616)
- Health Care-Related Expiring Provisions of the 115th Congress, First Session, by Joy M. Grossman, Evelyne P. Baumrucker, Cliff Binder, Kirsten J. Colello, Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara, Susannah V. Gopalan, Jim Hahn, Elayne J. Heisler, Annie L. Mach, Alison Mitchell, Paulette C. Morgan, Amanda K. Sarata and Marco A. Villagrana. 41 p. (R44662)
- Increasing Choice, Access, and Quality in Health Care for Americans Act (Division C of P.L. 114-255), by Namrata K. Uberoi, Cliff Binder, Patricia A. Davis, Susannah V. Gopalan, Jim Hahn, Annie L. Mach, Paulette C. Morgan and Marco A. Villagrana. 26 p. (R44730)
- Medicare Advantage (MA)–Proposed Benchmark Update and Other Adjustments for CY2018: In Brief, by Paulette C. Morgan. 11 p. (R44766)

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Pension Benefits for United Mine Workers of America Retirees, by John J. Topoleski. 2 p. (IF10617)	Social Security Dual Entitlement, by Wayne Liou. 2 p. (IF10738)
Railroad Retirement Board: Retirement, Survivor, Disability, Unemployment, and Sickness Benefits, by Julie M. Whittaker. 2 p. (IF10481)	The Social Security Retirement Age, by Wayne Liou. 7 p. (R44670)
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Social Security's Funding Shortfall, by Wayne Liou and William R. Morton. 2 p. (IF10522)	Supplemental Security Income (SSI), by William R. Morton. 3 p. (IF10482)
Social Security Administration (SSA): FY2017 Appropriations and Recent Trends, by William R. Morton. 25 p. (R44645)	Supreme Court to Consider Educational Benefits for Children with Disabilities, by Jody Feder. 1 p. (WSLG1708)
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Child Welfare Funding in Brief: FY2017 Final Funding and the President's FY2018 Request, by Emilie Stoltzfus. 11 p. (R44863)	Family First Prevention Services Act as Included in the 21st Century Cures Act, by Emilie Stoltzfus. 3 p. (IN10612)
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Demographic and Social Characteristics of Persons in Poverty: 2015, by Joseph Dalaker, Gene Falk and Maggie McCarty. 21 p. (R44698)	

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- The Hardest Hit Fund: Frequently Asked Questions, by Katie Jones. 6 p. (R44805)
- HUD FY2018 Appropriations: In Brief, by Maggie McCarty. 6 p. (R44931)
- An Introduction to Poverty Measurement, by Joseph Dalaker. 19 p. (R44780)
- In What May Prove to Be a Fleeting Victory, Supreme Court Rules Cities Have Standing to Sue Banks Under the Fair Housing Act, by David H. Carpenter. 1 p. (WSLG1801)
- Key Issues in Tax Reform: The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, by Mark P. Keightley. 2 p. (IF10725)
- The Loan Limits for Government-Backed Mortgages, by N. Eric Weiss, Katie Jones, Libby Perl and Tadlock Cowan. 11 p. (R44826)
- Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara. 2 p. (IF10595)
- Older Americans Act: Nutrition Services Program, by Kirsten J. Colello. 2 p. (IF10633)
- Poverty and Economic Opportunity, by Gene Falk, Maggie McCarty and Joseph Dalaker. 2 p. (IF10562)
- Poverty in the United States in 2015: In Brief, by Joseph Dalaker. 11 p. (R44644)
- Social Security Administration (SSA): FY2017 Appropriations and Recent Trends, by William R. Morton. 25 p. (R44645)
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI): An Overview, by William R. Morton. 45 p. (R44948)
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- Supreme Court to Consider Educational Benefits for Children with Disabilities, by Jody Feder. 1 p. (WSLG1708)
- Suspension of Scheduled Fee Decrease for FHA-Insured Mortgages, by Katie Jones. 3 p. (IN10636)
- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant: A Legislative History, by Gene Falk. 19 p. (R44668)
- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant Subsidized Employment Demonstration Proposal: In Brief, by Gene Falk. 6 p. (R44872)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): Size of the Population Eligible for and Receiving Cash Assistance, by Gene Falk. 14 p. (R44724)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): The Work Participation Standard and Engagement in Welfare-to-Work Activities, by Gene Falk. 27 p. (R44751)
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- USDA Announces Plans to Modify School Meal Nutrition Standards: Background and Context, by Randy Alison Aussenberg. 3 p. (IN10700)

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- 2017 Freshman Member Series: Budget Reconciliation, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE10623)
- Adoption Tax Benefits: An Overview, by Margot L. Crandall-Hollick. 24 p. (R44745)
- The Advanced Nuclear Production Tax Credit, by Molly F. Sherlock and Mark Holt. 3 p. (IN10725)
- The Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF): An Overview, by Rachel Y. Tang and Bart Elias. 11 p. (R44749)

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- Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS): OECD Tax Proposals, by Jane G. Gravelle. 25 p. (R44900)
- The “Better Way” House Tax Plan: An Economic Analysis, by Jane G. Gravelle. 39 p. (R44823)
- Border-Adjusted Consumption Taxes and Exchange Rate Movements: Theory and Evidence, by Grant A. Driessen and Mark P. Keightley. 8 p. (R44821)
- Border-Adjusted Taxes and the Rules of the World Trade Organization: The Distinction Between Direct and Indirect Taxes (Part I), by Brandon J. Murrill. 1 p. (WSLG1774)
- Border-Adjusted Taxes and the Rules of the World Trade Organization: The Distinction Between Direct and Indirect Taxes (Part II), by Brandon J. Murrill. 1 p. (WSLG1775)
- Border-Adjusted Taxes: A Primer, by Jane G. Gravelle. 2 p. (IF10583)
- Budgetary Effects of the BCA as Amended: The “Parity Principle”, by Grant A. Driessen. 2 p. (IF10657)
- The Budget Control Act (BCA), by Grant A. Driessen and Megan S. Lynch. (WPE10672)
- The Budget Control Act: Frequently Asked Questions, by Grant A. Driessen and Megan S. Lynch. 15 p. (R44874)
- The Budget Reconciliation Process: House and Senate Procedures, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE10405)
- The Budget Reconciliation Process: House and Senate Procedures, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE10406)
- The Budget Resolution and the Budget Control Act’s Discretionary Spending Limits, by Megan S. Lynch. 2 p. (IF10647)
- Budget Resolutions and Budget Enforcement, by Megan S. Lynch. (WPE10438)
- Budget Resolutions and Budget Enforcement, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE10525)
- Budget Resolutions and Budget Enforcement, by Megan S. Lynch. (WPE10584)
- Business Tax Provisions that Expired in 2016 (“Tax Extenders”), by Molly F. Sherlock, Donald J. Marples, Sean Lowry and Jane G. Gravelle. 15 p. (R44930)
- The Closure of Institutions of Higher Education: Student Options, Borrower Relief, and Implications, by Alexandra Hegji. 21 p. (R44737)
- Continuing Resolutions: Components and Procedures for Congressional Consideration, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE10583)
- Continuing Resolutions: Components and Procedures for Congressional Consideration, by James V. Saturno. (WPE10641)
- Continuing Resolutions: Components and Procedures for Congressional Consideration, by Bill Heniff Jr. (WPE10582)
- Corporate Tax Integration: In Brief, by Jane G. Gravelle. 7 p. (R44671)
- CRS Webinar - Defense Budget Basics: Searching Defense Budget Documents, by Lynn M. Williams and Pat Towell. (WPE10464)
- The Debt Limit and Federal Budget: Background and Issues, by Grant A. Driessen and D. Andrew Austin. (WPE10648)
- Defense Budget and Policy Issues: What to Watch For, by Kathleen J. McInnis, Pat Towell, Kristy N. Kamarck, Ronald O’Rourke, Russell Rumbaugh and Lynn M. Williams. (WRE00179)
- Defense Budget and Policy Issues: What to Watch For, by Kathleen J. McInnis, Pat Towell, Kristy N. Kamarck, Ronald O’Rourke, Russell Rumbaugh and Lynn M. Williams. (WVB00140)
- Defense Budget and Policy Issues: What to Watch For (held House-side), by Kathleen J. McInnis, Lawrence Kapp, Lynn M. Williams, Michael J. Vassalotti, Ronald O’Rourke, Russell Rumbaugh and Pat Towell. 1 p. (WPE10447)

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- Defense Budget and Policy Issues: What to Watch For (held Senate-side), by Kathleen J. McInnis, Lawrence Kapp, Lynn M. Williams, Michael J. Vassalotti, Ronald O'Rourke, Russell Rumbaugh and Pat Towell. (WPE10448)
- Deficits and Debt, by Grant A. Driessen. 2 p. (IF10549)
- Disaster Assistance and Federal Subsidies for Municipal Bonds, by Grant A. Driessen and Joseph S. Hughes. 2 p. (IF10739)
- The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): A Brief Legislative History, by Margot L. Crandall-Hollick. 14 p. (R44825)
- Economic Aspects of the Opioid Crisis, by Lisa N. Sacco. 6 p. (TE10017)
- Economic Effects of the FY2014 Shutdown, by Marc Labonte. 1 p. (IG10003)
- Economic Impact of Infrastructure Investment, by Jeffrey M. Stupak. 16 p. (R44896)
- The Energy Credit: An Investment Tax Credit for Renewable Energy, by Molly F. Sherlock. 2 p. (IF10479)
- Federal Assistance for Wildfire Response and Recovery, by Katie Hoover. 2 p. (IF10732)
- The Federal Budget Deficit and the Business Cycle, by Grant A. Driessen and Marc Labonte. 5 p. (IN10623)
- The Federal Budget Outlook: The Way Forward, by Grant A. Driessen, Donald J. Marples and Molly F. Sherlock. (WVB00149)
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39, 44, 45, 47, 49, 50, 51, 127 (Madison Building)

Carol M. Highsmith:

Covers (Capitol and Jefferson Building);
inside covers (detail of carved frieze, Jefferson Building);
Pages i, ii (architectural ornamentation, Jefferson Building),
30 (Minerva mosaic in the Great Hall, Jefferson building),
38 (West facade, Jefferson Building), 128 (Capitol silhouette)

Architect of the Capitol:

Pages 28 (Capitol dome and Senate pediment),
34 (National Statuary Hall, Capitol)

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