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On Tuesday, February 9, 2016, the Administration released its FY2017 Budget Request – the final under President Obama’s Administration. This request signals the beginning of the FY2017 budget negotiations between the Administration and Congress.

The [budget request](#) calls for \$152B in research and development (R&D) in FY2017, a 4% increase above FY2016. Basic research is increased by almost 3%. However, roughly \$4B of this increase is in new mandatory proposals which will require the enactment of new legislation and further do not fall under the current budget caps. Such proposals seriously complicate the interpretations of the agency budgets and will undoubtedly face a particularly tough climb in the current Congress. Without this mandatory spending, the proposed discretionary R&D budget appears to be below the rate of inflation.

The budget request does provide us with useful insight into some of the Administration’s priorities including:

- [National Strategic Computing Initiative](#)
- [Cybersecurity National Action Plan](#)
- [21st Century Clean Transportation System](#)
- [Cancer Moonshot](#)
- Precision Medicine Initiative
- Brain Initiative
- STEM Education and [Computer Science for All](#)

We will continue to monitor the budget as it moves (hopefully!) through the process. For any questions related to this, or if our office can be of any assistance on other matters relating to state or federal relations, please contact us at GR@tamu.edu or at 979.458-0282.

Best regards,
-Diane

Content for updates obtained working with the TAMUS Office of Federal Relations and from various sources including updates from: Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu), Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (www.aplu.org), American Association for the Advancement of Science (www.aaas.org), National Journal (<http://www.nationaljournal.com/>), and Politico (<http://www.politico.com>).