

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 515

To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to provide relief during fiscal years 2016 and 2017 from the reductions in the discretionary spending limits imposed by sequestration.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Budget

A BILL

To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to provide relief during fiscal years 2016 and 2017 from the reductions in the discretionary spending limits imposed by sequestration.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sequestration Relief
5 Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The National Institutes of Health conduct
2 critical biomedical research and apply outcomes to
3 “enhance health, lengthen life and reduce illness and
4 disability”.

5 (2) On November 4, 2013, the National Insti-
6 tutes of Health reported the \$1,550,000,000 seques-
7 ter cut resulted in 640 fewer competitive research
8 project grants issued and 750 fewer new patients
9 admitted to the Clinical Center of the National In-
10 stitutes of Health.

11 (3) In 2007 and 2010 Congress enacted, and
12 the President signed into law, the America COM-
13 PETES Act (Public Law 110–69) and the America
14 COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public
15 Law 111–358), respectively, each of which proposed
16 to double funding for the National Science Founda-
17 tion, the Office of Science of the Department of En-
18 ergy, and the National Institute of Standards and
19 Technology.

20 (4) In January 2015, General Martin E.
21 Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,
22 said of the sequestration reductions applied to the
23 Department of Defense, “If they’re not reversed,
24 they’re going to be imposed in 2016, and they will
25 negatively affect our national security interests.”.

1 (5) Since 1998, every quadrennial review pub-
2 lished by the American Society of Civil Engineers
3 has graded the condition and status of infrastruc-
4 ture in the United States as near failing.

5 (6) More than 1,200,000 children attending
6 public school experienced homelessness in school
7 year 2012–2013.

8 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

9 It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should—

10 (1) increase the discretionary spending limits
11 during fiscal years 2016 and 2017 to facilitate job
12 creating investment in the United States and provide
13 Congressional leaders the flexibility to determine a
14 more reasoned and sustainable path forward;

15 (2) maintain the principle that any offsetting
16 legislation should be balanced equally between rev-
17 enue and savings;

18 (3) invest in critical life-saving and life-improv-
19 ing biomedical research;

20 (4) meet the 21st century research investment
21 goals set out in the America COMPETES Act;

22 (5) avoid budget architecture that undermines
23 the ability to maintain a robust national defense;

24 (6) invest in, upgrade, and modernize the infra-
25 structure of the United States for the next genera-

1 tion, including investments in ports, waterways,
2 bridges, transit, rail, roads, parks, schools, aviation,
3 and drinking and waste water;

4 (7) aggressively pursue the goal of ending child
5 homelessness; and

6 (8) broadly invest in those programs that effi-
7 ciently and effectively support families and the most
8 vulnerable individuals in the United States.

9 **SEC. 4. REVISION OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS**
10 **FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 AND 2017.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Balanced Budget and Emer-
12 gency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.)
13 is amended—

14 (1) in section 251(c) (2 U.S.C. 901(c)), by
15 striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the
16 following:

17 “(3) for fiscal year 2016—

18 “(A) for the revised security category,
19 \$561,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

20 “(B) for the revised nonsecurity category,
21 \$530,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

22 “(4) for fiscal year 2017—

23 “(A) for the revised security category,
24 \$573,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

1 “(B) for the revised nonsecurity category,
2 \$541,000,000,000 in new budget authority;”;

3 and

4 (2) in section 251A(10) (2 U.S.C. 901a(10))—

5 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking

6 “2014 AND 2015” and inserting “2014 THROUGH

7 2017”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or

9 the amendment made by the Sequestration Re-

10 lief Act of 2015 to section 251(c) of this Act re-

11 vising the discretionary spending limits for fis-

12 cal years 2016 and 2017” after “Act of 2013”;

13 and

14 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “fis-

15 cal years 2014 and 2015” and inserting “each

16 of fiscal years 2014 through 2017”.

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