January 2024

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Congress Swiftly Passes Continuing Resolution, Temporarily Averts Government Shutdown Amidst Winter Storm and Border Security Disputes

On January 18th, Congress quickly passed another Continuing Resolution (CR) to provide stopgap funding through March 1st and 8th through a layered appropriations approach. The Senate passed the CR first on Thursday afternoon after a quick approach to avoid a partial government shutdown at midnight on the 20th. The chamber did proceed with a few amendment votes within his process that Senators quickly rejected. Then they proceeded in a bipartisan vote, 77-18, to pass the package before leaving town for the weekend.

The bill then went to the House, which decided to move quickly on the legislation through the chamber due to a winter storm on January 19th. There were some concerns from House Republicans that the process was too quick. At the same time, the House Freedom Caucus opposed the stopgap measure due to it not having any policy to help secure the Southern border shortly before the chamber voted on this. Earlier in the day, the Freedom Caucus approached Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) to urge him to attach the House Republicans border security legislation as an amendment to the CR, but Speaker Johnson denied them. The chamber did proceed with the vote and passed it in a bipartisan vote, 314-108, to keep the government running for six more weeks. President Biden is expected to sign the legislation soon after receiving it.

This all comes after Speaker Johnson and Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) struck a deal on a government funding framework earlier this month that mirrored the debt deal former Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and President Biden struck last summer. House conservatives were unhappy about this agreement and said they are determined to fight for conservative policies within the appropriations process in the coming weeks, even though Senate Democrats will reject them once they move to the upper chamber.

Now that a CR is passed, appropriators on both sides of the aisle will have much work to do before the two funding deadlines. They are looking to finalize the dozen appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2024 that have failed to pass due to House conservatives seeking more cuts within those bills. If appropriators are unable to pass them, they expect there could be another CR through the end of the year.

Keep current on federal initiatives related to our industry at Government Affairs - AMPP or contact Ryan Cunius in Government Affairs.