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CRS ANNUAL REPORT



FISCAL YEAR **2019**







ANNUAL REPORT


Congressional Research Service
Library of Congress
Fiscal Year 2019

To the Joint Committee on the Library
United States Congress

Pursuant to Section 321
Public Law 91-510

Mary B. Mazanec, Director

January 2020



Congressional Research Service
Library of Congress
101 Independence Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20540

The annual report is prepared by the Office of the Director, Congressional Research Service,
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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) for fiscal year 2019. This report highlights the Service's accomplishments in fiscal 2019 and reflects its continued commitment to support Congress in the exercise of its legislative, representational and oversight duties.



Mary B. Mazanec, *Director*

CRS exists to serve Congress. From the enactment of legislation in 1914 establishing the Service, to the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 and into its second century, CRS has served as a vital source of confidential, objective, nonpartisan, authoritative and timely information, research and analysis. As Congress continues to evolve, we strive to ensure our organization remains best positioned to meet the needs of a 21st century national legislature.

Over the past fiscal year, CRS provided significant support to Congress on a broad range of policy and legal issues. CRS experts worked closely with lawmakers on public and private health coverage reforms, immigration and border security, reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, the national security implications of emerging technologies, congressional process and administration, and reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The Service provided legal and procedural support to Members as they worked on appropriations legislation and evaluated the impacts of the 2019 government shutdown. CRS experts supported Congress in its consideration of emerging and disruptive technologies, as well as analyzed issues related to criminal justice reform, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement, preparations for the 2020 decennial census; and federal response to natural disasters, among many other issues.

The Service produced more than 71,087 custom products and services to Members and congressional staff and held over 345 events for 10,415 congressional participants. Among the events was “Legislative Issues and Procedures: The CRS Seminar for New Members,” held in cooperation with the U.S. House of Representatives, Jan. 4-7, 2019, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Attendance at the seminar exceeded prior years. CRS also identified opportunities to enhance efforts to engage with congressional clients beyond the New Member Seminar, including in-person visits to each new

House and Senate Member's office in order to introduce congressional staff to its range of products and services.

During fiscal 2019, the Service completed and approved the 2019-2023 CRS Directional Plan, charting the future direction of the Service. Aligned with the Strategic Plan of the Library of Congress, the Directional Plan established two strategic goals: 1) Enhance service and access for all of Congress, and 2) Optimize resource utilization.

In support of these goals, the Service explored ways to leverage the latest technological advances. In cooperation with the Library's Office of the Chief Information Officer, CRS continued its work with the Integrated Research and Information Systems (IRIS) initiative, which aims to modernize CRS's technology infrastructure and applications. CRS librarians also led the organization in launching a series of new internal sites for each division and office in an effort to improve organizational communication and knowledge management practices.

CRS also engaged in efforts to recruit, engage and sustain a world-class workforce. The Service prioritized professional development and training through an expanded series of programs, supported two working groups—the Workplace Inclusion Working Group and the Diversity Recruitment and Retention Working Group—to identify and evaluate diversity and inclusion best practices, and continued to recognize exemplary performance and service in a variety of ways.

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.



From left, T.J. Halstead and Mary B. Mazanec

LEADERSHIP

Mary B. Mazanec
Director

T.J. Halstead
Deputy Director

Catherine Hurst Weber
Counselor to the Director

Brian J. O'Rourke
Senior Advisor to the Director, Technology

Robin D. Grove
Coordinator of Review

Francois A. DiFolco
Associate Director
Administrative Operations

Cliff Cohen
Associate Director
Congressional Information and Publishing

Karen J. Lewis
Assistant Director
American Law

Laura B. Shrestha
Assistant Director
Domestic Social Policy

Michael Moodie
Assistant Director
Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade

Jeffrey W. Seifert
Assistant Director
Government and Finance

Lillian W. Gassie
Assistant Director
Knowledge Services Group

Dana A. Shea
Assistant Director
Resources, Science and Industry

MISSION

To serve Congress with the highest quality of research, analysis, information and confidential consultation, to support the exercise of its legislative, representational and oversight duties in its role as a co-equal branch of government.



VISION

CRS is the premier source of research and analysis
for the first branch of government.



CORE VALUES

Confidentiality ★ Objectivity ★ Nonpartisanship ★ Authoritativeness ★ Timeliness



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Excellence. Integrity. Inclusion. Innovation. Collaboration.





SERVING CONGRESS

The first of CRS's two directional goals is to:

Enhance service and expand access for all of Congress

Service to the U.S. Congress remains at the core of the Library's mission. CRS plays a critical role in this effort by providing nonpartisan, objective and authoritative research and analysis exclusively to Congress. As the Library implements its fiscal 2019-2023 strategic plan, CRS will be well-positioned to support the Library's goals, including to "expand access" and "enhance services."

Building on more than a century of experience, CRS continues to innovate and develop thoughtful approaches to supporting Congress in its legislative, oversight and representational duties. Over the past several years, the Service has expanded its product portfolio in response to congressional feedback and anticipated needs. Today, as a result of these efforts, Congress can access short-form reports, multimedia and social media on demand.

The Service provides expertise in every area of interest to Congress: American law, domestic policy, foreign affairs, government, and science and industry. In this report and on our website for Congress, our products are organized around 23 issue areas designed to align with congressional portfolios.

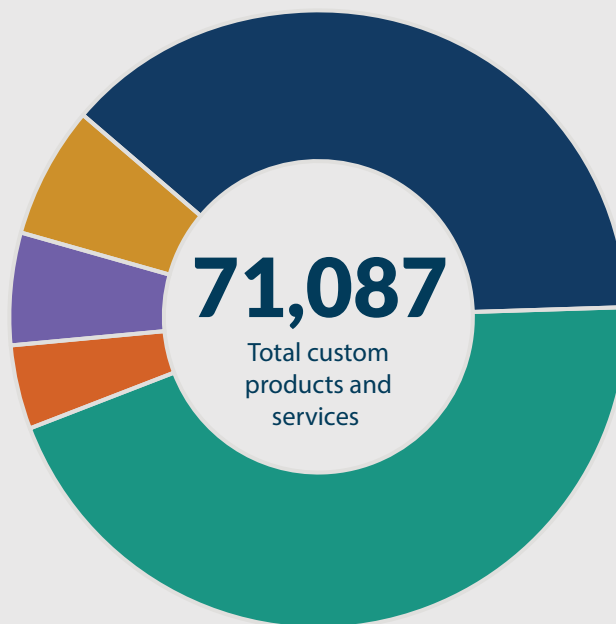
PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

CRS offers personalized, tailored services; analytical and informative products in a variety of formats; website-based features; social media and email distribution lists; as well as signature programs and events.

CUSTOM SERVICES

Custom Products and Services

25,112	Telephone responses
6,491	In-person briefings, consultations and testimony
5,064	Background and miscellaneous services
2,763	Confidential memoranda
31,657	Email responses



99% Member/standing committee offices received custom CRS services



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, tailored writing on background and current issues regarding U.S. relations, and questions Members might ask when meeting with government and other officials.

Confidential Memoranda

CRS prepares confidential memoranda to fulfill 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 CRS analysts and attorneys, for example, to respond to highly focused inquiries about the legal implications of statutory provisions, proposed legislation or executive actions.

Staff Briefings

Briefings for Members and congressional staff –

individually or in groups – constitute another form of tailored response to congressional inquiries. 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

CRS staff are 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's goals are to provide expertise, ease of access and a personalized timely response.

Testimony

CRS staff provide expert testimony at hearings at the request of congressional committees and subcommittees. Written statements of testimony are available on CRS.gov.



Megan S. Lynch, specialist on Congress and the legislative process

REPORTS AND RESOURCES

General Distribution Products

- 6,312** Bill summaries in LIS/Congress.gov
- 2,026** Updates to CRS reports and other products
- 1,078** New CRS reports and other general distribution products



7,586

CRS reports and product titles available at year end

Figure 2. Corps Funding by Account, FY2015 to FY2018
(numbers in billions)



Appropriations Status Table

CRS librarians author and update content on the Appropriations Status Table by closely monitoring appropriations activities and by incorporating information from analysts across CRS. The Appropriations Status Table is available for congressional clients on CRS.gov and is perennially one of the most viewed products on the website. Reasons for its popularity include that it displays congressional documents and CRS content in one place, aggregates and describes key congressional activities, and is updated almost immediately after activities occur and content becomes available. During days when appropriations activities are occurring in Congress, updates are often published multiple times per day. Members and congressional staff can now use the table to research 20 years of normalized historical information on appropriations, back to fiscal 1999.

Bill Summaries

CRS produces summaries for all introduced bills and most versions of bills as they move through the legislative process. Analysts interpret existing law and write abstracts of all introduced bills, explaining new programs and how current law would be modified or appended. These summaries can be found on Congress.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 make its inclusion as a listed report inappropriate. If an issue becomes important to a larger congressional audience, the memorandum may be recast as a report.

Constitution Annotated

The Service continued work on the Constitution Annotated. The document, which is required by federal

statute, constitutes the official record of how the Constitution has been interpreted. This last year, CRS legislative attorneys updated the document to reflect important constitutional decisions concerning the President's authority to exclude aliens, the judiciary's power to resolve disputes over excessive partisanship in the redistricting process and the ability of the state's to require nonmembers of a public employee union to contribute to that union. It also finalized its work in preparing the launch of a new Constitution Annotated website, which will be available to the general public.

CRS Written Products

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, as well as compliance with CRS core values, including 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. Written product types include:

- **Reports:** Comprehensive research and analysis on the range of issues before Congress
- **In Focus:** Short, two-page documents providing a quick overview or primer on a topic
- **Infographics:** Visual representations that bring clarity to complex processes and topics
- **Insights:** Short analyses of current topics of interest to Congress
- **Legal Sidebar:** Brief examinations of recent developments in the law
- **Testimony:** Written statements of CRS experts called before Congress

Multimedia

The Service provides a variety of multimedia products to Congress. Videos of public policy and budget briefings, educational seminars and special events are available on demand to congressional staff on DVD or online. CRS posted 52 videos to CRS.gov during fiscal 2019, including short-form videos on Supreme Court decisions, robocalls and quantum information science. Other videos included a series on challenges to the current global order, a conversation on Federal Reserve independence and previews of upcoming programs.

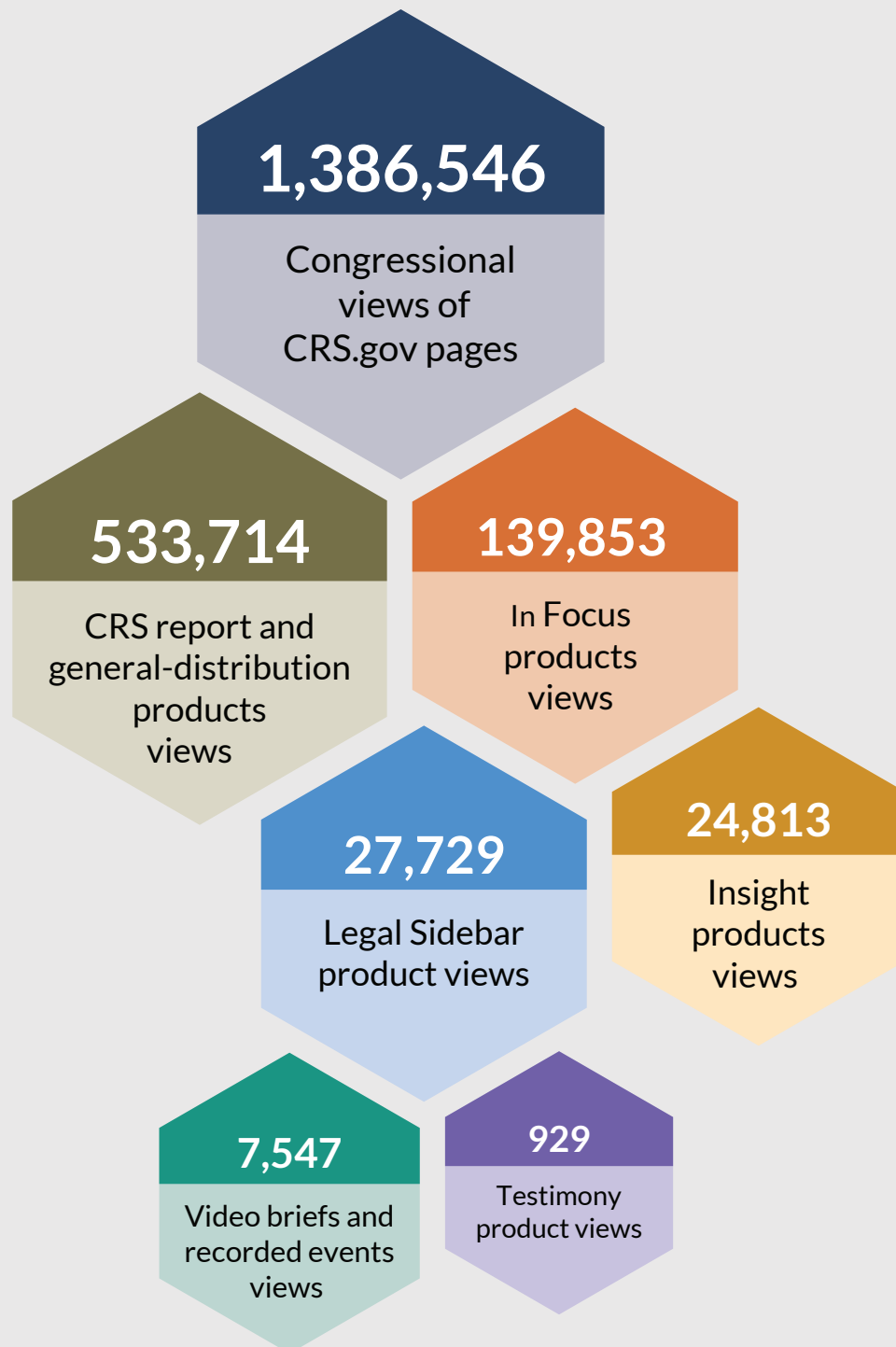
Forty-five recorded seminars on DVD were distributed to clients. The Service also continued to provide two hours of television programming each weekday on the Senate closed-circuit television system. CRS continued its development of podcasts in fiscal 2019. Podcasts allow congressional clients to listen to analysts discuss legislative issues in their respective research areas. Podcast topics included North Korea diplomacy, the future of U.S.-Saudi relations, military health system reform, and strategic competition and foreign policy.



Dawn Frank, audio technician specialist, National Library Service (Library of Congress) and Clayton Thomas, analyst in middle eastern affairs

WEBSITES

CRS.gov Activity Stats



¹ Includes the selected highlights listed here plus other pages of CRS.gov such as the home page, issue area pages and event pages.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES ► WEBSITES

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. Research products, in both short and long formats, are organized by issue area and are accessible via an online search. The site also contains guides to legislative procedures and resources for constituent services and other congressional office functions. The website is available on the secure internal Capitol Hill network to congressional clients and select legislative branch agencies.

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 replaces

Congress's legacy legislative information system—Legislative Information System (LIS)—with a modern system. CRS provided data analysis, subject matter expertise, consultation, user acceptance testing and support for congressional users and data partners, as well as coordinated data partner relationships. The Service also continues to support the Congress-only LIS website until equivalent capability is fully developed for the new Congress.gov.

Public Release Website

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 directed the Librarian of Congress, in consultation with the CRS Director, to establish and maintain a public website containing non-confidential CRS reports. Over fiscal 2019, the Library completed the process of adding the back catalog of older CRS reports. Reports are accessible at crsreports.congress.gov.



Tamera Wells-Lee, associate director,
Office of Publishing

SOCIAL MEDIA AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

21,900 monthly Twitter impressions
(approximate)

3,104 My CRS subscriptions
(approximate users at year end)

MyCRS

MyCRS is a subscription feature of CRS.gov that allows congressional clients to quickly place requests online, subscribe to topics relevant to their work and save searches.

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 Newsletter

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

Twitter

The CRS Twitter account, @CRS4Congress, regularly showcases timely CRS products and services. Started in 2011, @CRS4Congress is a closed account; CRS administrators approve only Members and congressional staff as followers. By the end of fiscal 2019, CRS4Congress had 1,140 followers, a 12 percent increase over the number of followers at the end of fiscal 2018.

EVENTS

10,415

Congressional participants in seminars, institutes and training programs



Federal Law Update Series

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

The 2019 spring FLU included the following sessions:

- Supreme Court's October 2018 Term: Examining the Court's Major Cases
- Federal Firearm Regulation: Legal Framework and Constitutional Considerations
- The Congressional Subpoena: Investigative Conflicts With the Executive Branch
- When Congress Goes to Court: Standing Limitations on Congressional Lawsuits
- The Digital Public Forum: First Amendment Issues in Regulating Social Media
- Understanding Data Protection Law
- Professional Ethics: Conflicts of Interest and Government Attorneys
- Federal Indian Law: Recent Judicial Developments
- Cryptocurrency: Regulatory Background and Proposed Legislation
- Race and Sex Discrimination at School: Selected Issues in Civil Rights Law
- Drug Pricing and Intellectual Property Law
- Professional Ethics: Professional Integrity and Pro Bono Responsibility

The 2019 fall FLU covered the following topics:

- Supreme Court’s October 2018 Term: Examining the Court’s Major Cases
- Supreme Court’s October 2019 Term: A Preview of Select Cases
- Antitrust Law and “Big Tech”
- Professional Ethics: Political Contributions and Confidentiality Issues
- The Detention of Aliens and the Availability of Legalization Relief
- Building Barriers along the Border: Authorities and Recent Litigation
- Keeping Up with the Loanses: Federal Law and Student Loans
- Professional Ethics: Competent Representation
- Patents and the 116th Congress: Pharmaceutical Patenting and Subject Matter Reforms
- To List or Not to List: Legal Developments under the Endangered Species Act
- Surveying the Legal Landscape on Reproductive Health and Religious Liberty
- Transparency in Healthcare Prices: Legal Background and Issues

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 2019.

Legislative and Budget Process Institute

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 11 introductory institutes on legislative procedures and resources and held two advanced legislative institutes and two advanced legislative process series for congressional staff. The Service conducted four 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/State Staff Institutes, offered six times during fiscal 2018, to the needs of staff working in Members’ home state offices.

Meetings With Foreign Dignitaries and Parliaments

CRS held substantive meetings and exchanges with representatives from countries such as Colombia, Cote D’Ivoire, Ecuador, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Liberia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Peru, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam, among other, as well as from institutions such as the European Parliament and the Royal College of Defense Studies. CRS also supported delegations of visiting Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff for the House Democracy Partnership.

Orientations and Briefings

The Service hosted a number of programs for organizations that sponsored congressional fellows. Staff prepared introductory orientations on CRS services, legislative process and policy-specific briefings. CRS conducted 23 orientations on services for new congressional staff, 39 briefings for congressional interns and volunteers, several orientations for congressional staff to the new public site for CRS reports, and many other briefings for congressional offices and fellowship groups.

Public Policy Seminars

The Service conducted numerous seminars for Members and staff on a wide variety of issues of interest to Congress, including the following:

- Policy Options for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
- Labor Market Patterns since the Start of the Great Recession
- U.S. Military Use of Robotics and Automated Systems
- Understanding the DOD Audit
- Baseline Budget Projections
- Debt and Deficits: Spending, Revenue, and Economic Considerations
- Budget and Economic Outlook
- CRS Science, Technology, and Innovation Experts Open House
- CRS American Law Division (ALD) Open House
- The Federal Budget and the Economy: An Introduction
- The Upcoming Elections in Nigeria
- Using Defense Funds for Construction in a National Emergency
- Statutory Interpretation in Action
- An Introduction to Senate Procedure for New Senate Offices
- Congressional Oversight: Investigations and Beyond
- First Tax Season under the 2017 Tax Act (P.L. 115-97): Potential Constituent Questions
- An Introduction to Committee Procedure for New House Offices
- Overseas Contingency Operations Funding: Trends and Issues
- Specialty Drug Spending in Medicare Part D and Medicaid
- The Business and Regulation of Banking
- Social Security 101
- An Introduction to House Floor Procedure for New House Offices
- FY2020 International Affairs Budget: Issues for Congress
- Agriculture and Food Policy Open House
- FY2020 Defense Budget: Issues for Congress
- How to Read DOD Budget Documents and Military Budget Justification Books
- Oligarchs and Pensioners: Can Anyone Influence Putin?
- Department of Defense Rapid Acquisition Pathways
- Implementing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at DOD Sites
- Social Security Benefits and State and Local Government Pensions: The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO)
- Congressional Oversight of Covert Action and Other Intelligence Activities
- Federal Firearm Regulation: Legal Framework & Constitutional Considerations
- Research and Development Funding in President Trump's FY2020 Budget
- Disaster Assistance Overview in Advance of the 2019 Hurricane Season
- Introduction to the National Flood Insurance Program
- Social Security: Projected Shortfall of Trust Funds
- Introduction to Data Protection and Privacy Law

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES ► EVENTS

- Anti-Money Laundering: The Bank Secrecy Act and Current Issues
- Biologics and Biosimilars: Issues in Pricing, Regulation, and Consumer Access
- Midwest Floods of 2019 Response and Recovery: CRS Open House
- Expected Costs from Storms: Implications for Disaster Mitigation, the NFIP, and Policy Options
- Electric Vehicles: Federal and State Policy Issues
- Update on the Administration's Tariff Actions
- Supreme Court Term Wrap-Up
- Reauthorizing Federal Highway Programs
- Reauthorizing Transit, Rail, and Highway Safety Programs
- Online Speech and Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act
- The Civil Service System: Overview of Current Issues
- Russia's Nuclear Forces
- Iran: Office Hours
- Public Health 101: Overview of the U.S. System and Review of Federal Vaccine Policy

Seminar Series

The Service also presented several public policy issues in a series of seminars. The “Challenges to the Current Global Order” series included “The Future of the Rules-Based International Trading System,”

“Democracy in Retreat? Assessing the ‘Democratic Recession’ and Potential Implications for U.S. Policy,” “Competition and Conflict in the Evolving International Order – Implications for U.S. National Security,” “The Future of Multilateral Institutions,” and “The Future of Europe.” It also hosted a series of programs as part of the “CRS Defense Institute.” Sessions included “The Navy, Geography, Strategy, and U.S. Force Design,” “DOD Acquisition 101,” “Emerging Technologies and Electronic Warfare,” “Military Retirement, Concurrent Receipt, and the Survivor Benefit Program,” “Congress’s and the President’s Constitutional Authority with Regard to the Armed Forces,” “Intro to the Military Health System,” “Cyber and Info Operations,” “NDAA & Defense Appropriations Basics: Process and Navigating,” “The DNI & National and Defense Intelligence,” and “The Navy, Geography, Strategy, and U.S. Force Design.”

Building on the legislative process institute, the Service continued the “Master 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 “Senate Rules, Procedures, and Practice: Options for Pursuing Change,” “Committee Markup Procedure,” “Managing Time on the House Floor,” and “Senate Consideration of Presidential Nominations.”

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

The Service supported Congress during all stages of the legislative process and across a range of public policy issues. This support included examining the nature and extent of challenges facing Congress; identifying and assessing policy options; assisting with hearings on policy proposals and implementation; supporting congressional review of nominations and treaties; and providing products, briefings, and consultations to address issues on the legislative agenda. Highlights of the year follow.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

CRS provided Congress with insights and analysis across a broad spectrum of agricultural issues of national consequence, including the enactment of a new five-year farm law and a series of events that affected agricultural trade. CRS published a side-by-side report analyzing every provision of the newly enacted 2018 farm bill, comparing it with prior law, and followed up by issuing a series of “primer” reports that analyzed individual titles, programs and policies in the new farm law. Amid a series of conflicting developments affecting agricultural trade, including disputes that disrupted U.S. farm exports to leading foreign agricultural markets and new trade agreements with other key importers, CRS analyzed new federal assistance initiatives to compensate farmers for trade-related losses and provided Congress with timely and authoritative research, briefings and consultations on the impact of these developments on the U.S. farm economy.

2018 Farm Bill. After the enactment of the 2018 farm bill, CRS supported Congress by analyzing all program and policy provisions in the law’s 12 titles in comparison with the House-passed and Senate-passed versions and prior law. These analyses addressed major program changes and directional shifts in farm and food policy. CRS then issued a series of In Focus products that analyzed individual titles in the new farm bill, such as agricultural conservation, nutrition assistance, and rural development, and examined major programs, such as commodity support programs, the dairy program, and programs intended to support Indian tribes, among others. The Service worked closely with Congress, briefing committees and subcommittees on individual titles and programs in the new law to assist them in carrying out their oversight responsibilities for program implementation and administration.

Agricultural Trade Aid. To mitigate disruption to certain U.S. agricultural markets and in an effort to support commodity prices amid the tariff dispute with China, the administration reintroduced for 2019 an

expanded version of the multibillion dollar “trade aid” package for agricultural producers, which was initially offered in 2018. The Service provided Congress with written analyses on the three distinctive pillars of this initiative, addressing substantive changes in the 2019 version of trade aid in terms of product eligibility and the payment formula for agricultural producers. The Service also responded to numerous institutionally focused inquiries about the nature of trade aid, including how the administration could implement such a supplemental support program without congressional consultation or authorization and whether trade aid may breach U.S. commitments to the World Trade Organization.

Hemp. The 2018 farm bill included numerous provisions that disentangle hemp from restrictions imposed on marijuana under the Controlled Substances Act and reclassify hemp as an agricultural commodity. The changes allow for commercial production of hemp under a hemp program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and designate hemp as eligible for federal crop insurance and certain USDA research

CRS created **69** new products in the area of agriculture and food.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"The 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334): Summary and Side-by-Side Comparison" (R45525)

"Farm Commodity Provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334)" (R45730)

"U.S. Farm Program Eligibility and Payment Limits Under the 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334)" (R45659)

"Farm Policy: USDA's 2019 Trade Aid Package" (R45865)

"Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act: Overview for Reauthorization in the 116th Congress" (R45777)

"Major Agricultural Trade Issues in the 116th Congress" (R45728)

"Profiles and Effects of Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S. Agricultural Exports" (R45448)

"FY2018 and FY2019 Agriculture Appropriations: Federal Food Safety Activities" (R45413)

"FY2018 and FY2019 Appropriations for Agricultural Conservation" (R45406)

In Focus

"2018 Farm Bill Primer: Veteran Farmers and Ranchers" (IF11093)

"2018 Farm Bill Primer: Support for Indian Tribes" (IF11287)

"2018 Farm Bill Primer: Rural Development Programs" (IF11225)

Insight

"FY2020 Agriculture Appropriations: H.R. 3164" (IN11132)

NOTABLE EVENT

As outreach to the newly convened 116th Congress, the Agriculture and Food Supply Section of RSI held an "Open House" event on March 29, 2019, to allow congressional clients to meet CRS analysts with expertise in agriculture and food policy and pose their questions on these issues, and to highlight CRS products and capabilities.

programs. The Service responded to lawmakers' widespread interest in these changes by issuing a series of written products that addressed statutory changes in the farm bill to facilitate hemp's production, process, and marketing and FDA regulation of hemp-derived consumer products. The Service also engaged with congressional clients on the implications of these changes and consulted with clients involved in drafting follow-on hemp legislation. As a related matter, CRS analyzed the rapidly expanding market for cannabidiol (CBD) products, which may be derived from either hemp or marijuana, and researched the legal and regulatory status of CBD products.

Rural Broadband. The 2018 farm bill authorized programs and policies intended to upgrade the speed

and expand the availability of broadband internet service to underserved rural areas while increasing federal funding to support this effort. In response to widespread congressional interest in this evolving policy area, CRS provided written analyses on a broad range of issues relevant to these programs and engaged in many briefings and consultations with congressional clients to explain specific requirements applicable to the relevant federal grant, loan, and loan guarantee programs. The Service addressed numerous individual and committee requests for operational information, such as the availability of funding and funding set-asides, the minimum level of service internet service providers must guarantee to participate in these programs, and the definition of a "rural area" under different broadband programs.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

APPROPRIATIONS

After a swift start, the fiscal 2019 appropriations process stalled in early December. Congress did not reach an agreement to continue government spending, leading to a five-week partial shutdown of eight large government agencies and numerous small government agencies. During the partial shutdown, CRS analysts and attorneys responded to questions about the shutdown's effect and provided a wide array of procedural support for the new Congress, from introduction of bills to handling of legislation between the House and Senate.

Appropriations Law and the Border. In response to high congressional interest in the president's repurposing of appropriated funds for border barrier construction, CRS attorneys prepared several written products and briefed Members and staffers on the issue. The Service covered topics such as the scope of the president's authority under the National Emergencies Act and options for Congress to respond.

Appropriations Bills and Procedure. The Service maintains an interdisciplinary team of analysts who respond to cross-cutting appropriations-related requests and produce the annual appropriations reports, which are among the Service's most accessed products. The team is also responsible for maintaining and updating CRS's most popular policy product: the Appropriations Status Table. In fiscal 2019, analysts and information professionals continued to develop a unique database of appropriations-related legislative actions going back to the mid-1970s. This database allows the Service to quickly and authoritatively respond to congressional inquiries about historical

appropriations measures. Analysts provided a range of products related to appropriations bills and served as resources to appropriations committees as they prepared a full-government omnibus appropriations bill. The Service also presented six specialized seminars on appropriations procedure, as well as numerous presentations to staff in specific appropriations policy areas.

Government Shutdown. Appropriations for 2019 were approved after the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019's passage, two months into the fiscal year and following a lengthy partial government shutdown. Congress expressed interest in understanding the government shutdown, its legal history, and affected agencies' levels of operations during this time. Attorneys provided extensive support and guidance to staff during this time by authoring reports and briefings on topics, including historical precedent during prior shutdowns and how existing limitations in federal appropriations law, such as the Anti-Deficiency Act, applied to agencies with lapsed funding.



“What I love best about CRS is the people who work here. Smart, dedicated, and intellectually curious, CRS analysts stand ready to offer facts, analysis, and institutional insights to support congressional debate on new and evolving policy challenges.”

Karen Lynch
Specialist in Social Policy

Legislative Branch Appropriations.

The Service provided research and analysis on consideration and implementation of the annual legislative branch appropriations acts. This support included research on the comparison of legislative

branch and total discretionary budget authority; the timing of the consideration of appropriations bills; and other subjects related to legislative branch appropriations, including structure, costs of various programs, history, and funding.

A man with dark hair, wearing a grey suit jacket, a light blue checkered shirt, and a red paisley tie, stands in a grand hall with high ceilings and large columns. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.

“With each Congress, policymakers pursue policy solutions to a range of challenges facing our country. The issues before Congress can change rapidly due to unfolding circumstances or evolving technology. CRS helps policymakers understand these issues by providing timely and nonpartisan background information and analysis through a variety of mediums, such as confidential memoranda, reports, and seminars.”

Nathan James
Analyst in Crime Policy

CRS created **68** new products in the area of appropriations.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Congressional Action on FY2019 Appropriations Measures: 115th and 116th Congresses" (R45906)

"FY2018 and FY2019 Agriculture Appropriations: Federal Food Safety Activities" (R45413)

"FY2018 and FY2019 Appropriations for Agricultural Conservation" (R45406)

"Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies: Overview of FY2020 Appropriations" (R45875)

"Legal Authority to Repurpose Funds for Border Barrier Construction" (R45908)

"Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations for FY2019: In Brief" (R45487)

"Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations for FY2020: In Brief" (R45774)

In Focus

"FY2018 Defense Appropriations Act: An Overview" (IF10868)

Legal Sidebar

"Can the Department of Defense Build the Border Wall?" (LSB10242)

TESTIMONY

Megan S. Lynch, specialist on the Congress and the legislative process, G&F, testified Sept. 19, 2019 before the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress at the hearing, "Recommendations for Improving the Budget and Appropriations Process: A Look at the Work of the Joint Select Committee." Her testimony focused on the work of the 2018 Joint Select Committee and congressional rules related to earmarks.

NOTABLE EVENT

CRS holds regular programs to help congressional staff understand the appropriations process and navigate House and Senate floor procedures for the consideration of regular appropriations bills, including appropriations-specific rules and practices, limits on content and amending and the types of amendments that are typically offered. "Consideration of Appropriations Bills in the House," "Consideration of Appropriations Bills in the Senate" and "Overview of the Appropriations Process" were held on multiple dates throughout the fiscal year.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

BANKING AND FINANCE

Congress increased its banking and finance oversight following fiscal 2018's sweeping financial legislation, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act, and increased its attention on issues such as consumer protection and diversity in the financial sector. CRS analysts and attorneys consulted with Members and staff, provided written products, crafted hearing questions and assisted with legislation addressing these topics and other emerging issues, such as financial technology (fintech) and cryptocurrency.

Consumer Protection. In fiscal 2019, the Service assisted congressional committees and offices with written products and consultations on numerous timely topics related to consumer protection. Such topics included the following: data breaches at several large financial institutions, which drew focus to consumer protection in financial markets; legislation currently under consideration by the 116th Congress that would reform credit bureaus and address financial data privacy; and organizational and policy changes at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and a series of new rules proposed or issued by the CFPB, all of which have elicited congressional debate.

Cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrency acts as money in an electronic payment system in which a decentralized network of computers validates transactions rather than a third-party intermediary, such as a bank. The use of this fintech potentially creates certain benefits, may pose certain risks and raises numerous legal questions for policymakers. Congress monitored development in this rapidly evolving field and increased its interest in greater regulation. In response, the Service provided written products, briefings, and seminars for Members and

staff concerning the application to virtual currencies of securities, commodities, and anti-money laundering law.

Financial Regulation and Reform. During fiscal 2019, Congress expressed interest in numerous areas in financial regulation and reform, including antitrust investigations and required financial disclosures. After the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission initiated antitrust investigations of Facebook, Amazon, Alphabet, and Apple, CRS attorneys authored written products and briefed staffers on how antitrust law might regulate these companies. Congress also considered several bills that would require certain companies to disclose information about their beneficial owners to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and the Service briefed staffers on these proposals to reform federal anti-money laundering.

Fintech. Technological innovation has rapidly and radically changed financial markets with the creation of new fintech products, which pose risks and benefits to consumers, financial firms, and financial markets. The 116th Congress formed two new task forces to conduct oversight of fintech. CRS worked closely



Raj Gnanarajah
Analyst in Financial Economics

“Working at CRS is personally rewarding because Congress always has new ideas and angles on policy issues to research.”

Marc Labonte
Specialist in Macroeconomic Policy



with Congress to inform these task forces of new developments in fintech, such as cryptocurrencies, online marketplace lenders and real-time payments. Facebook’s announcement that it will introduce Libra, a new cryptocurrency, underlines the possibility that large nonfinancial tech firms could soon become dominant actors in financial markets. Congress is currently debating whether fintech would fit into the existing regulatory framework or whether legislative changes would be needed to foster and manage associated risks.

Oversight of Financial Regulation and Legislative Implementation. Recent new leadership at the financial regulatory agencies has brought a change in direction and a flurry of new rules that amend existing policies and introduce new ones. Congress used its

oversight powers to closely follow these developments, and CRS assisted congressional committees and offices with written products and consultations on related issues. In 2018, Congress passed—and the president signed into law—the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act, a broad reform law that made changes related to mortgage lending, consumer protection, regulatory relief for community banks, large banks, capital formation, and other areas. Congress closely followed the implementation of this act and conducted oversight related to diversity at the financial regulators and in the financial industry, new investor protection standards, monetary policy, and the bank merger process following the proposal of a merger by two large banks.

CRS created **71** new products in the area of banking and finance.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"An Overview of Consumer Finance and Policy Issues" (R45813)

"Banking Policy Issues in the 116th Congress" (R45518)

"Cryptocurrency: The Economics of Money and Selected Policy Issues" (R45427)

"Overview of Recent Administrative Reforms of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac" (R45828)

"Federal Preemption in the Dual Banking System: An Overview and Issues for the 116th Congress" (R45726)

In Focus

"Introduction to Bank Regulation: Credit Unions and Community Banks: A Comparison" (IF11048)

"Introduction to Bank Regulation: Supervision" (IF11055)

"Introduction to Financial Services: Anti-Money Laundering Regulation" (IF11064)

"Introduction to Financial Services: Capital Markets" (IF11062)

"Introduction to Financial Services: Corporate Governance" (IF11221)

"Introduction to Financial Services: The Regulatory Framework" (IF11065)

Testimony

"The Reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program" (TE10035)

TESTIMONY

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs called on Baird Webel, specialist in financial economics, to testify at the June 18, 2019, hearing "The Reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program." His testimony discussed details of the current Terrorism Risk Insurance Program and changes Congress has enacted since the initial 2002 act. He highlighted issues Congress might consider as the program approaches its expiration at the end of 2020, such as the treatment of cyberterrorism and potential gaps in the program in the case of a nuclear, chemical, biological, or radiological terrorist attack.

NOTABLE EVENT

CRS collaborated with sister agency the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to provide the "Banking Policy Issues in the 115th Congress" on May 8, 2018. CRS and CBO experts described the current regulation of the banking industry, analyzed major policy issues, discussed two prominent bills that would make changes to bank regulation and explained aspects of the CBO's scoring of those bills.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

COMMERCE AND SMALL BUSINESS

The Service provided timely and authoritative analytic support to Congress as it considered various policies to assist businesses of all sizes, and especially small businesses, to create and retain jobs, including the expansion of the Small Business Administration's loan guaranty and venture capital programs to enhance small business access to capital; oversight of federal contracting programs to increase small business opportunities in federal contracting; oversight of the Small Business Administration's direct loan programs for businesses, homeowners, and renters to assist their recovery from natural disasters; and expansion of business management and technical assistance training programs at several federal agencies to assist business formation and economic growth. Telecommunications issues, from proposed mergers among broadcasters to net neutrality to broadband and satellite television service in rural areas, were also a focus of CRS's work. The popularity of music streaming led to enactment of the Music Modernization Act in October 2018, followed almost immediately by proposals to reform the new law. Manufacturing also drew attention due both to concern about the effects of trade actions on U.S. industries and efforts to tighten requirements that federal agencies and grantees purchase U.S.-made goods.

Communications Mergers. Several entities in the telecommunications industry have sought merger partners amid growing concerns that mergers are diminishing the diversity of voices in the media and making broadcasters less responsive to local needs. Congress has no direct authority over mergers, but many Members turned to CRS to understand the forces behind these combinations and for support in raising concerns with federal regulators.

Data Privacy and Protection. Social media use and debate over whether to regulate the tech industry led Congress to seek clarity on the legality of promoting data privacy and protection. CRS authored numerous products that addressed proposed privacy legislation and regulations from data protection agencies, the

Federal Trade Commission. The data privacy issue implicates several stakeholders, including those of tech companies, state and federal governments, and the public. The legal issues raised by data privacy legislation are complicated and touch on various constitutional law matters, such as the First Amendment, the scope of congressional authority to enact privacy legislation, and an individual's right to privacy. CRS attorneys conducted myriad individual briefings and seminars for Members and staff on all of these issues.

Regulating Confessions of Judgment. The 116th Congress held a hearing to consider whether to further regulate confessions of judgment, which empower creditors to obtain a legal judgment against an opposing party without filing a formal lawsuit. The Service

CRS created **40** new products in the area of commerce and small business.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Antitrust and 'Big Tech'"
(R45910)

"Vehicle Fuel Economy and Greenhouse Gas Standards: Frequently Asked Questions" (R45204)

"Assessing Commercial Disclosure Requirements under the First Amendment" (R45700)

"Data Protection Law: An Overview" (R45631)

"Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Media Ownership Rules" (R45338)

"Vehicle Electrification: Federal and State Issues Affecting Deployment" (R45747)

In Focus

"Antitrust Law: An Introduction" (IF11234)

Legal Sidebar

"Antitrust and the iPhone: Supreme Court to Consider Whether App

Store Customers Can Sue Apple for Monopolization" (LSB10219)

"Facebook's \$5 Billion Privacy Settlement with the Federal Trade Commission" (LSB10338)

"Google Fined for Violation of EU Data Protection Law" (LSB10264)

"Overview of Legal Challenges to the FCC's 5G Order on Small Cell Siting" (LSB10265)

"Robocall Regulation and Judicial Review" (LSB10333)

"What Legal Obligations do Internet Companies Have to Prevent and Respond to a Data Breach?" (LSB10210)

NOTABLE EVENT

The program, "Online Speech and Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act," held July 30, 2019, explained the basics of Section 230. It also explored how Section 230 overlaps with the free speech principles of the First Amendment.

published a product on this issue to assist congressional staffers in preparing for the hearing, and CRS was cited in the committee's hearing memorandum. Attorneys also answered specific questions and provided background and policy options for Congress.

Satellite and Cable Television. Certain federal law provisions that affect retransmission of television programming by satellite and cable systems expired in December 2019. These provisions determined which television signals a cable or satellite system may carry.

Members often are concerned that viewers in some parts of their district or state receive programming from a station located in a different state. Additionally, disputes between broadcasters and satellite or cable operators over compensation can create blackouts that leave subscribers unable to view certain stations. These legally complex issues involve both communications and copyright law. Members consulted with CRS experts to understand the financial situations of broadcast industry participants at a time of rapid technological change and on numerous proposed amendments to the existing law.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS, ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS


In fiscal 2019, the Service provided expertise related to procedural aspects of virtually all major legislation considered by Congress, including the annual appropriations bills, consideration of a rescission package, and a wide range of authorizing legislation. CRS experts also advised Congress on modernization of its rules and processes and on a wide range of topics related to congressional administration, congressional commissions and lobbying, and ethics issues. In addition, CRS provided research and analysis on campaign finance and elections issues, including election security. In anticipation of the 2020 decennial census, the Service also provided Congress with research and analysis on the U.S. census.

Budget Process. The Service assisted Congress in its examination and use of the process for considering budgetary matters. Experts across the Service provided analyses of appropriations floor amendments and options with regard to continuing resolutions and the final Consolidated Appropriations Act, which the new Congress completed. Analysts provided information regarding the budget process constraints on new authorization provisions, as well as the implications of the expired provisions. The Service provided 22 seminars and numerous in-person briefings on the budget process, and budget analysts aided new committee leadership in handling the rules and procedures for considering the appropriations measure.

Campaign Finance and Elections. CRS experts supported Congress while the House and Senate assessed the 2018 election cycle and prepared for the 2020 cycle. During the 116th Congress, first session, CRS provided research and analysis to support the House's consideration of H.R. 1, a policy measure covering aspects of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying, and related legislation. The Service supported hearings that addressed foreign interference in U.S. elections, election security,

election administration, and voting rights. Congress also turned to CRS when it considered an appropriations bill that contained provisions to provide additional election funding to states through the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), as well as while the House and Senate conducted oversight of the EAC and the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Congress consulted with CRS experts when it considered legislation and oversight that concerned the presidential public financing program, politically active tax-exempt organizations, super PACs, and the FEC. The Service also provided information and analyses on topics such as voter registration, voter identification, the Electoral College, the National Popular Vote Initiative, and military and overseas voting.

Campaign Finance Law. Campaign finance reform is an area of focus for some Members. Several related pieces of legislation were introduced in the 116th Congress, including H.R. 1, which passed the House. CRS covered the issue of campaign finance in several ways: numerous published products; a Federal Law Update; a presentation at the New Member Seminar in Williamsburg, Virginia; and a collaborative seminar. CRS experts also provided briefings for Members and staff regarding the Federal

A portrait of Ida Brudnick, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark blue turtleneck sweater and a blue and white plaid scarf. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred interior space with warm, golden light from chandeliers.

“Detailed, practical information about the administration and operation of Congress can aid Members of Congress and their staff in determining how to best organize their offices, committees and support structure. It is a privilege to provide Congress with timely, authoritative, and balanced information and analysis to support a modern national legislature.”

Ida Brudnick
Specialist on the Congress

Election Campaign Act (FECA). The Service provided legal advice to Members and staff on recent legal developments and constitutional limitations for proposed legislation, focusing on the Supreme Court's decision to establish constitutional parameters for increasing disclosure and limiting financial contributions. Attorneys also provided insight on the constitutionality of legislation intended to enhance the prohibition on foreign nationals contributing to campaigns.

Census. CRS provided research and analysis to support congressional interest in the approaching 2020 decennial census. Issues of interest included Bureau of the Census operations, funding levels, and cost issues related to the decennial census; the proposed addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 census; perceptions of the American Community Survey; various demographic and other statistics derived from census data; and other 2020 census-related preparation.

Government Ethics. During congressional debate about the application and interpretation of ethics rules that govern Members, CRS attorneys researched and advised congressional clients on a variety of legal issues. In response to congressional interest in legal and government ethics, CRS conducted briefings for congressional staff, which included discussions of conflict of interest and political activity restrictions. Attorneys also presented during the Federal Law Update on legal ethics, focusing on standards of conduct applicable to those running for and holding public office.

Legislative Branch Management and Administration. CRS provided information and analysis to congressional staff on the administration and management of Member offices and other institutions within the legislative branch. As the 115th Congress concluded and the 116th Congress began, CRS research and analyses focused on areas such as congressional office operations, casework management and other constituent services, congressional staffing issues, committee funding, and the legislative branch budget, as well as other issues relevant to the work of the House Select Committee

on the Modernization of Congress. CRS experts also provided research and analyses on topics such as the Members' Representational Allowance and the Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account, congressional advisory commissions, commemorations, congressional nominations to service academies and congressional staff benefits.

Legislative Process. CRS experts participated in 47 introductory and advanced institutes on legislative procedure and resources and 22 sessions on the budget and appropriations process in 2019. They also offered a series of seminars geared toward committee staff directors, chiefs of staff, and legislative directors. CRS legislative process analysts assisted Members and staff with understanding complex congressional rules and practices related to considering legislation from introduction to enactment. The Service provided strategic consultations to party leaders, committees and personal offices on virtually all legislation considered on each chamber floor, as well as on many legislative proposals during the drafting and committee consideration stage, including proposals for rules or procedure changes in each chamber. Analysts continued other projects and research related to the Senate's authority to confirm nominations, consideration of a formal rescission package, treaty and trade legislation, and the consideration and passage of new rules and procedures for the 116th Congress.

Lobbying and Ethics. CRS experts produced research and analyses for congressional clients on a range of topics related to lobbying and ethics, including the Foreign Agents Registration Act, ethics pledges in the executive branch, the work of the Office of Government Ethics and regulation under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

Redistricting, Gerrymandering, and the Census.

Congressional interest in redistricting intensified in anticipation of the next round of congressional and state legislative redistricting following the 2020 census. The Supreme Court's ruling in *Rucho v. Common Cause* furthered interest in gerrymandering. In fiscal 2019, attorneys advised Congress on various legal questions

CRS created **64** new products in the area of congressional process, administration and elections.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Changes to House Rules Affecting the Congressional Budget Process Included in H.Res. 6 (116th Congress)" (R45552)

"The Congressional Review Act: Determining Which 'Rules' Must Be Submitted to Congress" (R45248)

"Congressional Subpoenas: Enforcing Executive Branch Compliance" (R45653)

"Constitutional Authority Statements and the Powers of Congress: An Overview" (R44729)

"Designing Congressional Commissions: Background and Considerations for Congress" (R45328)

"Discharge Procedure in the House" (R45920)

"House Rules Changes Affecting Committee Procedure in the 116th Congress (2019-2020)" (R45731)

"House Rules Changes Affecting Floor Proceedings in the 116th Congress (2019-2020)" (R45787)

"House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Structure and Procedures" (R45724)

"The Impeachment Process in the House of Representatives" (R45769)

In Focus

"The 2020 Decennial Census: Overview and Issues" (IF11015)

"Antitrust Law: An Introduction" (IF11234)

"Campaign and Election Security Policy: Brief Introduction" (IF11265)

Insight

"Congressional Member Organizations (CMOs) and Informal Member Groups" (IN11036)

TESTIMONY

Walter Oleszek testified at the Modernization Committee on March 27, 2019, at their hearing on "Congressional Reforms of the Past and Their Effect on Today's Congress." He testified on congressional reform including "the importance of context in influencing the legislative environment for change." He also discussed bipartisan reform efforts in 1945, 1965, and 1993.

about the 2020 census, including the president's authority to include a citizenship question on the census questionnaire, a matter the Court resolved in *Department of Commerce v. New York*. Attorneys produced and published several census-related products and a presentation at the Federal Law Update. CRS experts also provided in-person briefings regarding the Supreme Court and federal appellate court consideration of the constitutionality of partisan gerrymandering; legislation to establish redistricting standards; litigation under state constitutional provisions to invalidate redistricting maps for partisan gerrymandering; and litigation regarding the 2020 census.

Voting Rights. In fiscal 2019, Congress expressed interest in the Voting Rights Act (VRA), a piece of legislation enacted in 1965 that came to the forefront of the political discourse around access to the ballot box and voting discrimination. In March, a CRS attorney testified on the VRA before a House committee, focusing on the act's history, enforcement and key Supreme Court rulings interpreting the law. Attorneys also conducted in-person briefings for Members and staff regarding the constitutionality and legal effect of legislation to amend the VRA to establish a coverage formula for preclearance in response to the Supreme Court's ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

DEFENSE AND INTELLIGENCE

In FY2019, CRS provided research and analysis to Congress related to critical national security issues including strategies, operations, defense budgets, equipment and technology both for today and into the future. CRS analysts considered the implications in the shift of the locus of national security strategy to “great power competition,” examined evolving issues associated with global deployment of U.S. military forces, especially in regions of conflict, and assessed institutional issues within the Department of Defense as it continues to adapt to a rapidly changing environment. Domestic and social issues within the U.S. military were also subjects of intense investigation. Intelligence was congressionally debated, largely as a result of the ongoing challenge of foreign intervention in U.S. elections.

Challenges to Arms Control and the Role of Nuclear Weapons in the Current Security Environment.

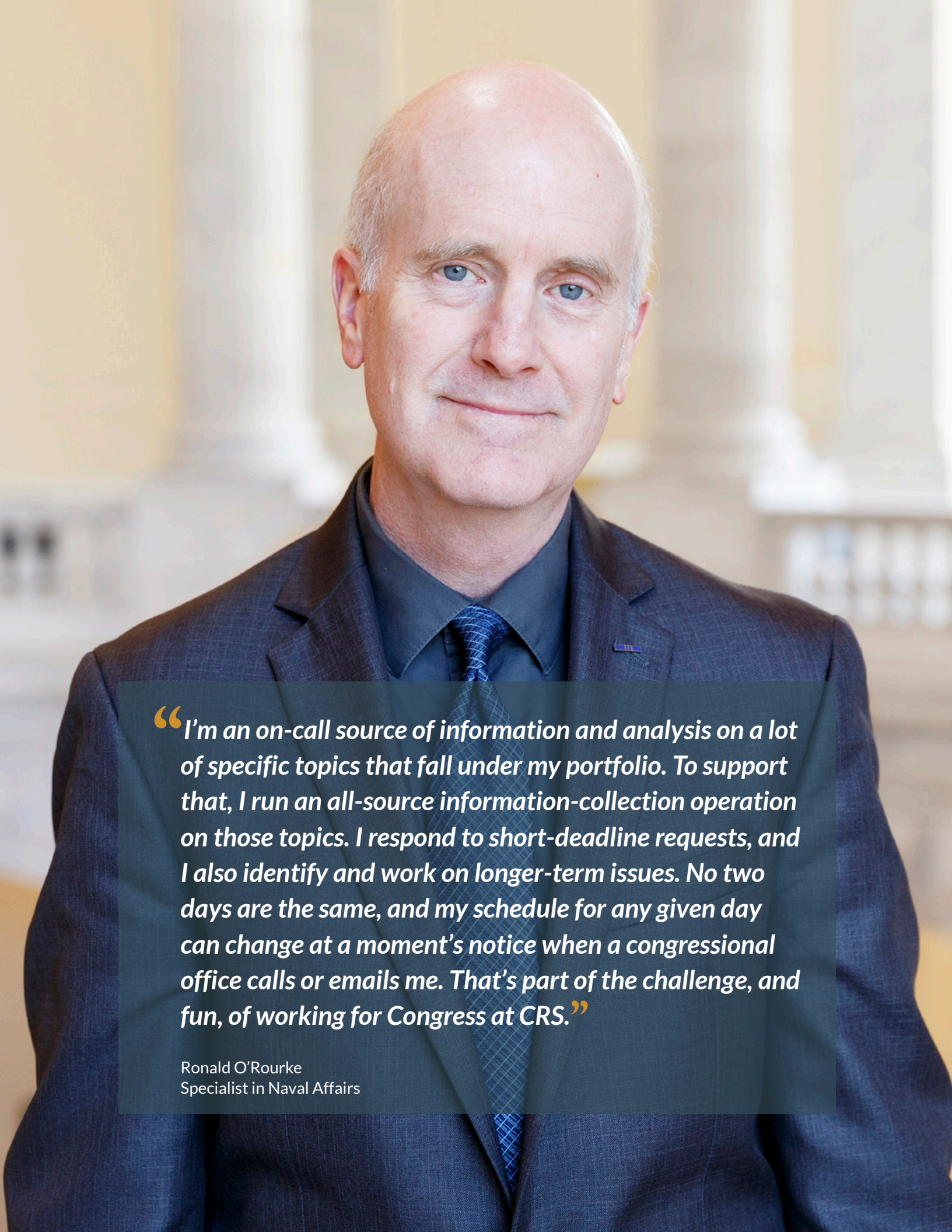
The Service provided Congress with analysis and information on policy options concerning the announced withdrawal of the United States from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, with in-depth analysis on the impending end of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). Analysts produced materials on the future of arms control, the current doctrine and capabilities of Russian nuclear forces, and the role of Congress in conventional arms sales. Experts responded to congressional interest, producing written analyses regarding the U.S. pullout from the Iran nuclear deal, options for the U.S. nuclear weapons enterprise and the increasing use of chemical weapons attacks worldwide. The Service also responded to congressional interest in defense cyberspace operations and Russian cyber-capabilities.

Defense Authorizations and Appropriations. CRS conducted supportive analysis for Congress throughout its consideration of the defense budget—the largest segment of the U.S. government budget—from the time the administration released its proposed budget to the

adoption of defense authorization and appropriations bills. Given that the authorization and appropriations bills identified expenditures over \$700 billion and included more than 1,000 provisions, responding to congressional concerns, interests, and questions with written and consultative engagements was an ongoing process throughout the year.

Defense Personnel. One of Congress’s perennial areas of interest in the defense arena is related to military personnel issues. In fiscal 2019, CRS created products with schema intended to help Congress consider, debate and act on the issues of annual pay raise and regular military compensation, cyber workforce staffing, officer personnel management reform, quality of life benefits, as well as issues such as sexual violence, questions related to transgender military personnel, and reform of the military health care system. Experts also provided vital information on issues related to transitioning veterans’ employment and education.

Defense Personnel Medical Malpractice. The 116th Congress considered loosening restrictions on lawsuits against the United States brought by military

A portrait of Ronald O'Rourke, a middle-aged man with a receding hairline and blue eyes, wearing a dark blue suit, dark blue shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred interior with large windows and white columns.

“I’m an on-call source of information and analysis on a lot of specific topics that fall under my portfolio. To support that, I run an all-source information-collection operation on those topics. I respond to short-deadline requests, and I also identify and work on longer-term issues. No two days are the same, and my schedule for any given day can change at a moment’s notice when a congressional office calls or emails me. That’s part of the challenge, and fun, of working for Congress at CRS.”

Ronald O’Rourke
Specialist in Naval Affairs

servicemembers. Military medical malpractice and the *Feres* doctrine were of particular interest. The Department of Defense employs physicians and other medical personnel to administer health care services to servicemembers. Occasionally, patient safety events occur, and providers commit medical malpractice by rendering health care in a negligent fashion. Attorneys provided summaries of the standards and procedures that govern medical malpractice claims made by servicemembers and analyzed future considerations for Congress.

Emerging Technology and Advanced Weapons Implications for National Security. Congressional attention on the national security implications of emerging technologies grew over the course of the year, especially in the context of revelations regarding Russian use of information operations—including social engineering, propaganda, and misinformation—and increasing worldwide use of cyber-weapons. CRS experts provided Congress with a significant set of new products on these issues, including on hypersonic weapons, electronic warfare, ground robotic/autonomous

systems, and political warfare. Along with examining the national security implications of these technological developments, analysts also provided Congress with in-depth analyses on the funding of emerging capabilities and the role and structure of the combatant commands in the U.S. national security establishment. CRS also provided written analyses to clients on key U.S. military capability issues, ranging from the proposed Space Force to the Air Force's 30-year aircraft procurement plan.

Emerging Technology and Its Implications for National Security. Congressional interest in the national security implications of emerging technologies continued in 2019, particularly in the context of revelations regarding Russian use of misinformation operations and the increasing prevalence of artificial intelligence in defense capabilities. CRS legal experts provided briefings and written reports on these new technologies. Congress also expressed interest in understanding the legal implications of an increasing worldwide exploitation of cyber-capabilities by numerous nations.



CRS created **126** new products in the area of defense and intelligence.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Assessing NATO's Value" (R45652)

"Covert Actions and Clandestine Activities of the Intelligence Communities: Framework for Congressional Oversight" (R45996)

"FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act: Selected Military Personnel Issues" (R45343)

"FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 5515)" (R45816)

"FY2019 Defense Appropriations Act" (R45689)

"Ground Electronic Warning: Issues for Congress" (R45919)

"U.S. Ground Forces Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS) and Artificial Intelligence (AI): Considerations for Congress" (R45392)

"The Trump Administration's 'Free and Open' Indo-Pacific" (R45396)

In Focus

"Cooperative Security in the Middle East" (IF11173)

"Defense's 30-Year Aircraft Plan Reveals New Details" (IF10999)

"International Discussions of Lethal Autonomous Weapons" (IF11294)

"U.S. Arms Sales and Human Rights: Legislative Basis and Frequently Asked Questions" (IF11197)

"Toward the Creation of a U.S. 'Space Force'" (IF11294)

Legal Sidebar

"The Feres Doctrine: Congress, the Courts, and Military Servicemember Lawsuits Against the United States" (LSB10305)

"U.S. Strike on Syrian Airbase: Legal under International Law?" (LSB10230)

"Declarations under the National Emergencies Act, Part 1: Declarations Currently in Effect" (LSB10252)

"Declarations under the National Emergencies Act, Part 2: Declarations No Longer in Effect" (LSB10253)

"Definition of National Emergency under the National Emergencies Act" (LSB10267)

"Waiver of Congressional Notification Period in the Arms Export Control Act" (LSB10304)



MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

EDUCATION

During the fiscal year, Congress contemplated legislation that would make major changes to the federal student aid programs that support students who are pursuing postsecondary education. Additionally, Congress explored policy options related to school choice. In each of these areas, CRS provided technical and analytical support and helped to define policy-relevant problems and clarify policy options.

Affirmative Action. The last few years have seen renewed debate over the role that race plays in higher education, particularly relating to affirmative action. In fiscal 2019, Congress expressed interest in a high-profile lawsuit that challenged Harvard University's consideration of race in admitting its incoming classes and in a recent withdrawal of Obama Administration guidance addressing similar race-conscious policies. Attorneys briefed staffers and provided a Federal Law Update seminar, which analyzed the constitutionality of race-conscious measures in higher education and addressed mandatory and voluntary affirmative action.

Education Law, Regulations and Acts. The Department of Education (ED) enacted numerous new policies during the past year. Congress expressed interest in understanding the legal implications of these changes and a wider view of education law. Attorneys briefed staffers and authored reports on ED regulations, particularly those related to liability for sexual abuse and harassment under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The Service also considered issues related to corporal punishment, seclusion, restraint

and expulsion/suspension of students in K-12 schools. Attorneys also advised on multiple drafts of bills related to these issues. In debates on equal access to educational opportunities, Members discussed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Act, which specifically pertains to restrictions placed on the use of funds in various institutions. Attorneys authored products on these topics, providing information to Members in relation to changing education policies.

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Congress relied extensively on CRS to support its ongoing consideration of a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965. While Congress contemplated major changes to the federal student aid programs for postsecondary students authorized under the law, CRS provided technical and analytical support and helped to define policy-relevant problems and clarify policy options. Experts provided in-depth analyses of a host of related proposals, which included modifications to student loan repayment benefits, consolidation and simplification of student aid programs, alterations to the design of Pell Grants and



“CRS helps congressional offices distill information from myriad sources and inputs by providing reliable and nonpartisan analysis. Through this work, we serve as a sounding board for congressional ideas and policies and support legislative decision-making.”

Alex Hegji
Analyst in Social Policy

changes to the federal student aid need analysis formula. The Service also provided substantial support to the development of legislative proposals for improving the consumer information available to prospective students and for altering the metrics used to hold institutions of higher education accountable for the quality of their education programs.

Student Loans. During fiscal 2019, Congress considered modifying the treatment of student loans under federal financial, education, and bankruptcy laws and held hearings to consider the issue. This topic is of considerable interest due to the dramatic increase in student loan debt in the United States over the years, and the inability of many borrowers to repay the loans. Attorneys advised several staffers on this issue and updated existing products on the topic to reflect new judicial and legislative developments.

Title IX and Sexual Harassment. Congress expressed interest in an ever-changing legal landscape surrounding Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, including proposed regulations from ED that concerned sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination. Several products by CRS legal experts focused on the historical evolution of law in this area. For example, one product analyzed issues regarding the Clery Act, which mandates reporting of campus crime data and security information. Another product focused on the implications of schools' responsibilities to manage and report allegations of sexual harassment or abuse and how definitions have changed under the new guidelines. This report addressed relevant cases, such as *Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District* and *Davis Next Friend LaShonda D. v. Monroe County Board of Education* and other recent legal changes on this topic.



Jeff Fernandez, collections
management librarian

CRS created **35** new products in the area of education.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Affirmative Action' and Equal Protection in Higher Education" (R45481)

"Civil Rights at School: Agency Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964" (R45665)

"Federal Pell Grant Program of the Higher Education Act: Primer" (R45418)

"Federal Student Loans Made Through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program: Terms and Conditions for Borrowers" (R45931)

"Flexibility for Equitable Per-Pupil Spending Under Title I, Part E of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act" (R45862)

"K-12 Teacher Recruitment and Retention Policies in the Higher Education Act: In Brief" (R45914)

"Laws Affecting Students with Disabilities: Preschool Through Postsecondary Education" (R45595)

"National and International Educational Assessments: Overview, Results, and Issues" (R45401)

"The Postsecondary Undergraduate Population: Student Income and Demographics" (R45686)

"The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program: Selected Issues" (R45389)

"Prisoners' Eligibility for Pell Grants: Issues for Congress" (R45737)

"Reauthorization of the Perkins Act in the 115th Congress: The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act" (R45446)

"State and Local Financing of Public Schools" (R45827)

In Focus

"The Clery Act: Requirements and Legal Issues" (IF11277)



MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

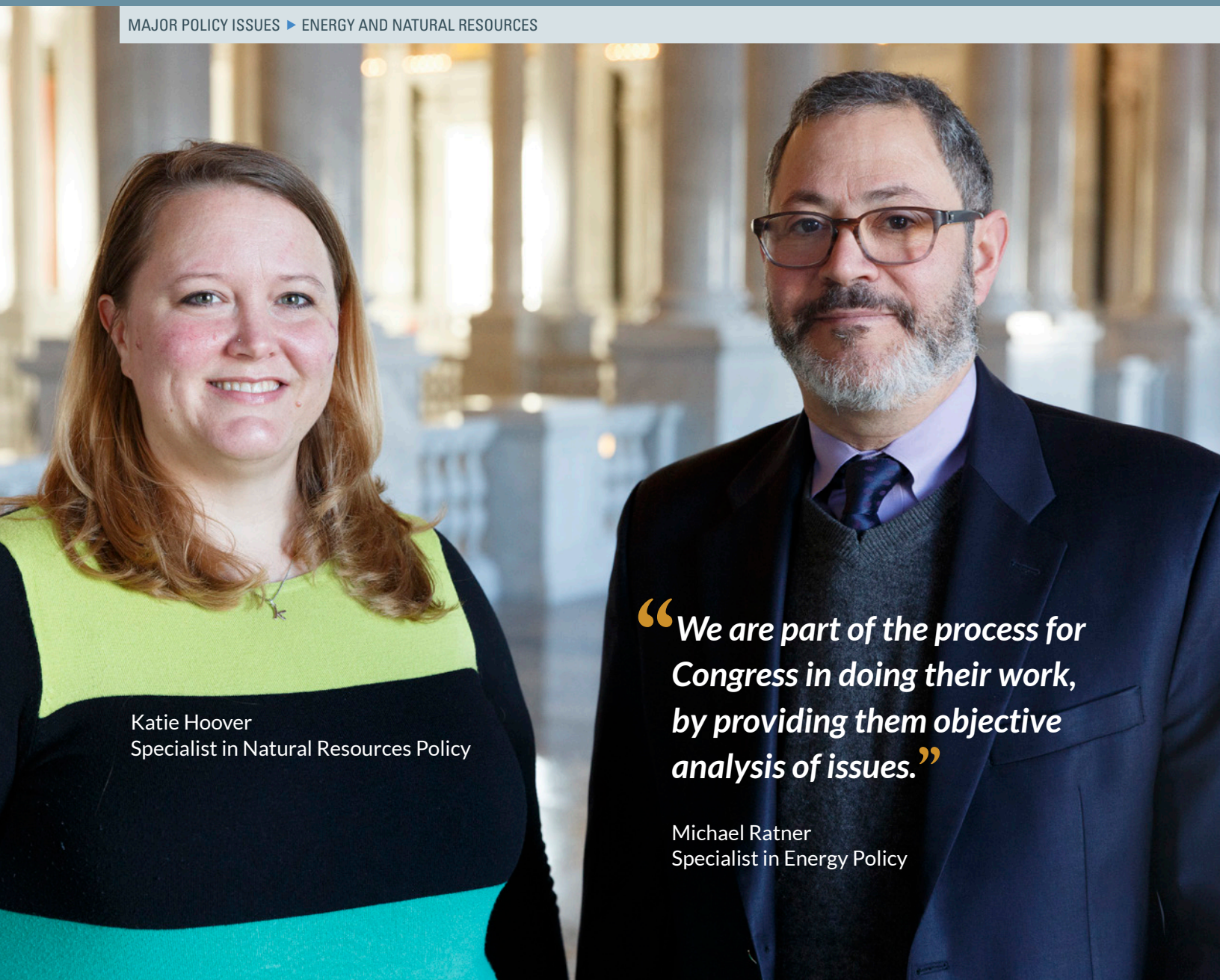
Congressional interest in natural resources and energy focused on several key areas, including federal lands and their management; supply, consumption and trade of various energy sources; and preparation for and response to a range of natural hazards and disasters. Key among these issues was access to federal lands for hunting, fishing and energy development. Congress also conducted oversight of causes and recovery efforts following several natural disasters, including land-falling hurricanes on the east coast, as well as California wildfires and their impact to the electricity grid.

Advanced Nuclear Technology. Some consider new nuclear reactor designs to be a pathway to lowering emissions from the electricity sector, revitalizing the nuclear power industry, and developing less expensive, safer reactors. The 115th Congress enacted two bills to promote the development of advanced nuclear reactors, including the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act, signed in January 2019. CRS assisted Member and committee offices by discussing nuclear technologies, analyzing the potential effects of legislation in preparation for House and Senate floor votes, and examining enacted legislation.

Critical Minerals. A range of minerals, including rare earth elements, are considered critical to the United States in applications for national defense, telecommunications, and advanced energy technology. In 2018, the Department of the Interior (DOI) published a final list of 35 critical minerals in response to an executive order. CRS analyzed the DOI list, as well as bills introduced in the 116th Congress to expand U.S. supplies of some minerals on the list, in preparation for committee hearings on the bills and on oversight of federal agency actions to secure supplies of these minerals.

Federally Listed Species. The Service informed Congress on several issues related to federally listed fish, wildlife, and plants. CRS provided expert support and written analysis to Congress while it considered legislative and administrative actions related to federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and other statutory authorities. Members and committees across Congress expressed interest in issues related to threatened and endangered species, and CRS provided extensive analytical support on issues related to listed and listing species, critical habitats, and required consultations pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. Analysts and attorneys analyzed administrative updates to regulations that implement the Endangered Species Act, and the Service provided analytical support on issues related to migratory birds listed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. CRS also informed Congress on issues related to the take of migratory birds and concerns related to depredation events and permits.

Management of Federal Lands. CRS analysts, attorneys, and information professionals collaborated to provide input and analyses to committees and offices, including seminars and briefings on federal land



Katie Hoover
Specialist in Natural Resources Policy

“We are part of the process for Congress in doing their work, by providing them objective analysis of issues.”

Michael Ratner
Specialist in Energy Policy

management issues, during the transition to the 116th Congress. The Service supported Congress in addressing a wide array of topics related to the management of federal lands during fiscal 2019. These topics included the following: federal land ownership, easements, and other agreements; strategies to address forest health and increase carbon sequestration potential; hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation; access for energy development; presidential authority to proclaim and amend national monuments under the Antiquities

Act of 1906; species and habitat conservation and the prevention and control of invasive species; the backlog of deferred maintenance for the National Park Service and other land management agencies; federal programs to preserve historical and cultural resources; payment programs to states and counties containing federal lands; and proposals to amend and reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, which established a fund for federal land acquisition, state grants for outdoor recreation, and other purposes.

Oil and Gas Pipeline Infrastructure. The Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration manages the federal pipeline safety program, which was authorized through fiscal 2019. The House and Senate considered various bills to reauthorize the program, and CRS assisted Congress by analyzing and comparing the legislative proposals for committee hearings and markups on the range of bills. The Service also helped Members examine pipelines that affect their districts, supported committee staff in preparing pipeline oversight and legislative hearings, and provided integrated policy and legal analysis of federal court decisions in pipeline-related litigation.

Oil and Gas Supplies, Prices, and Energy Security. Congress remains interested in international oil and gas markets and their effects on U.S. supplies and markets. CRS experts analyzed the ongoing actions of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), as well as several non-OPEC countries, and the effects on oil and gas prices. The Service also analyzed the potential effects of energy-related sanctions on Venezuela and Iran. And, CRS experts examined the potential revenue and effects on Strategic Petroleum Reserve volumes from sales authorized through legislation enacted by the 114th and 115th Congresses.

Response and Recovery After the 2017

Hurricanes. Congress continued its focus on disaster recovery in states and territories that were affected by the 2017 hurricanes, including Hurricanes Irma, Maria, and Harvey. CRS experts provided written products and briefings to inform Congress's examination of federal programs to support rebuilding infrastructure; invest in mitigation; and assist individuals, households, and businesses in their recovery efforts. Congress followed developments in Puerto Rico across 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 and constitutional status of

Puerto Rico, among other issues. To cover the breadth and complexity of those issue areas, analysts and attorneys used an interdisciplinary approach to respond to congressional requests and to anticipate evolving policy concerns.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The administration's proposal to fund the construction of a physical barrier along the southern border with Mexico generated congressional interest in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues, including funding and oversight. Related topics included the potential use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works funds to pay for a wall on the Mexican border, potential or actual effects of a border wall on endangered/threatened species and ecosystems, and the U.S. historical context for taking land for a border wall.

Water Resources and Earth Sciences. Congress utilized CRS's support during legislative deliberations on the management, use, and protection of water bodies and aquatic resources. Analysts and attorneys provided expert support and written analyses to inform congressional approval of a multistate water shortage agreement for managing the Colorado River. CRS experts routinely assessed policy options and challenges related to water storage projects in the West, Indian water rights settlements, regional aquatic ecosystem restoration efforts, and aquatic species management. CRS also provided written examinations of stream monitoring networks and landslide hazard legislation. The Service synthesized technical information to support Congress with response and recovery related to floods in the Midwest and coastal storms during the year. CRS provided expertise on protecting coastal barrier protections, managing marine debris, and protecting coastal communities and ecosystems from storm damage. Analysts and attorneys provided analytical support to Congress on water agreements and authorities to redirect water resources appropriations during national emergencies.

CRS created **71** new products in the area of energy and natural resources.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

“Water Resource Issues in the 116th Congress” (R45492)

“Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act: Understanding Apportionments for States and Territories” (R45667)

“Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA): Overview and Issues for Congress” (R45460)

“Wild and Scenic Rivers: Designation, Management, and Funding” (R45890)

“International Trophy Hunting” (R45615)

“Critical Minerals and U.S. Public Policy” (R45810)

“Electricity Portfolio Standards: Background, Design Elements, and Policy Considerations” (R45913)

“LNG as a Maritime Fuel: Prospects and Policy” (R45488)

“Strategic Petroleum Reserve: Mandated Sales and Reform” (R45577)

“Vehicle Electrification: Federal and State Issues Affecting Deployment” (R45747)

“The World Oil Market and U.S. Policy: Background and Select Issues for Congress” (R45493)

In Focus

“No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC) Act of 2019” (IF11186)

“Fire and Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon ” (IF11306)

Insight

“Attacks Against Saudi Oil Rattle Markets” (IN11167)

NOTABLE EVENTS

The program “Using Defense Funds for Construction in a National Emergency,” held on February 6 and February 7, 2019, provided an overview of policy, fiscal, and legal considerations related to a potential presidential declaration of a national emergency and related authorities the Department of Defense (DOD) may use to commit funding to related construction, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works programs.

The program “Knauss Legislative Fellow Orientation,” held March 1, 2019, introduced the new Knauss Sea Grant Fellows to the pending natural resource, energy, and environmental issues they were likely to deal with during their year working for congressional offices and committees.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Service assisted Congress during consideration of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, enacted near the end of the 115th Congress. Among other provisions, it authorizes funding for a broad range of water infrastructure projects and programs and water quality control efforts, including reducing lead contamination. The law also provided explicit authority for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "WaterSense" water conservation program. The Service also assisted Congress on a variety of issues regarding climate change, air and water quality monitoring and control standards, chemical contamination, nuclear materials management, mined lands reclamation, environmental justice, and environmental review requirements for infrastructure projects. CRS also provided extensive support in helping Congress understand the scope and implications of proposed and final revisions to environmental regulations.

Air Quality Issues. The Service provided authoritative research and analyses on a variety of air-related issues, including air quality standards, air toxics standards, automobile emission standards, interstate transport, and the role of state versus federal agencies. CRS assisted Members in their consideration of air toxics rules applicable to power plants and industrial sources of ethylene oxide, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed changes to the preconstruction permitting program known as New Source Review. The Service also informed Congress on the role of cost-benefit analysis in establishing Clean Air Act standards and provided analyses on fundamental technology and market trends and their influences on air quality.

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Control. The Service provided Members and staff with context and analysis of the potential implications of the administration's decisions to review, rescind, or replace a number of environmental regulations that

address climate change and control of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Some Members expressed interest in Congress's authority to block implementation of these decisions and the scope of federal agency authority to review, reconsider, delay, or repeal environmental regulations. Legal experts prepared materials in response to congressional interest about the Bureau of Land Management's rule to reduce methane emissions from oil and natural gas operations on federal lands and rules issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA that define the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act. CRS experts provided Congress with analyses of changes to federal regulation of GHG emissions linked to climate change, including objective analyses of the options and legal issues involved in ongoing litigation and EPA regulatory actions seeking to change GHG standards for automobiles, power plants, and oil and gas facilities. CRS assisted Members in their consideration of a variety of legislative proposals to control GHG emissions, including potential technological advances (e.g., carbon capture), clean energy/renewable fuel

standards, and carbon emissions pricing. Members introduced a range of bills to expand or limit federal authority to control emissions from power plants and other sources; regulate the energy efficiency of a range of consumer and industrial goods and processes; amend the federal Renewable Fuel Standard, which requires the use of biofuels in transportation; and establish a federal renewable or clean energy standard for electric power producers. Throughout a year of costly extreme weather events, CRS helped inform Congress of the roles climate change may play in exacerbating some disasters; the impacts of such events on specific geographical areas; and the policy options that might help reduce future costs and increase community resilience, such as infrastructure investment options. CRS also supported congressional foreign policy and national security interests in climate change treaties, military base vulnerabilities to sea level rise, and extreme weather and effects from migration related to droughts, crop failures, and floods.

Environmental Justice. During fiscal 2019, Congress expressed interest in environmental justice issues across federal programs and activities. The Service informed Congress of academic research on environmental justice issues, including differences in research methodology and approaches. In addition, CRS experts provided analyses to Congress on how natural disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, and wildfires, may impact disadvantaged communities.

Federal Environmental Review of Infrastructure Projects. The Service provided detailed authoritative analyses on issues relevant to the environmental review process for infrastructure projects, including energy, fuel, transportation, and natural resources projects. These analyses informed congressional debate about legislative proposals intended to expedite infrastructure project delivery by changing federal agency procedures for environmental review of those projects. CRS provided Congress with analyses of the various federal requirements that shape federal environmental reviews, including the identification of relevant provisions in the

authorizing legislation for specific federal funding or regulatory programs. Experts also analyzed a complex array of cross-cutting requirements established in multiple federal laws and executive orders, which apply broadly to any federal agency decision to fund projects, authorize proposed projects, or both. These analyses integrated CRS staff's multidisciplinary skills—expertise in legal, economic, scientific, and regulatory policy—to ensure a comprehensive view of issues for Congress.

Nuclear Waste Management. High-level radioactive waste from commercial reactors and defense activities is currently stored at sites around the country. Funding for the legally designated and proposed disposal project in Nevada (Yucca Mountain) ended in 2010. Recent congressional activity has focused primarily on addressing concerns about developing interim storage sites away from existing reactors, particularly at the sites where nuclear waste remains stored after the reactor power operations have ceased. The House and Senate held hearings on interim storage and disposal of nuclear waste, and Members of both chambers introduced bills intended to address high-level radioactive waste and uranium mill tailings. CRS experts analyzed U.S. radioactive waste policy, past federal expenditures, nuclear waste transportation options, safety, and other aspects of these issues.

Federal Environmental Review of Infrastructure Projects. CRS legal experts provided written and oral testimony for the hearing entitled “Examining the Underlying Science and Impacts of Glider Truck Regulations” on the rulemaking process the EPA used to adopt emission standards for glider vehicles, glider engines, and glider kits and proposed to repeal them.

Vessel Incidental Discharge Act. CRS attorneys provided substantial support, analyses, and guidance to congressional efforts to enact the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018 (VIDA). The VIDA establishes a framework for regulating discharges incidental to a vessel's normal operation under a new Clean Water Act and

intends to streamline the patchwork of federal, state, and local requirements for the commercial vessel community.

Water Quality Issues. Congress relied on CRS for support regarding perennial and new water quality issues. The Service assisted Congress in evaluating options for legislation that would address water infrastructure funding (including proposed amendments to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act) and water system finance. CRS experts also responded to congressional interest in vessel incidental discharges, such as ballast water, and the scope of waters regulated under the Clean Water Act. The Service provided research, analyses, and responses to site-specific questions to support Congress with administrative rulemaking and

court actions related to the act. In response to some Members' concerns and resulting legislative proposals about emerging contaminants, such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and lead in drinking water, CRS experts provided analyses of these proposals and answered site-specific questions.

Water Quality Policy. CRS experts provided consultations and in-depth analyses on perennial and new water quality policy. The Service analyzed conflicting and developing case law regarding the Clean Water Act's jurisdiction over pollutant discharges to groundwater hydrologically connected to navigable waters. Attorneys reviewed draft legislative proposals to regulate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act.



Where these chemicals were produced, used, or disposed such as:

- Industrial manufacturing facilities
- Fire-fighting training areas that used AFFF
- Other use sites
- Landfills
- Wastewater treatment facilities

Depending on the site-specific conditions, releases may migrate through the environment and present a pathway of exposure (e.g., migration through groundwater to a drinking water well)

Various federal and state inventories track release sites and detections in public water supplies, but a comprehensive inventory of release sites, detections, and number of exposed individuals is not available

David M. Bearden, specialist in environmental policy and Elena H. Humphreys, analyst in environmental policy

CRS created **39** new products in the area of environmental policy.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Attaching a Price to Greenhouse Gas Emissions with a Carbon Tax or Emissions Fee: Considerations and Potential Impacts" (R45625)

"Long-Term Federal Management of Uranium Mill Tailings: Background and Issues for Congress" (R45880)

"Waters of the United States" (WOTUS): Current Status of the 2015 Clean Water Rule" (R45424)

"PFAS and Drinking Water: Selected EPA and Congressional Actions" (R45793)

"EPA's Affordable Clean Energy Proposal" (R45393)

"Clean Air Act Issues in the 116th Congress" (R45451)

"U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions in the Electricity Sector: Factors, Trends, and Projections" (R45453)

"Maintaining Electric Reliability with Wind and Solar Sources: Background and Issues for Congress" (R45764)

In Focus

"Controlling Lead in Public Drinking Water Supplies" (IF11302)

"The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund Tax: Background and Reauthorization Issues in the 116th Congress" (IF11160)

"Regulating Drinking Water Contaminants: EPA PFAS Actions" (IF11219)

"WIFIA Program: Background and Recent Developments" (IF11193)

"Ozone and Particulate Matter Air Standards: EPA Review" (IF11288)

Insight

"EPA Repeals the Clean Power Plan and Finalizes Affordable Clean Energy Rule" (IN11142)

NOTABLE EVENT

The program "Electric Vehicles: Federal and State Policy Issues," held June 25, 2019, discussed global trends in electric vehicle production; federal efforts to support the development of electric vehicles through tax incentives, research funding, and regulation; and state laws and regulations that may significantly affect the rate of electric vehicle adoption.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND RULEMAKING


The Service supported Congress in its oversight of the executive branch, including its review of the promulgation of agency rules, agency information technology (IT) modernization efforts, and competitive civil service hiring authorities. The Service also assisted Congress in its oversight of key reorganization activities within the executive branch, including proposed implementation strategies for transferring functions of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to other federal agencies. Analysts, attorneys and librarians provided consultations to Congress during the partial government shutdown, offering insight into agency shutdown procedures and related operational issues.

Civil Service. CRS legal experts provided assistance to congressional staff on a variety of issues related to the civil service. Attorneys prepared written products and delivered a presentation about the statutory framework governing the federal civilian workforce. Congressional interest in the federal workplace prompted several new written products, including one on the reorganization of OPM. CRS held a seminar on the federal workforce to discuss topics ranging from civil service classification to the role of the Merit Systems Protection Board in resolving employment disputes. Attorneys also addressed the Merit Systems Protection Board and its lack of quorum, with one attorney testifying on the issue before a House committee.

Executive Branch Operations. In fiscal 2019, Congress expressed interest in the executive branch's authority and Congress's ability to oversee and check the president's power. CRS attorneys provided a seminar on congressional and presidential war powers and analysis

of proposed legislation to authorize or limit the use of armed force. Executive branch vacancies prompted congressional requests for calls, briefings, memoranda, and testimony on the legal authorities that govern "acting" service, delegation of duties, and appointment of officers. The Service provided extensive support for Members and staffers in these areas.

Emergency Management. Congress passed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA), which represented the most substantial changes to emergency management policy in years. The Service supported this effort through regular briefings, consultations, and seminars, as well as analyses on the act's effects on disaster planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. CRS published a foundational report that provided an overview of selected sections of DRRA, which amends many provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

A woman with long brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a dark blazer over a light blue shirt and maroon pants, stands on the left. A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit, a light blue checkered shirt, and a blue patterned tie, stands on the right. They are in a grand hall with tall columns and a patterned floor.

“We serve Congress by helping Members and staff understand the legal framework and history relevant to current legislative priorities, giving them the context to understand how best to achieve their goals.”

Valerie Brannon
Legislative Attorney

William Painter
Specialist in Homeland Security
and Appropriations

continued to be a subject of congressional debate, with four short-term reauthorizations in 2018 and long-term reauthorization bills introduced in the House and Senate. The NFIP insures property exposed to flood risk and aims to reduce flood risk through floodplain management standards. CRS experts provided legislative guidance for options to prevent the NFIP's lapse while Congress worked toward a permanent reauthorization. In addition, CRS experts responded to congressional requests concerning the NFIP's new "Risk Rating 2.0" proposal, which represents the biggest change to the way the NFIP calculates flood insurance premiums since its inception. Congress showed interest in how these changes might impact the affordability of NFIP premiums and in legislative options for guarding against a rate shock to NFIP policyholders. In response to high congressional interest in the president's repurposing of appropriated funds for border barrier construction, the Service prepared several written products and briefed Members and staffers on the issue, including on the president's authority under the National Emergencies Act and Congress's response options.

Executive Branch Reorganization. During fiscal 2019, the Service continued research and analysis regarding the administration's plans and proposals to reform and reorganize the executive branch. These plans and proposals include congressional consideration of legislation to reassign statutory functions; redirect appropriations; alter agency leadership arrangements; move, merge, or abolish agencies or functions; change how agencies operate; or otherwise rearrange the federal bureaucracy. For example, when the administration began to implement its proposal to reorganize OPM, CRS experts assisted Congress in preparing for hearings and analyzing draft legislative proposals. The Service published products that outlined the administration's efforts to reorganize OPM, highlighting the origins of the office and its original structure and purposes. CRS analysts also engaged with the Government Accountability Office to share

information in support of its ongoing work to evaluate reorganization efforts.

Federal Information Technology Management.

CRS provided policy analysis to Members and congressional committees on a wide range of IT management issues, such as agency IT modernization efforts; hiring flexibilities for IT personnel; IT acquisition and investment management training; IT software development methods (i.e., agile development); and shared services in the federal government.

Federal Pay and Personnel. The Service supported Congress on topics related to the administration and management of executive branch personnel. Much of this assistance involved research, analyses, and consultations on matters related to proposals to restructure and reshape the executive branch workforce and proposals to reorganize OPM, the Merit Systems Protection Board, and the Office of Special Counsel. CRS assistance also focused on authorities and appointments under competitive service and excepted service, including hiring flexibilities available under current law; human capital management principles and practices; policies on federal compensation; and appropriations issues related to the personnel management agencies. In addition, CRS experts provided seminars to legislative staff covering personnel classification systems, hiring authorities and processes, federal family and medical leave programs, and the purposes and activities of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Government Information Policy. During fiscal 2019, Congress consulted with CRS experts regarding access to and protection of government information. The Service published products on government information policy and practices, which included research on accessing, collecting, maintaining, and disposing federal records, with a particular focus on electronic records management practices and digital records maintenance. Analysts and librarians answered numerous requests for

data on the Freedom of Information Act and on the federal government's more than 1,000 federal advisory committees, which provide opportunities for the public to participate in the policymaking process. Congress consulted with CRS experts regarding congressional access to classified executive branch information and various policies and procedures related to classifying, protecting, and accessing presidential records. In addition, analysts supported Congress in drafting legislation focused on how federal agencies, in concert with nonfederal stakeholders, generate information to facilitate agency learning and decision-making. This support included analysis of legislation that became the Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, which established institutions within agencies that undertake activities related to evaluation and analysis. The law also promoted information sharing among federal agencies for evaluative purposes.

Government Shutdown. The partial government shutdown from Dec. 22, 2018, to Jan. 25, 2019, generated congressional requests about its effect on specific agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration, EPA, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service. CRS experts provided information and analyses regarding agency planning and activities and the government shutdown's potential impacts on services.

Inspectors General. In fiscal 2019, CRS experts assisted congressional staff with a variety of policy issues related to Offices of Inspector General (OIGs), including the appropriations and staffing levels provided to OIGs; appointment and removal procedures; the status of inspector general (IG) vacancies and their impact on oversight capabilities; the establishment of special IGs for cross-cutting government programs; the enhancement of IG independence through various powers and authorities; investigatory procedures and subsequent reporting to Congress; and enhanced transparency for open recommendations and processes to address alleged IG misconduct. A new CRS report

covered statutorily created IGs, including their structure, functions, and related issues for Congress.

Postal Service. CRS regularly provided Congress support on a broad range of postal issues. Members traditionally have taken interest in the operations of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), including the services provided, delivery standards, and postal facilities and fleet. The Service provided briefings on postal issues to Members, their staffers, and committee staff addressing disparate postal issues, including post office closures, postal finances, USPS employee pensions and health care, postal reform legislation, and pending nominees to the Postal Board of Governors. In particular, CRS experts provided assistance to Members and congressional committees related to the administration's notice of withdrawal from the Universal Postal Union. CRS staff provided assistance on other issues related to international postal management, including proposed changes intended to prevent the importation of opioids and other illicit drugs through international mail.

Puerto Rico. During 2019, Congress followed developments in Puerto Rico across 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 Puerto Rico's political and constitutional status, among other issues. Using an interdisciplinary approach, analysts and attorneys responded to congressional requests and anticipated evolving policy concerns.

Real Property. CRS provided Congress support in addressing a range of real property issues. One area of particular interest was the implementation of real property reform legislation, the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016, which makes significant changes to real property disposal across the government. Congress also sought assistance in evaluating alternative financing mechanisms, such as public-

private partnerships and the uses and limitations of data published in the Federal Real Property Profile. The Service provided briefings and published a report that addressed personal property management practices and potential risks related to inventories and disposal of personal property by federal agencies.

Regulations and Rulemaking. The Service provided significant support to Congress on federal agency rulemaking and regulatory reform, primarily by advising staff on executive orders and statutes that govern the federal rulemaking process. In particular, CRS provided consultations and published products that clarified the types of executive actions that qualify as rules and explained particular procedures that accompany “major” or “significant” rules. In addition, CRS experts published several targeted works related to aspects of the Congressional Review Act (CRA), such as new Office of Management and Budget guidance related to the law’s application for independent agencies and a case study that tested the law’s ban on promulgating “substantially the same” rules. The Service provided expert information and analysis to Congress on the Administration’s deregulatory agenda, including the implementation of the president’s executive orders on federal rulemaking and other presidential and White House initiatives. CRS analyzed regulatory reform proposals, as requested by various Members and committees, and advised on the legal standards and other matters related to judicial review of agency actions.

Security Clearances and Background Investigations.

Congress sought assistance and analysis from CRS experts on a range of topics regarding ongoing developments in security clearance procedures, including the transfer of the National Background Investigations Bureau from OPM to the Department of Defense. CRS staff provided assistance and analyses to Congress on sensitive issues related to the protection of government information, including access to classified information by former government officials, security clearance revocation procedures, and security clearance adjudicative standards. The Service provided Congress with analyses of the history of investigative responsibilities for background investigations and security clearances, administrative recommendations and legislative proposals for security clearance reform, and the implications of the background investigation backlog.

Regulations and Rulemaking. Congress showed elevated interest in the CRA after using it to overturn a 2013 guidance document from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The CRA provides Congress with a mechanism to review federal agency actions that meet its definition of “rule.” CRS experts provided support on topics such as the CRA’s applicability to various agency actions and published reports and analyses of the act. Interest in this area also focused on Congress’s ability to control and oversee federal administrative agencies. A CRS report described the tools available to Congress that can be used to influence agency decision-making.

CRS created **55** new products in the area of federal government operations and rulemaking.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Agency Delay: Congressional and Judicial Means to Expedite Agency Rulemaking" (R45336)

"Categories of Federal Civil Service Employment: A Snapshot" (R45635)

"Congress's Authority to Influence and Control Executive Branch Agencies" (R45442)

"The Congressional Review Act: Determining Which 'Rules' Must Be Submitted to Congress" (R45248)

"Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB): A Legal Overview" (R45630)

"The Trump Administration and the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions" (R45032)

In Focus

"The Congressional Review Act: Defining a 'Rule' and Overturning a Rule an Agency Did Not Submit to Congress" (IF11096)

Insight

"2019 Midwest Flooding: FEMA and Other Federal Programs and Resources" (IN11084)

"Administration Proposal to Reorganize the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM)" (IN11110)

Legal Sidebar

"Deference and its Discontents: Will the Supreme Court Overrule Chevron?" (LSB10204)

"How a Government Shutdown Affects Government Contracts" (LSB10243)

"Notable Administrative Law Developments from 2018" (LSB10248)

"President Encourages Agencies to Buy American-Produced Goods & Materials" (LSB10256)

"When Does the Government Have to Disclose Private Business Information in its Possession?" (LSB10294)

"Who Can Serve as Acting Attorney General" (LSB10217)



MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

FEDERAL JUDICIARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Congress has a perennial interest in judicial decisions that affect the constitutionality of state and federal legislative enactments. In fiscal 2018, attorneys and analysts prepared written products on numerous topics concerning constitutional law and the federal judiciary, including but not limited to federalism-based limitations on congressional power, campaign finance, presidential pardon authority and abortion. The Service also provided legislative and analytical support as the Senate considered judicial nominations.

Abortion. Congressional interest in abortion and the Hyde Amendment, which generally restricts the use of federal funds to pay for the medical procedure, prompted numerous briefings with congressional staff and several new written products.

Federalism and Separation of Powers. The Constitution's structural limitations on Congress's legislative authority are an issue of perennial importance to Congress. To assist Congress with understanding the constitutional boundaries of its legislative authority, CRS legal experts published a new product analyzing these federalism doctrines and presented a seminar on the doctrines to Members and staff. Other CRS products focused on the separation of powers and related issues concerning Congress's ability to control the jurisdiction of the federal courts and the Supreme Court. CRS experts addressed questions of how and whether a party that brings a case to a federal court can prove they have "standing." The reports on this matter discussed the reasons why showing standing is pertinent in recent cases, as it pertains to the role of the courts in disputes between Congress and the Executive branch.

First Amendment Law. The Service provided support on a broad range of law and regulation issues regarding religious and conscience exemptions from generally applicable laws, as well as constitutional limitations on funding religious institutions. In anticipation of growing congressional interest in the regulation of social media, CRS experts gave two seminars on constitutional and statutory issues related to online content moderation; published numerous products on free speech concerns and Section 230 of the Communication Decency Act's Section 230; and held phone and in-person briefings to respond to requests regarding possible new regulations.

Second Amendment Law. Considerable debates regarding the Second Amendment and potential restrictions that could be placed on the right to possess firearms took place in 2019. Through written and oral presentations, CRS legal experts provided legal analysis and information on an array of issues concerning firearms regulation and created products and informed staffers about the scope of federal statutory provisions, recent proposals on Extreme Risk Protection Order laws,

“The complexity of legal issues that can arise—under the Constitution, statute, or regulation—require thorough and comprehensive treatment. It is gratifying to inform and support Members of Congress and staff in that way.”

Christine Back
Legislative Attorney



background checks, and other regulations of firearms on the federal and state levels. CRS products featured overarching federal firearms laws, such as “Red Flag” laws and the “Boyfriend Loophole.”

Judiciary. CRS experts supported Congress with analyses of issues related to filling vacancies for lower federal court judgeships, providing information about the judicial appointment process, and utilizing CRS’s internal judicial nominations database to keep Congress informed of the status of current and past nominations. CRS experts also provided research and analyses on

issues related to judicial administration, such as various courts’ caseloads and budgetary issues for the judiciary.

Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings. The nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court culminated in hearings and final votes in the late summer and early fall of 2018. Attorneys worked extensively to aid the Senate’s consideration of the nomination by briefing Members and key staff, providing extensive written analysis of Judge Kavanaugh’s judicial record and creating briefing books for Senate Judiciary Committee members.



CRS created **143** new products in the area of the federal judiciary and constitutional law.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

“Congressional Participation in Litigation: Article III and Legislative Standing” (R45636)

“Federal Indian Law: Judicial Developments in the October 2018 Supreme Court Term” (R45843)

“Federal Preemption: A Legal Primer” (R45825)

“Supreme Court’s October 2018 Term: A Review of Selected Major Rulings” (R45884)

In Focus

“The First Amendment: Categories of Speech” (IF11072)

“Retroactive Legislation: A Primer for Congress” (IF11293)

Legal Sidebar

“Achieving Balance: Which Cases Belong in Which Courts?” (LSB10335)

“Enforcing Federal Privacy Law—Constitutional Limitations on Private Rights of Action” (LSB10303)

“Reviewing Recently Enacted State Abortion Laws and Resulting Litigation” (LSB10346)

NOTABLE EVENT

Each fall and spring, CRS holds the Federal Law Update, a series of seminars on developments in federal law. CRS legislative attorneys provide updates on important issues of law directly related to the legislative business of Congress. The seminars are available for Continuing Legal Education credit and are open to all legislative branch employees. Seminar topics this fiscal year included the Supreme Court’s term, health care, the Endangered Species Act, student loans and professional ethics.



MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CRS supported Congress across an extensive range of foreign affairs issues spanning geographic regions and complex conflicts, humanitarian and political challenges, and involving an array of foreign policy instruments and institutions. Highlights of research include analyses related to China, Russia, and Iran as potential major challenges, problems of global scope including refugees and displaced persons as well as global health, and far-reaching political developments such as Britain's withdrawal from the European Union and developments in Hong Kong. Another important focus was U.S. institutions and tools of statecraft such as the State Department and the Agency for International Development.

Asia. CRS supported congressional efforts to shape U.S. engagement in this increasingly important region by providing expert analysis of how U.S. allies, particularly Japan, Australia, and India, incorporated the administration's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific concept" into their national strategies. Analysts provided expertise and insight into North Korea's development of nuclear and missile capabilities, monitored democratic developments in Southeast Asia, and evaluated the new Pakistani government's efforts to address its deep economic and security challenges and facilitate Afghan peace talks. Numerous experts from across the Service's research divisions provided authoritative analyses of China's growing international presence, influence, and impact on a range of issues from education to national security, as well as examined the perception that the United States and China are increasingly engaged in a "great power competition" for global influence. CRS experts promptly responded to numerous new crises and challenges in the region, providing expert insight and analyses on developing issues, such as massive protests in Hong Kong against the city's eroding autonomy;

the surge in Hindu nationalism that accompanied Prime Minister Modi's reelection in India and the subsequent revocation of Kashmir's autonomy; and the consequences of political transitions and unrest in Central Asia.

Espionage Act. When Congress expressed interest in better understanding the legal implications of the Espionage Act, CRS legal experts provided detailed briefings on how the statute has been used to prosecute foreign agents and on possible defenses suspects may raise. The Service also addressed issues related to Julian Assange's indictment, which alleged that he violated the Espionage Act, along with other related crimes.

Europe and Russia. U.S.-European policy challenges and divisions emerged on a wide range of regional and global issues—from certain aspects of relations with Russia and China to policies on Iran, Syria, arms control, and climate change, among others. CRS experts supported Congress with ongoing consultations and analyses on these issues, such as comprehensive



Kathleen McInnis
Specialist in International Security

assessments of transatlantic relations, and provided support for oversight hearings, legislative initiatives and congressional delegations visiting the region. In April 2019, foreign ministers from the 29 NATO member states gathered in Washington, DC, to mark the organization's 70th anniversary. Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg addressed a joint session of Congress to mark the event. In anticipation of the event, CRS produced expert analysis that assessed NATO's value. While the United Kingdom's (UK's) political turmoil over its departure from the European Union (EU) continued, analysts examined the implications of Brexit on U.S.-UK bilateral relations and the Northern Ireland peace process, as well as broader implications for U.S. security and economic interests in Europe. As U.S. relations with Russia deteriorated, congressional interest intensified across a myriad of issues, such as U.S. election interference, Russia's expansionist foreign policy and malign behavior worldwide, the administration's withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, and U.S.-Russian arms control issues. The Service provided extensive analytical support on these and other Russia-related issues, especially for oversight and development of legislative initiatives related to U.S. economic sanctions on Russia.

Latin America. Challenges with Latin America intensified for U.S. policymakers, from deterioration of the situation in Venezuela to instability in Central America. CRS provided extensive insight and analyses for hearings, oversight activities and the development of legislative initiatives related to those challenges. CRS experts examined the root causes of the migration and U.S. foreign aid efforts in the region—including the potential effects of an aid suspension announced

by the administration—and collaborated with analysts across research divisions to address U.S. immigration and issues related to the Southwest border. CRS experts analyzed other areas of congressional interest in Latin America, such as efforts to combat corruption in the region, the administration's expansion of sanctions on Cuba and China's engagement in Latin America.

Middle East/North Africa. The Service supported Congress in its efforts—hearings, legislation and delegation visits—to guide U.S. policy on the multitude of complex and fraught issues emanating from the Middle East and North Africa, ranging from shifting alliances and armed conflicts to terrorism threats and the roles of other great power actors. CRS experts analyzed the growing tensions between the United States and Iran in the wake of the administration's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal. Analysis also focused on Iran sanctions and Iran's domestic and regional political dynamics. Many areas of the region face interstate and intrastate armed conflict, including Syria, Yemen and Libya. Analysts supported congressional inquiries into U.S. support for particular sides of conflicts in the region via direct U.S. military involvement, arms sales, and train and equip missions. Analysts also addressed concerns about deteriorating humanitarian conditions in certain regions. Some of these issues led Congress, with CRS support and expertise, to examine the roles and prerogatives of Congress vis-à-vis the executive branch in determining U.S. policy parameters and authorities. CRS supported Congress on other complex regional issues, such as the political developments in countries that underwent changes after 2011 in the wave of regional unrest frequently called the “Arab Spring,” as well as the evolving Israeli-Palestinian dynamic.

CRS created **182** new products in the area of foreign affairs.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Sudan's Uncertain Transition" (R45794)

"U.S. China Relations" (R45898)

"The European Union: Problems and Future Prospects" (R44249)

"Foreign Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean FY2019 Appropriations" (R45733)

"Armed Conflict in Syria: Overview and U.S. Response" (RL33487)

"U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel" (R33222)

"The State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report: Scope, Aid Restrictions, and Methodology" (RR44953)

"Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs: FY2019 Budget and Appropriations" (R45168)

In Focus

"India's Domestic Political Setting" (IF10248)

"Russia, the Skripal Poisoning, and U.S. Sanctions" (IF10962)

"U.S. Global Health Assistance: FY2017-FY2020" (IF10131)

Legal Sidebar

"Congressional Authority to Enact Criminal Law: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)" (LSB10313)

"Frequently Asked Questions about the Julian Assange Charges" (LSB10291)

"U.S. Strike on Syrian Airbase: Legal under International Law?" (LSB10230)

"The United States and the 'World Court'" (LSB10206)



“Congress turns to CRS first when it needs authoritative, nonpartisan, and timely support.”

Lauren Ploch Blanchard
Specialist in African Affairs

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

HEALTH CARE

Congress engages in perennial debate over many complex issues related to health care, including coverage, accessibility, cost, accountability, quality and safety. This fiscal year, Members considered legislative action that impacts major U.S. health care stakeholders, such as federal and state governments, employers, insurers, health care providers, the medical products industry and consumers. As part of these efforts, Members, congressional committees and staff relied on the Service to address concerns with respect to federal health care programs, the opioid epidemic, private health insurance and prescription drugs.

Health Reform. In support of congressional considerations to reform public and private health coverage, CRS provided a range of technical and analytical assistance, including in-person briefings and written products. CRS provided in-depth reviews of bills related to expanding health coverage, including those that would create single-payer, public option, and Medicare or Medicaid buy-in programs. CRS provided analyses of legislative proposals intended to address surprise medical bills and expand tax-advantaged health accounts, such as health savings accounts. The Service also provided expertise on legislation to expand coverage for certain benefits under public and/or private sources of health coverage, including hearing/vision/dental items and services, mental health services, long-term care, insulin, telehealth and reproductive health services for LGBTQ individuals.

Maternal and Child Health. The Service continued to support Congress with its investigation into the nation's increasing U.S. maternal mortality rate and more recent concerns about declining access to maternity care in rural areas. CRS provided wide-ranging analyses of federal and state maternal health activities to assist Congress when it enacted laws to establish four new maternal health grant programs, improve measurement of maternity care shortages and expand the delivery of maternal-fetal

telemedicine in underserved areas. Experts assisted Congress in identifying policies that encourage better maternal health outcomes under existing federal health programs, including Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Other related CRS briefings, hearing preparation and consultative support focused on congressional interest in expanding the maternity care workforce to improve rural access and health outcomes for groups with high maternal mortality. The Service also worked with Congress to identify options to permit Medicaid to be a payer of these expanded types of health care providers and benefits.

Medicare and Medicaid. CRS assisted Congress while it considered multiple Medicare, Medicaid and public health provisions that were set to expire in 2019, including several Medicaid provisions that were extended (e.g., protection against spousal impoverishment for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services). Congress also relied on CRS expertise while it weighed program changes related to a wide range of issues, such as Medicaid funding in the territories; the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotment reductions and the allocation of federal Medicaid DSH funding among states; Medicare funding for graduate medical education; and the Medicare beneficiary



Ryan Rosso
Analyst in Health Care Financing

“CRS assists members of Congress throughout the policy process from the identification of a policy problem to working towards identifying solutions to assistance with developing more specific legislative proposals and beyond.”

Elayne Heisler
Specialist in Health Services

enrollment process. CRS experts monitored developments regarding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid expansion; regulatory approval of waivers that allow states additional flexibility to make major changes to the Medicaid program; alternative Medicare payment models, such as value-based purchasing and bundled payments; updates to the Medicare home health and skilled nursing facility payment systems; and nursing home quality measurement and oversight across federal health programs. Medicare and Medicaid analysts provided support on these and other topics, including Medicare Advantage payments, Medicare durable medical equipment competitive bidding, Medicare coverage determinations, Medicaid in schools, and Medicaid eligibility-related proposals.

Older Americans Act. Congress relied extensively on CRS for assistance in developing legislative proposals related to comprehensive reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). The OAA provides funding for a range of home and community-based services—nutrition and supportive services, disease prevention/health promotion services, elder rights programs and caregiver support—to assist older Americans in maintaining their independence and remaining active in their communities. Analysts and research assistants prepared simulations to model the distributional effects of proposed changes to several of the OAA’s grant allocation formulas. Analysts and information professionals also provided extensive technical and analytical support on appropriations and funding under the act.

Opioids. The Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act), enacted in October 2018, is a broad measure that addresses widespread overprescribing and abuse of opioids in the United States through law enforcement, public health and health care financing, and coverage provisions. Prior to enactment, CRS provided intensive support while Congress weighed legislative alternatives. Upon the law's enactment, CRS assisted Congress on legislative and oversight efforts, which included the publication of reports summarizing the law and memoranda tracking agency implementation of SUPPORT Act directives and identifying appropriations for opioid-related programs. Analysts provided expertise to Congress on identifying legislative efforts that could build on the SUPPORT Act to address the nation's opioid epidemic. The continuity and worsening of the opioid crisis across the United States raised many legal questions concerning the liability of drug manufacturers and distributors. Legal ramifications on this matter have extended into the realm of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) role in preventing the abuse of opioids. CRS legal experts wrote several reports about litigation regarding opioid marketing.

Prescription Drugs. Congress relied on CRS experts to analyze prescription drug development and distribution policy, as well as coverage and spending issues. CRS provided a full range of legislative support, including briefings, memoranda, reports and seminars, while Congress considered many different proposals intended to address this area of interest. The Service provided information and analyses to Congress on drug spending trends in federal health programs and on commercial pharmaceutical development and supply chain trends, including drug shortages. CRS experts provided support to lawmakers to develop legislation that would require greater price transparency from manufacturers, including disclosure in direct-to-consumer advertisements and legislation that would require pharmacy benefits managers working for health insurers to disclose fees, retained rebates and other compensation. CRS provided research and analysis to

support Congress' development of legislative proposals intended to increase consumer access to follow-on biological products, such as lower-cost insulins, and to prevent gaming of regulatory requirements to delay competition and allow for importation of potentially lower-cost prescription drugs, particularly in light of the administration's Safe Importation Action Plan. The Service also supported Congress while lawmakers developed legislation related to federal health programs, including proposals to allow a cap on enrollee out-of-pocket spending and inflation-based rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers in the Medicare Part D outpatient prescription drug program, as well as changes in reimbursement for physician-administered drugs in Medicare Part B.

Private Health Insurance. Congress considered amendments to the ACA and oversaw implementation of its private health insurance provisions. The Service provided in-depth analyses to personal and committee staff on ACA-related issues, including federal protections for individuals with preexisting health conditions; new Section 1332 waiver guidance that allows states to expand access to potentially lower-cost plans that do not have to satisfy all ACA private insurance requirements; and recent administrative actions and legislative proposals that would mandate transparency of prices negotiated between health plans and health care providers to encourage consumer shopping of health care services. CRS provided expertise on a wide range of other administrative rules and guidance with respect to private health insurance, including health reimbursement arrangements; short-term, limited duration plans and other "federally exempt" coverage; association health plans; and other health insurance arrangements. CRS experts also provided technical assistance to staff who were developing proposals intended to address the potential outcomes of current legal challenges to the ACA.

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Executive and legislative action on health care, particularly with regard to the ACA, was an area of intense focus. In addition to debating whether or not to

CRS created **72** new products in the area of health care.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"The Contraceptive Coverage Requirement and Legal Challenges Five Years After Hobby Lobby" (R45928)

"Drug Pricing and Intellectual Property Law: A Legal Overview for the 116th Congress" (R45666)

"FDA Regulation of Tobacco Products" (R45867)

"Health Care-Related Expiring Provisions of the 116th Congress, First Session" (R45781)

"Location of Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction: In Brief" (R45782)

"The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's (ACA's) Risk Adjustment Program: Frequently Asked Questions" (R45334)

"Public Health and Other Related Provisions in P.L. 115-271, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act" (R45423)

"The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (P.L. 115-271): Food and Drug Administration and Controlled Substance Provisions" (R45405)

"The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (P.L. 115-271): Medicare Provisions" (R45449)

In Focus

"Drug Shortages: Causes, FDA Authority, and Policy Options" (IF11058)

"Medicaid Funding for the Territories" (IF11012)

"Medical Product Regulation: Drugs, Biologics, and Devices" (IF11083)

NOTABLE EVENT

The program, "Drug Pricing and Intellectual Property Law," held on April 11, 2019, reviewed the basics of patent law and the regulatory exclusivities granted by the Food and Drug Administration, as well as the interaction between patent rights and follow-on approval of generic drugs and biosimilars under the Hatch-Waxman Act and the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act, respectively.

repeal the ACA, Congress also expressed interest in the implications of a constitutional challenge to the ACA's individual mandate. This specific issue was pending in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit following a ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas in *Texas v. United States*, which would invalidate the individual mandate and with it, the entire law. CRS legal experts provided legal analysis surrounding this ruling and published several reports on the litigation.

Prescription Drug Prices. Congress increasingly expressed interest in legislation intended to address the skyrocketing costs of prescription drug prices. Attorneys provided extensive support concerning legislative and executive branch efforts to reduce high prescription

drug prices and created written products that analyzed various proposals, many of which also addressed issues concerning transparency around drug pricing. CRS legal experts authored reports and advised congressional clients on legal questions concerning administrative actions by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding the authority of these entities to enact rules to address escalating drug prices.

Tobacco Regulation. In response to continued interest in reducing tobacco use, some Members proposed the creation of a minimum age restriction on the sale of tobacco products. CRS legal experts examined how the FDA could enforce these new rules.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

HOMELAND SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION

Congress continued to debate a range of homeland security and immigration issues, including border security infrastructure, an increase in migration from Central America to the Southwest border, and a rise in the number of unaccompanied children apprehended at the Southwest border. The administration continued to promote its approach to border security and Congress continued to debate that approach and other immigration policy proposals that aimed to address the increase in families and children migrating to the Southwest border. Throughout FY2019, CRS authored a number of publications on these and other Homeland Security and Immigration topics, and provided analytical support for public congressional debate and internal deliberations on legislative solutions.

Asylum Policies. The scope of the executive branch’s legal authority to change asylum laws prompted considerable litigation, and court rulings on the details of asylum law led to the introduction of several pieces of legislation. One of several Legal Sidebar products published on this subject, “Asylum Bar for Migrants Who Reach the Southern Border through Third Countries: Issues and Ongoing Litigation,” specifically discussed the implications of new administration rules that would limit the circumstances under which a person at the border could claim asylum.

Border Security. The 116th Congress continued its focus on border security, expressing interest in enhanced security fencing on the U.S.-Mexico border. CRS experts provided information and analysis to inform Congress’s examination of budget proposals and the power of the executive branch to unilaterally act with regard to the border. Attorneys authored written products and briefed staffers on the president’s authorities under the National Emergencies Act, and CRS provided information and analyses to inform Congress’s examination of congressional and administration proposals related to the

construction and maintenance of border infrastructure. CRS experts advised Members and congressional staff on the efficacy and security implications of wall construction, as well as on the installation and monitoring of surveillance technology and the deployment of border patrol agents to deter and prevent unlawful entries of people and contraband. CRS experts also discussed proposals to enhance operations at ports of entry. Experts consulted with Members and their staffers on executive branch authority to construct barriers along the southwest border and relevant technical specifications, including the location and length covered by current barriers in light of existing and new funding authorities. CRS staff conducted research and wrote products on the historical funding of border barriers and the role of the Department of Defense in border security.

Detention. The administration proposed and then issued new regulations to terminate the *Flores* settlement agreement and alter the rules regarding the detention of migrant families. In light of the previously enforced family separation policy, a host of questions arose as to how long and to what extent the Department of



Homeland Security (DHS) can hold minors or adults who cross the border while removal proceedings or other hearings are initiated. The Service provided analysis to Congress on related legislative proposals, and several CRS legal reports produced during the fiscal year elaborated on this topic in great detail, explaining the relationships between the different cases and bills presented.

Central American Migration to the Southwest

Border. Over the last decade, Central American migration to the United States has been on the rise; recently, families migrating from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are making up an increasing share of those seeking asylum to the United States at the southwest border. CRS analysts and attorneys provided research and policy support on the causes and consequences of increased migration and associated responses from DHS's Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, including policy changes at and between ports of entry. The Service produced relevant reports and assisted with congressional oversight of agencies responsible for the apprehension, detention, and monitoring of non-detained migrants and the care of unaccompanied migrant children. Experts briefed congressional offices and worked with Members, committees, and their staffers on broad and narrow responses to the increase in families seeking asylum at the southwest border. CRS experts also helped Congress better understand the administration's response, including the Migrant Protection Protocol and DHS management of the flow of adult migrants and family units as they arrive at ports of entry.

Unaccompanied Migrant Children. The number of unaccompanied alien children (UAC) apprehended at the southwest border between U.S. ports of entry while attempting to enter the United States without authorization has increased substantially. In addition,

the administration's fiscal 2018 "zero tolerance" policy toward illegal border crossers and the separation of children from parents led to the reclassification of thousands of children as UAC. CRS experts supported the legislative response to the increase in UAC by discussing legislative options with Members, committees and their staffers; producing relevant reports and memos; and supporting congressional oversight of agencies responsible for assisting UAC. CRS assisted Congress in developing responses to the increase in UAC at the southwest border, including proposals that would temporarily house UAC at the border, strengthen the services available to UAC, and ensure the safety of UAC placed with sponsors. Experts also assisted Congress with better understanding the relationships between the agencies and entities responsible for identifying and apprehending UAC and those that provide for their ongoing care.

Public Charge. The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides important legal regulations and requirements for rules on detention and qualifications when admitting immigrants at the border into the United States. The administration proposed and then issued new regulations about the public charge ground of inadmissibility in the INA. Several CRS products addressed the potential implications of changes to the act and definitions enforced by DHS that would be used to determine if a person qualifies as a public charge.

Posse Comitatus Act. The Posse Comitatus Act outlaws the willful use of any part of the U.S. Army or Air Force to execute the law unless expressly authorized by the Constitution or an act of Congress. When Congress expressed interest in the role of the military at the southern border, CRS experts provided briefings and products that analyzed the limitations on the use of the armed forces for law enforcement purposes.

CRS created **72** new products in the area of homeland security and immigration.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"DHS Border Barrier Funding" (R45888)

"The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA): A Summary of Selected Statutory Provisions" (R45819)

"Immigration Detention: A Legal Overview" (R45915)

"Immigration: Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Programs" (R45804)

"Immigration: U.S. Asylum Policy" (R45539)

"Legal Authority to Repurpose Funds for Border Barrier Construction" (R45908)

"Military Funding for Southwest Border Barriers" (R45937)

"Permanent Employment-Based Immigration and the Per-country Ceiling" (R45447)

"Selected Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress" (R45701)

"Transportation Security: Issues for the 116th Congress" (R45500)

Legal Sidebar
"Asylum and Related Protections for Aliens Who Fear Gang and Domestic Violence" (LSB10207)

"Asylum Bar for Migrants Who Reach the Southern

Border through Third Countries: Issues and Ongoing Litigation" (LSB10337)

"Can the President Close the Border? Relevant Laws and Considerations" (LSB10283)

"DACA: Litigation Status Update" (LSB10216)



MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Service provided analytical and legislative support to Congress while it considered a variety of criminal justice issues, including criminal justice reform and the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. During FY2019 there was a push for Congress to address sentencing and corrections reform and CRS staff authored publications and provided consultative support to congressional deliberations on the First Step Act. Congressional concerns about domestic violence and stalking, effectively responding to violence against women on tribal land by non-tribal members, victim assistance, and the enforcement of the federal prohibition on firearms for those convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence led to the House to debate the Violence Against Women Act, leading to its passing of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization (VAWA) Act of 2019. In support of the House efforts, CRS staff authored relevant publications and provided consultative and analytical support to Members on these and other justice and law enforcement issues.

Criminal Justice Reform. The Service supported Congress when it debated how to reduce the size of the federal prison population while creating mechanisms to maintain and enhance public safety through sentencing and corrections reform. This congressional debate led to the enactment of The First Step Act at the end of 2018. Prior to passage, CRS experts discussed legislative proposals, reviewed draft bills and amendments, produced reports and briefed staff. Analysts continue to support Congress on related implementation issues, including funding for the Bureau of Prisons to implement the act, how earned time credits are calculated, development of a risk and needs assessment system, and the retroactive application of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010.

Firearms Regulation. In the 116th Congress, the gun control debate shifted focus with a new majority in the House and multiple active shooter incidents that resulted in casualties. The House passed legislation that would expand federal firearms background check requirements and prohibitions on the transfer, receipt, and possession of firearms by individuals with a history of domestic violence and stalking. CRS experts supported the

legislative debate through briefings and consultative services and by publishing written products to inform Congress of key issues.

Criminal Justice Reform. Congress passed the First Step Act to lessen certain penalties, including imprisonment, in the criminal justice system and to provide opportunities for inmates to reach prerelease custody more quickly. In fiscal 2019, CRS published an In Focus report on the First Step Act, and attorneys briefed Members on the bill and led a session on criminal justice reform at the New Member Seminar in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Investigations and the Mueller Report. The culmination of events leading to and in the aftermath of the Mueller Report release presented serious legal questions for Congress. Some Members considered the pursuit of further investigations and proposed numerous bills intended to alter the structure of special counsel investigations in the executive branch. CRS legal experts explored many of these legal questions and issue areas during the past fiscal year, particularly as a

CRS created **39** new products in the area of justice and law enforcement.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Bribery, Kickbacks, and Self-Dealing: An Overview of Honest Services Fraud and Issues for Congress" (R45479)

"Federal Firearms Laws: Overview and Selected Legal Issues for the 116th Congress" (R45629)

"The First Step Act of 2018: An Overview" (R45558)

"Illicit Drug Flows and Seizures in the United States: What Do We [Not] Know?" (R45812)

"Federal Grand Jury Secrecy: Legal Principles and Implications for Congressional Oversight" (R45456)

"Juvenile Delinquents and Federal Criminal Law: The Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act and Related Matters in Short" (R45391)

"The Opioid Epidemic: Supply Control and Criminal Justice Policy—Frequently Asked Questions" (R45790)

"U.S. Constitutional Limits on State Money-Bail Practices for Criminal Defendants" (R45533)

"Robbery, Extortion, and Bribery in One Place: A Legal Overview of the Hobbs Act" (R45395)

"Virtual Currencies and Money Laundering: Legal Background, Enforcement Actions, and Legislative Proposals" (R45664)

"The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): Historical Overview, Funding, and Reauthorization" (R45410)

In Focus

"Federal Correctional Reform and the First Step Act of 2018" (IF10573)

"Firearm 'Red Flag' Laws in the 116th Congress" (IF11205)

"Firearm Background Checks: Current Federal Framework and the House-Passed Proposals in the 116th Congress" (IF11121)

"U.S. Gun Policy: Framework and Major Issues" (IF11038)

result of the 116th Congress's activity in exercising its investigative powers. The Service created several products that discussed executive privilege, grand jury secrecy and the report's public release. Attorneys analyzed the constitutionality of legislative proposals regarding different investigations' structures and the status of acting officials in the Department of Justice and other agencies. Several CRS reports gave general overviews of Congress's powers, and some narrowly focused on Congress's disputes with the executive branch. These written works covered the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and their ramifications for the release of pertinent information in the case. CRS products also addressed Congress's ability to investigate other branches of government, and legal experts advised committees and Members on their powers to enforce executive branch compliance with subpoenas, other tools of their investigations and limitations on Congress's powers.

Violence Against Women Act. The Service provided legislative support when the House considered and passed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization (VAWA) Act of 2019, which, among other things, would reauthorize funding for VAWA programs and authorize new programs; amend and add definitions used for VAWA programs; amend federal criminal law related to firearms, custodial rape and stalking; and expand tribal jurisdiction over certain crimes committed on tribal lands. CRS experts continue to work with Members, committees and their staffers on related reauthorization issues, including improvements to data collection on domestic violence and stalking; tribal jurisdiction over nontribal members who commit VAWA-related crimes on tribal lands; enhanced victim assistance; and the enforcement of the federal prohibition on firearms for those convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor crime.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Science and technology have an impact on many policy issues of interest to Congress. CRS staff served Congress with written products, briefings and seminars on science and technology policy and competitiveness, cybersecurity activities, and telecommunications and Internet policy, and provided in-depth analysis of federal funding for scientific research and technology development in government agencies and laboratories, academia, and private industry.


Cybersecurity and Privacy. Cybersecurity continues to be an active area of interest for Congress. CRS worked in multidisciplinary teams to provide Congress with the cross-cutting expertise needed to address cybersecurity in various contexts, such as energy, financial services, transportation and trade. As the U.S. economy, culture and essential government functions increasingly depend on the internet, cloud computing and electronic communication, these functions become more dependent on cybersecurity. Congress considered a wide range of cybersecurity issues, including data breaches in the public and private sector, critical infrastructure vulnerabilities, cybercrime, the national and homeland security implications of encryption technologies, and the creation of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency in the Department of Homeland Security. Analysts, attorneys and research librarians supported many offices and committees in both chambers as they performed oversight, held hearings and developed legislation intended to address evolving issues. The Service conducted policy analyses for Congress on several proposals related to data security, supply chain security and federal support to the private sector, as well as state and local governments, and helped Congress conduct oversight into federal cybersecurity spending and programs. Congress considered changes to how social networking firms, such as Facebook, are regulated. Congress

also contemplated passing a comprehensive federal privacy law, and CRS legal experts authored several products, gave presentations, and briefed staffers and Members on that issue. In fiscal 2019, Congress held several high-profile hearings on various topics related to the privacy and security of digital data, and CRS experts assisted congressional offices in understanding cybersecurity policies, including their association with social media, the “Internet of Things,” and fifth generation (5G).

Disruptive Technologies. Innovative technologies, also known as “disruptive technologies,” have significant social and economic impacts. Facial recognition, in particular, was a disruptive technology of interest to Congress. Attorneys briefed staffers on issues relating to facial recognition and algorithmic bias and provided legislative options for addressing the use of these technologies by law enforcement and other entities. In FY2019, Congress also expressed interest in the facilitation of 5G development, particularly in consideration of the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC’s) authority to facilitate 5G deployment, and CRS legal experts authored numerous written products to address these concerns.

Emerging and Disruptive AI Technologies.

Congress has increasingly expressed interest in innovative technologies that can have significant social and

A portrait of Jill Gallagher, a woman with short, styled blonde hair, wearing a dark blazer over a white top. She is standing in front of a blurred background of classical architecture, including columns and a balcony. A semi-transparent dark blue box is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing a quote and her name and title.

“CRS serves as trusted consultants to congressional staff and members. New staffers seek out CRS to learn basic issue areas and how to navigate ideas through the legislative process. Professional staffers turn to CRS for their technical expertise on new policy proposals, to discuss new policy proposals, and to ensure the accuracy of written products. CRS provides comprehensive reports for staffers interested in learning about specific issue areas, and a deep bench of experts to consult on complex policy questions. CRS provides a place where staffers can reach back and get technical expertise, historical context, and discuss new policy proposals in a nonpartisan, confidential, and collegial environment.”

Jill Gallagher
Analyst in Telecommunications Policy

economic impacts across multiple sectors. The Service provided consultation and analysis to Members, staff, and committees in both chambers regarding artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and their applications across sectors. Working across CRS research divisions, analysts and attorneys supported congressional hearings and legislative efforts to address issues surrounding the use of AI technologies, including machine learning and facial recognition. Such issues included federal and private sector funding for AI research and development; possible impacts to the U.S. workforce from the increasing use of AI technologies; concerns regarding potential bias and lack of transparency of AI systems and related datasets; and the application of AI in multiple areas, including financial services, education and energy. The Service similarly supported congressional consideration of how to best balance potential revolutionary changes to medicine and agriculture through advanced genetic editing technology while addressing the complex ethical and regulatory issues this type of technology raises. CRS also provided expert assessments of the national security implications of emerging technologies and analyzed applicable literature on potential health impacts.

Research and Development and Technology

Transfer. The Service continued its bicameral seminars for congressional staff on the annual federal research and development budget. CRS experts provided committees and Members with in-depth analysis of the specific research and development efforts at the Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce. The Service assisted in congressional consideration of issues related to coordinating research efforts across agencies; national and homeland security concerns regarding inappropriate access to and misuse of federally supported research results; and nontraditional efforts to spur innovation, such as creating prize competitions. The Service analyzed a variety of legislative proposals in both chambers that were designed to improve the transfer of federally

supported research results to the commercial sector, including through modifications to the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

Science and Space Policy. CRS supported congressional examination of how the executive and legislative branches obtain and incorporate accurate science and technology information into policy decisions, including how these activities may be affected by changes within executive branch agencies. Experts provided consultations and in-depth analyses for Congress on perennial and proposed federal efforts to support science, engineering and mathematics education. Specialists provided consultations and written analyses to Congress on NASA's plans for human exploration of the Moon and the evolving federal regulatory framework for commercial spaceflight.

Telecommunications and Internet Policy. The Service provided support and analysis to assist Congress in its oversight of programs to enhance broadband buildout and adoption, its examination of the adequacy of broadband deployment data and mapping, and efforts to close the digital divide. On the issue of net neutrality, CRS experts provided analyses and consultations to Congress during its consideration of the Save the Internet Act of 2019, which would revert the current FCC framework to the previous approach. Analysts and attorneys assisted congressional efforts to combat the scourge of unwanted “robocalls,” providing in-depth, nuanced analyses through briefings and reports, as well as background and context through a Legal Sidebar and short video. An interdivisional team of analysts and attorneys supported a diverse array of congressional offices and committees that were addressing the issues raised by the development and deployment of 5G telecommunication networks, including issues related to national security and counterintelligence, cell tower siting, spectrum allocation, international competitiveness, and potential interference with existing weather forecasting infrastructure. Congress also expressed interest in numerous pieces of legislation

CRS created **62** new products in the area of science and technology.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"3D Printing: Overview, Impacts, and the Federal Role" (R45852)

"Commercial Space: Federal Regulation, Oversight, and Utilization" (R45416)

"Critical Infrastructure: Emerging Trends and Policy Considerations for Congress" (R45809)

"The Federal Communications Commission: Current Structure and Its Role in the Changing Telecommunications Landscape" (R45699)

"Federal Research and Development (R&D) Funding: FY2020" (R45715)

"Quantum Information Science: Applications, Global Research and Development, and Policy Considerations" (R45409)

"Bitcoin, Blockchain, and the Energy Sector" (R45863)

"Advanced Nuclear Reactors: Technology Overview and Current Issues" (R45706)

"Technological Convergence: Regulatory, Digital Privacy, and Data Security Issues" (R45746)

In Focus

"Federal Communications Commission: Progress Protecting Consumers from Illegal Robocalls" (IF11290)

"Smart Cars and Trucks: Spectrum Use for Vehicle Safety" (IF11260)

"The ReConnect Broadband Pilot Program" (IF11262)

Insight

"Homeland Security Research and Development: Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress" (IN11021)

"Revisiting the Doubling Effort: Trends in Federal Funding for Basic Research in the Physical Sciences and Engineering" (IN11001)

NOTABLE EVENT

As outreach to the newly convened 116th Congress, the Science and Technology Policy Section of RSI organized and participated in an interdivisional "Science, Technology, and Innovation Experts Open House" on January 31, 2019, to allow congressional clients to meet CRS analysts with expertise in science and technology policy and pose their questions on these issues, and to highlight CRS products and capabilities. The Service also continued to host a series on disruptive technologies.

relating to internet policy, including the Save the Internet Act, the Communications Act and the Communication Decency Act. CRS legal experts gave seminars and provided briefings on these areas, particularly addressing the constitutional and statutory issues related to altering and updating legislation. When Congress expressed

interest in regulating social media, CRS attorneys provided products on free speech concerns and Section 230 of the Communication Decency Act, which provides immunity from liability for providers and users of an interactive computer service who publish information provided by others.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL INSURANCE

Social insurance and other compensation programs that protect individuals and their families against the risks of illness in old age and lost earnings due to retirement, disability, unemployment, and death, are of long-standing interest to Congress. These programs serve a broad constituency of Americans, and the balance between ensuring benefit adequacy and reaching targeted groups while preventing improper payments is a consistent challenge. In FY2019, with the upcoming sunset of the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund (VCF) in 2020 as well as projections that program funding would have soon been insufficient to pay all VCF benefits and administrative expenses, CRS supported Congress as it worked on legislation that reauthorized and appropriated funds for benefits under the VCF through FY2092.

September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Reauthorization. In February 2019, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund's (VCF's) special master announced that all future benefits awarded through the end of VCF authorization in 2020 would be reduced due to insufficient funding. The Service supported Congress as it worked on legislation—enacted into law in July 2019—that reauthorized the VCF through fiscal year 2090. CRS experts provided memoranda on legislative proposals and a new report on the VCF that included descriptive information on the program and an analysis of the cost drivers that led to the special master's decision to reduce future awards.



CRS created **19** new products in the area of social security and social insurance.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Household Debt Among Older Americans, 1989-2016" (R45911)

"Poverty Among Americans Aged 65 and Older" (R45791)

"Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) and Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance (PSOEA) Programs" (R45327)

"The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF): Background and Potential Reauthorization" (R45808)

"Social Security: Beneficiaries Affected by Both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO)" (R45845)

"Social Security: The Trust Funds and Alternative Investments" (R45709)

"Trends in Social Security Disability Insurance Enrollment" (R45419)

In Focus

"Social Security Benefit Claiming Age" (IF11115)

"Social Security: Select Findings of the 2019 Annual Report" (IF11261)

"The availability, adequacy, and efficacy of social insurance programs such as Unemployment Insurance and Social Security benefits and the roles those programs perform in our economy, continue to be of great congressional interest. CRS analysts strive provide supporting information and analysis that Members of Congress will need to make well-informed decisions."

Julie Whittaker
Specialist in Income Security

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

SOCIAL WELFARE AND HOUSING

A wide range of federal programs and policies contribute to the social welfare of individuals and families, particularly those in poverty or with lower incomes. Congress perennially faces issues related to the federal government's role in providing a variety of support, including housing assistance, cash for needy families, child care for working parents, foster care for abused or neglected children and programs for vulnerable youth. In fiscal 2019, when Congress considered the development of legislative proposals affecting social welfare, CRS analyzed current programs and policies and their interactions and assisted Congress in anticipating potential effects of proposed changes.


Child Care. Congress called on 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 tax benefits and spending programs, comparing subsidy levels and the distribution of benefits by family type and income group. CRS experts used microsimulation modeling to estimate eligibility and receipt of child care benefits under various legislative proposals and to examine the effects proposed policy changes could have on American families.

Child Welfare. Congress addressed child welfare policy in fiscal 2019, which encompassed prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect, as well as provision of foster care and public child welfare agency involvement in domestic adoptions. The Service supported Congress as it focused on issues and concerns related to the recently passed Family First Prevention Services Act, including developing legislation that would help with transition issues associated with implementation of the new law, particularly new restrictions on and scheduled endings of certain demonstration projects operating under waivers to the Social Security Act. In addition, CRS experts helped congressional staff with ongoing efforts to develop

legislation to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Housing Law. The Federal Fair Housing Act, which was enacted in 1968 as Title VIII of the Civil Right Act, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, and handicap. Congress expressed interest in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations concerning housing discrimination.

Low-Income Housing. During fiscal 2019, the Service supported Congress in hearings that explored various aspects of low-income housing programs and housing affordability. CRS experts' analyses estimated the number and characteristics of households in the major rental assistance programs that could be affected by a proposed rule to end assistance to "mixed status" families, which comprise citizens (or eligible noncitizens) and ineligible noncitizens. CRS staff provided written products that addressed federal policy options and approaches to address low-income housing needs, including those particular to vulnerable populations. The Service also assisted Congress in developing multiple pieces of

A portrait of Mark Keightley, a man with short brown hair and blue eyes, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue checkered shirt, and a red tie. The background is a blurred interior with warm lighting and architectural details.

“The great part of working at CRS is the balance between conducting rigorous economic research and analysis, and the personal interactions that come with supporting Congress in the development of (economic, tax, or housing tax) policies. As a result, I am constantly challenged to be an effective researcher, and perhaps more importantly, an effective communicator.”

Mark Keightley
Specialist in Economics



“As a Social Policy Analyst at CRS, I write about topics ranging from the National School Lunch Program to the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. Our job at CRS is to provide objective information and analysis to Congress to aid in their decision-making.”

Kara Billings
Analyst in Social Policy

legislation intended to address aspects of the housing finance system, low-income housing programs, homelessness and housing for special populations.

Poverty. In response to continued congressional interest in poverty and economic opportunity in the United States, CRS experts analyzed the most current annual data and a historical perspective on poverty for different demographic groups. In particular, experts examined time trends and the current status of poverty rates among Americans aged 65 and older and federal programs that provide income to the aged poor. CRS products documented poverty rate patterns over economic cycles with a focus on how the poverty rate changes during economic recoveries. CRS analysts also supported Congress with respect to development of legislative proposals intended to address geographic aspects of poverty and endeavor to identify and alleviate areas in persistent poverty.

Vulnerable Youth. The administration's plan to close Job Corps centers on Forest Service land created uncertainty about the future of the program, which serves youth ages 16 to 24. In response, CRS analysts in youth policy and agriculture policy collaborated to provide extensive consultations with staff in both chambers about Job Corps and possible congressional responses. The Service also provided written analysis that described the scope of the plan, outlined the responsibilities of departments administering the program and examined the performance of centers slated to close compared with other centers generally. Separately, as part of efforts to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, Congress called on CRS to explore the potential effects of changing the law in areas such as civil rights, funding allocations and coordination with other federal efforts to address homelessness. The Service also supported committee staff with briefings and a hearing on the act and prepared a written brief on federal efforts to address youth homelessness.

CRS created **25** new products in the area of social welfare and housing.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Child Nutrition Programs: Current Issues" (R45486)

"The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): Background and Funding" (R45408)

"Homelessness: Targeted Federal Programs" (RL45346)

"Housing Issues in the 116th Congress" (R45710)

"The Pregnancy Assistance Fund: An Overview" (R45426)

"Trends in the U.S. Poverty Rate after Recessions" (R45854)

In Focus

"Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)" (IF11170)

"Head Start: Overview and Current Issues" (IF11008)

"John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood" (IF11070)

Insight

"The Evolving Use of Disaster Housing Assistance and the Roles of the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) and the Individuals and Households Program (IHP)" (IN11094)

"HUD's Proposal to End Assistance to Mixed Status Families" (IN11121)

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

TAXES, THE BUDGET AND THE ECONOMY

Implementation of the 2017 tax reform, commonly called the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), continued in fiscal year 2019. CRS released a series of tax-reform related products to support the first filing season under the new law, in early 2019. Written work also analyzed the economic effects of the tax reform, and a range of additional tax policy elements of the revised tax code. The Service provided analysis of budget process and policy issues, including appropriations and budget process reform and the earmarking process, debt, deficits, and fiscal policy options throughout fiscal year 2019. In addition, CRS supported Congress's consideration of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019.

Budget, Debt and Deficit. Exercising the power of the purse is a central responsibility of Congress. CRS experts provided a wide range of analyses related to fiscal policy and the budgetary implications of legislation over the last year. The Service supported Congress during its budget deliberations for fiscal years 2019 and 2020, which culminated in the enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. In particular, CRS supported Congress during the five-week partial government shutdown in December 2018 and January 2019. During this time, CRS worked with congressional staff to explain processes agencies undertake when faced with a funding gap and provided information on historical events related to prior shutdowns. CRS experts helped Congress to address wider budgetary policy issues, such as the fiscal trajectory of the federal government, changes in the composition and structure of federal outlays and revenues, the impact of the debt limits, and trends in recent and projected net interest payments. The Service assisted Congress in understanding the impact of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) and the effects of subsequent legislative modifications to the BCA. CRS accomplished this with several written products and congressional seminars on the BCA, including two collaborative seminars with the Congressional Budget Office. The Service also helped

Congress to protect its power of the purse by monitoring trends in federal credit, the collection of fines and fees, and trust fund finances.

Tax Law. Congress considered a variety of areas related to tax law during fiscal 2019. Congress debated whether to seek the president's tax returns from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and CRS legal experts provided an overview of the relevant Internal Revenue Code provisions and possible limitations on that authority through written products and briefings. Congress also oversaw the implementation of recent tax code revisions and considered new proposals. In written products and briefings, the Service analyzed questions surrounding the constitutional validity of provisions, such as the cap on deductibility of state and local taxes and a possible federal wealth tax.

Tax Policy. After the enactment of the 2017 tax revision (often cited as the Tax Cut and Jobs Act), Congress deliberated over refinements to the new law and the potential impact on individuals, businesses and specific sectors of the economy. In support of these deliberations, CRS experts conducted seminars, authored new reports and crafted shorter products describing key issues of

CRS created **73** new products in the area of taxes, the budget and the economy.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

“The Black Lung Program, the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund, and the Excise Tax on Coal: Background and Policy Options” (R45261)

“The Economic Effects of the 2017 Tax Revision: Preliminary Observations” (R45736)

“Fiscal Policy Considerations for the Next Recession” (R45780)

In Focus

“Qualified Improvement Property and the 2017 Tax Revision” (IF11187)

Insights

“Advance Refunding Bonds and P.L. 115-97” (IN11079)

“The Federal Income Tax: How Did P.L. 115-97 Change Marginal Income Tax Rates?” (IN11039)

“P.L. 115-97 and the 2019 Federal Income Tax Filing Season for Individuals” (IN11033)

TESTIMONY

The House Committee on Small Business called on Jane Gravelle, senior specialist in economic policy, to testify on July 24, 2019, at the hearing, “Is the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act a Help or Hindrance to Main Street?” Her testimony discussed the effect on small businesses from the overall economic impact of the 2017 tax cut, including stimulus and incentive effects, as well as the effects of increased government borrowing. The testimony addressed the direct effects of provisions in the tax revision, such as lower individual tax rates and the special pass-through deduction for unincorporated businesses, including estimates of the effects on tax burdens and the effects for different sectors of the economy, as well as implications for tax complexity and administration.

NOTABLE EVENT

In December 2018, CRS published the 2018 “Tax Expenditures: Compendium of Background Material on Individual Provisions” for the Senate Committee on the Budget. The committee print describes and analyzes each tax preference—exclusion, exemption, deduction, or credit—for individuals and corporations, as identified by the JCT. The document serves as a baseline for how tax preferences impact individuals, businesses, the federal budget and the economy.

interest to policymakers and their constituents. The Service produced an infographic that described the 2019 state of tax law and provided congressional testimony on the impact of the 2017 tax revision on small businesses. CRS also presented the Senate Budget Committee with the 2018 “Tax Expenditures: Compendium of

Background Material on Individual Provisions.” The committee print analyzes each of the tax provisions that the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) identified as a tax preference in the individual and corporate income tax. The compendium includes approximately 200 separate essays, one for each tax preference.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

The Service assisted Congress with a broad range of U.S. trade policy, international trade and finance issues, including U.S. tariff policy; U.S. trade agreements and trade negotiations; foreign investment and national security; U.S. trade and economic relations with China, Europe, India and other major economies; exchange rate policies; export finance; export controls; intellectual property rights; U.S. participation in international trade and financial institutions; and trade preference programs for developing countries, among other issues.

Agricultural Trade. The administration's policy of presenting key U.S. trading partners with tariffs, including China and other major import markets for U.S. food and agricultural products, along with its renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), resulted in lower growth in the export-sensitive U.S. farm sector during fiscal 2019. Early in the 116th Congress, CRS published an analysis of the long list of outstanding agricultural trade issues that confronted lawmakers. Experts also examined the terms of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement (USMCA) that is proposed to replace NAFTA and examined the implications of the U.S. tariff dispute with China for U.S. agriculture. In addition to providing written analysis, CRS conducted numerous briefings for congressional staff, committees, and Members and provided extensive consultation on these and other agricultural trade issues.

Financial Crises and Economic Impact of U.S. Sanctions Measures. Congressional concern rose with respect to sanctions and the use of blocked assets. In response, the Service's analysis explained the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which gives the president broad authority to regulate

a variety of economic transactions following a national emergency declaration.

Foreign Investment. CRS experts assisted Congress in the area of foreign investment in U.S. firms that engage in leading-edge technology. Congress empowered the administration through the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to review a broad range of foreign investment activity for national security implications and to increase reporting to Congress on CFIUS activities. In addition to foreign investments that have typically come under CFIUS scrutiny, the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA), adopted in August 2018, empowered CFIUS to review certain types of real estate transactions; foreign investments that may involve American citizens' personally identifiable data; and new investments that do not represent majority ownership or firms involved directly or indirectly through supplier arrangements with firms involved in emerging or leading-edge technology. Certain provisions took effect upon passage of FIRRMA, and others, including some related to the expanded scope of CFIUS, are subject to further regulations and require continued congressional engagement with the review process.

International Finance. In the area of international finance, emerging and existing financial crises continue to be a focus of Congress. The Service assisted Congress in examining the deepening economic crisis in Venezuela and the impact of related U.S. sanctions. CRS experts analyzed potential crises and economic developments in Argentina and Turkey; examined the economic implications of various sanctions regimes, especially involving Russia; and increased analysis of the evolving growth of digital currencies around the world and their implications for the United States. The Service examined exchange rate policies and exchange rate levels vis-à-vis the dollar, issues that became more prominent as policymakers increasingly focused on the dollar's strength. CRS supported Congress on these issues with testimony and assistance with numerous other congressional hearings and proposed legislation.

Manufacturing. Trade sanctions and threats of sanctions have increased uncertainty for many U.S. manufacturers and retailers. The Service provided analysis about how changes in U.S. and foreign tariffs and other types of trade barriers might affect local businesses and, more broadly, the competitiveness of U.S. exporters in foreign markets.

North American Free Trade Agreement. The debate over changing NAFTA continued during the past fiscal year. The current administration renegotiated the agreement, creating USMCA as the alternative. Whether or not the president has the authority to withdraw from NAFTA without further congressional action is a question of interest to Congress. CRS legal experts provided analysis on this topic and authored numerous products on these recent developments and their potential implications. As one of many considerations, CRS analyzed whether the NAFTA Implementation Act would remain in effect as domestic law if the United States were to completely leave the agreement. The final agreement is pending formal consideration and implementation by Congress under U.S. Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), and the

administration is engaged in consultation with Congress on numerous prominent issues, including provisions on auto rules of origin, dispute settlement, intellectual property rights, and enforcement of the labor and environmental provisions.

Trade Investigations and Tariff Measures. The administration maintained a range of increased tariffs on U.S. imports of steel and aluminum products from selected countries as a result of investigations under Section 232 of the Trade Act of 1962, initiated by the Commerce Department, and findings that imports of these products threatened to impair U.S. national security. At the same time, tariff measures escalated on U.S. imports from China based on a U.S. Trade Representative investigation of specific Chinese trade practices on intellectual property and forced technology, using authorities under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. China and other countries retaliated by imposing tariffs on selected imports from the United States. Potential trade measures using Section 232 authorities on auto imports are also under consideration, pending outcomes of ongoing discussions with key trading partners. CRS assisted Congress's ongoing, strong interest with these and other similar measures, which have a range of economic and policy implications.

U.S.-China Trade Relations. The discourse surrounding trade between China and the United States and potential actions to change the economic and political relationship between the two countries became increasingly strained over the past year. Congress's interest in this topic focused on presidential authority to effect change in the trade relationship. Executive powers in this area are of great interest, given the president's imposition of billions of dollars in tariffs on products from China under authority of Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. CRS products addressed questions on the president's authority under Section 301 and congressional consultation requirements in the statute. Products and advice from CRS legal experts also addressed potential actions against Chinese

“U.S. trade policy comprises a distinct set of issues at the nexus of foreign and domestic policy. These issues not only affect U.S. relations with trading partners and U.S. leadership in the global economy, but they also affect the U.S. economy as a whole, U.S. businesses, farmers, and workers, and the U.S. standard of living. Congress is in a unique role to address these complex issues given its constitutional authority to legislate on and oversee international commerce. The research and analysis conducted by the CRS international trade and finance team supports Members of Congress in making informed decisions on U.S. trade policy.”

Shayerah Ilias Akhtar
Acting Section Research Manager



CRS created **69** new products in the area of trade and international finance.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"The International Emergency Economic Powers Act: Origins, Evolution, and Use" (R45618)

"The President's Authority to Withdraw the United States from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Without Further Congressional Action" (R45557)

"Digital Trade and U.S. Policy" (R44565)

"International Approaches to Digital Currencies" (R45440)

"Selecting the World Bank President" (R42433)

"Trump Administration Tariff Actions: Frequently Asked Questions" (R45529)

"U.S.-EU Trade Agreement Negotiations: Trade in Food and Agricultural Products" (R46241)

"U.S. Trade Policy Primer: Frequently Asked Questions" (R45149)

"U.S. Trade Trends and Developments" (R45420)

"U.S. Trade with Major Trading Partners" (R45434)

In Focus

"China's Status as a Nonmarket Economy (NME)" (IF10385)

"Digital Currencies: Sanctions Evasion Risks" (IF10825)

"Enforcing U.S. Trade Law: Section 301 and China" (IF10702)

"International Property Rights and Digital Trade" (IF10033)

"U.S. Trade Functions: Who Does What?" (IF11011)

"Worker Rights Provisions in Free Trade Agreements" (IF10046)

Legal Sidebar

"The 'National Security Exception' and the World Trade Organization" (LSB10223)

companies, such as Huawei, with regard to potential security concerns and legal conflicts involving the companies. More recently, the pending case *Huawei v. United States* precipitated the creation of CRS products that analyze whether a law that restricts federal agencies from engaging in business with the company is an unconstitutional "bill of attainder." CRS analysts assisted Congress with other policy issues, including China's growing overseas foreign direct investment and technology developments and their relation to U.S. national security interests.

U.S. Trade Agreement Negotiations. New U.S. bilateral trade agreement negotiations were launched and communicated to Congress under TPA involving the European Union (EU), Japan, and potentially the UK once it completes its exit from the EU. The Service provided in-depth written analyses and consultations to Congress on these evolving negotiations and related key issues, as well as on the broader U.S. trade and economic relationship with North American trading partners Mexico and Canada, the EU, Japan and the UK.

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

TRANSPORTATION

A key issue in both houses was legislation to reauthorize federal surface transportation programs. Although previous authorizations did not expire until the end of FY2020, CRS provided extensive support to committees of jurisdiction in both houses as they developed alternative proposals for highway, public transportation, passenger rail, and freight programs. Catastrophic crashes of passenger planes drew attention to the Federal Aviation Administration's procedures for overseeing aircraft safety and delegating certification authority to private industry, and CRS assisted Members in preparing for committee hearings and crafting proposed changes to federal law.

Aircraft Certification. The grounding of the Boeing 737 Max passenger jet in March 2019 in the wake of two catastrophic accidents drew renewed attention to the aircraft certification process. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) expedited the process of bringing new technology to market by allowing aircraft and avionics manufacturers to certify that their new products meet FAA standards. During fiscal year 2019, Congress turned to CRS for assistance in developing proposals to change the requirements for certifying aircraft.

Autonomous Vehicles. The 115th Congress debated regulation of autonomous vehicles; ultimately, no legislation was enacted. Questions about how to regulate driverless vehicles reemerged in the 116th Congress, and CRS consulted with Congress extensively on issues as new legislative proposals were developed.

Disaster Response. During fiscal 2019, Congress focused on presidential emergency and major disaster declarations, including those related to the flooding in the Midwest. CRS experts provided information on federal mechanisms to address post-disaster response and recovery, including disaster assistance programs, appropriations processes and the potential use of authorized funds. Supplemental appropriations for disaster response and recovery were a focus for Congress, and CRS helped Congress to interpret

disaster relief supplemental appropriations under unique circumstances and for specific, complex events, such as U.S.-Mexico border issues.

Electric Vehicles. The growing popularity of electric vehicles highlighted questions about why owners of petroleum-fueled vehicles pay motor fuels taxes to help fund highway construction, while owners of electric vehicles face no similar tax. CRS experts supported Congress by analyzing mechanisms to include a tax on electric vehicles in the surface transportation bill. This issue is not straightforward, as vehicle registration is a state function, and the federal government lacks information about the ownership and technology of individual vehicles.

Surface Transportation. After the 2018 congressional election, both parties expressed interest in developing a major infrastructure construction program. Such legislation did not move forward, and Congress turned its attention to the reauthorization of federal highway, public transportation, rail, and highway safety programs. The law authorizing these programs does not expire until September 2020, but CRS has assisted Congress in developing preliminary proposals to make substantial changes to surface transportation policy since late 2018. Numerous committees are involved in shaping this legislation, the first piece of which was reported by a Senate committee in July 2019.

CRS created **28** new products in the area of transportation.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"The Highway Funding Formula: History and Current Status" (R45727)

"Improving Intercity Passenger Rail Service in the United States" (R45783)

"Marijuana Use and Highway Safety, by David Randall Peterman" (R45719)

"The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program" (R45516)

"Transportation Security: Issues for the 116th Congress" (R45500)

"Supersonic Passenger Flights" (R45404)

In Focus

Delegation of Federal Aviation Administration Certification Authorities to Aviation Manufacturers" (IF11145)

"The Federal Role in Railroad Bridge Safety" (IF10995)

"Reauthorizing Highway and Transit Funding Programs" (IF11125)

"Surface Transportation Reauthorization and the America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (S. 2302)" (IF11300)

Insights

"Boeing 737 MAX Crashes Shake Confidence in International Air Safety" (IN11072)

"Harbor Dredging: Issues and Historical Funding" (IN11133)

"Norwegian Air International and Low-Cost Long-Haul Flights" (IN11158)

NOTABLE EVENT

CRS held two seminars to discuss issues related to surface transportation reauthorization. The first seminar held on July 9, 2019, focused on highway infrastructure programs and the second held on July 12, 2019, focused on public transportation, rail, and highway safety programs.

On June 25, 2019, a seminar was held to discuss global trends in electric vehicle production; federal efforts to support the development of electric vehicles through tax incentives, research funding, and regulation; and state laws and regulations that may significantly affect the rate of electric vehicle adoption. It also considered efforts to promote electric vehicle charging in appropriations bills and the pending reauthorization of surface transportation programs.



“At CRS, I feel that I am able to provide valuable support to the Congress to help inform legislative debate and oversight through concise and understandable reports and briefings on complex transportation topics, like aviation noise and aircraft automation.”

Bart Elias
Specialist in Aviation Policy

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

VETERANS

Congress focused on issues facing America’s veterans, including those related to improving access to health care for veterans in the communities in which they reside. As part of these ongoing efforts, Congress continued to rely on CRS to provide analytical and background support.

The VA MISSION Act and the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act. The John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018 (VA MISSION Act), signed into law in June 2018, established a permanent Veterans Community Care Program to replace the temporary Veterans Choice Program. Following its implementation in June 2019, CRS experts published a report illuminating the major provisions of the law, which is primarily intended to expand veterans’ access to private health care providers. At the beginning of the 116th Congress, the Service provided numerous briefings to help new Members and staff understand how the Veterans Community Care Program would be implemented. Attorneys and analysts also helped committees, Members and their staffers better understand eligibility changes that would stem

from the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 while Congress debated and passed that act.

Veterans Benefits. Congress expressed interest in the support provided to spouses of deceased military service members while it considered eliminating a “benefits offset” that affects surviving spouses. Attorneys provided legal background on the current benefits offset, which involves two military benefits: the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and the Dependent Indemnity Compensation (DIC). By law, a surviving spouse’s SBP benefit currently is “offset” dollar-for-dollar by the amount of any DIC he or she receives. Congress expressed interest in removing this offset, as current law generally makes military surviving spouses forfeit part or all of their military SBP annuity when the service member’s cause of death was due to their military service. CRS legal experts provided summaries and recommendations for legislation in this area.

CRS created **5**
new products in the
area of veterans.

SELECTED PRODUCTS


CRS Reports

"Department of Veterans Affairs
(VA): A Primer on Telehealth"
(R45834)

"VA Maintaining Internal Systems
and Strengthening Integrated
Outside Networks Act of 2018
(VA MISSION Act; P.L.115-182)"
(R45390)

In Focus

"Veterans Health Administration:
Gender-Specific Health Care
Services for Women Veterans"
(IF11082)

A portrait of Heather Salazar, a woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a purple collared shirt under a grey cardigan. The background is blurred with warm, bokeh lights.

“Veterans issues, especially disabilities, are at the forefront of congressional debate on how to ensure that the nation’s veterans are provided with the benefits and programs they deserve. With an ever-growing population of veterans, it is a privilege to provide Members of Congress and their staff with timely, authoritative, analytical information to support their work.”

Heather Salazar
Analyst in Veterans Policy

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

WORKFORCE AND LABOR

Overall labor market performance and federal programs to support workers' well-being have been of broad and longstanding interest to Congress. CRS provided extensive analytic and technical support to Congress on a wide range of workforce policy issues, including financially-troubled pension plans, workers' access to paid family leave, and myriad aspects of federal support for apprenticeships and workforce development programs. In addition, the Service provided objective analysis of recent labor market patterns and earnings trends.

Apprenticeships. The Administration proposed a rule that would establish industry-recognized apprenticeships as an alternative to the existing registered apprenticeship system, and numerous legislative proposals were introduced to promote private sector apprenticeships as a mechanism for training workers. CRS experts supported congressional offices seeking to understand the current role, nature, intensity, cost, and efficacy of apprenticeships. The Service also prepared a report that compared the newly proposed industry-recognized apprenticeship system with the existing registered apprenticeship system. CRS analysts assisted congressional offices seeking to understand how the program recognition standards may vary across these systems and the extent to which the introduction of an alternate system might promote the growth of apprenticeships.

Civil Rights. Civil rights laws, as they apply to the workplace, have been an issue of immense congressional interest in light of public discussions around sexual harassment and abuse, and court rulings regarding civil rights protections for marginalized groups. Attorneys provided numerous consultations to Congress, as well as in-depth research and analysis regarding sexual harassment law generally and specifically. Along with briefing Members and staffers, attorneys provided written testimony for a hearing related to H.R. 5, a bill that ultimately passed the House and would prohibit

discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation in various contexts.

Effects of Partial Government Shutdown for Federal Workers Related to Unemployment Insurance and Retirement Accounts. During the partial government shutdown, agencies without funding furloughed many federal employees, and many remaining federal employees who were excepted from furlough in those agencies worked without pay during the appropriations lapse. Congress relied on CRS as it considered policy proposals to assist affected federal employees through the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system and existing federal retirement benefits. CRS experts analyzed multiple bills that would have made excepted federal workers, who were not otherwise considered unemployed, eligible for UI benefits. CRS also supported Congress on proposals intended to address the financial stress experienced by affected federal employees who accessed funds in their Thrift Savings Plan accounts.

Labor Law. Congress expressed interest in joint employment and federal labor and employment laws, and attorneys authored several new products and briefed congressional staff on the topics. Congressional interest in joint employment followed recent legislative and regulatory proposals that would clarify when more than one entity may be considered a joint employer of a single

CRS created **27** new products in the area of workforce and labor.

SELECTED PRODUCTS

CRS Reports

"Categories of Federal Civil Service Employment: A Snapshot" (R45635)

"Labor Market Patterns Since 2007" (R45330)

"Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB): A Legal Overview" (R45630)

"Overtime Exemptions in the Fair Labor Standards Act for White-Collar Employees: Frequently Asked Questions" (R45722)

"Proposed Rule on Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs" (R45835)

"Unemployment Compensation (UC): Issues Related to Drug Testing" (R45889)

"Unemployment Insurance: Legislative Issues in the 116th Congress" (R45478)

In Focus

"Employer Tax Credit for Paid Family and Medical Leave" (IF11141)

"H.R. 397 (116th Congress), the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act" (IF11144)

"Job Corps Program: Plans to Close and Restructure Civilian Conservation Centers (CCCs)" (IF11236)


"Minimum Wages and the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582)" (IF11282)

Legal Sidebar

"Are DACA Recipients Eligible for Federal Employment?" (LSB10244)

"Making it a Priority: What Happens to Employee Claims When a Business Declares Bankruptcy?" (LSB10288)

"NLRB Adopts New Standard for Identifying Covered Employees" (LSB10263)



"I find the work as an expert in labor policy intellectually demanding, diverse, and fast-paced. Working for CRS is gratifying because it allows me to contribute to its role as an authoritative and non-partisan source of information and analysis for Members of Congress and staff."

David Bradley
Specialist in Labor Economics

workforce. Congressional interest in the National Labor Relations Board and collective bargaining resulted in numerous briefings and several new CRS products, including writings on the legal standard that is to be used to identify covered employees.

Paid Family Leave. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which provides an entitlement to unpaid leave for eligible employees with certain needs, is currently the only federal leave entitlement for private sector workers. During FY2019, Congress expressed interest in discussions around new leave entitlements, particularly

for paid family leave. Analytical reports by CRS experts featured an overview of paid family leave in the United States, addressed the availability of such leave and discussed recent legislative proposals to expand access to it. Congress also relied on CRS to provide consultative support while it considered potential policy options for developing a federal role in supporting paid family leave. The Service provided assistance in examining the design and prevalence of state family leave benefits, considering the potential interplay between state and federal benefits and the prevalence and nature of currently available leave benefits.





OPTIMIZING RESOURCES

The second of CRS's two directional goals is to:

Optimize Resource Utilization

To help CRS realize its vision to be a premier source of research and analysis for the first branch of government, the Service continuously examines its organizational enterprise to ensure that it is properly aligned to meet the needs of Congress. In fiscal 2019, the Service finalized the 2019-2023 CRS Directional Plan as well as a review of its core values and mission. It also began or continued several initiatives in the areas of human resources management, communications, data metrics, information technology, knowledge management, outreach and communications.

OPTIMIZING RESOURCES

COMMUNICATIONS

Building on recommendations provided by the Internal Communications Working Group, CRS engaged in a variety of efforts to create a culture of communication, strengthen staff capacity, and develop systems for communication. It also refined recommendations into an organization-wide communication plan. The Service identified ways to ensure the integration of communication planning in major initiatives and in the Service's regular work. As part of the IRIS information

technology modernization effort, CRS developed a comprehensive change management, communication and training initiative, including the development of an internal website, newsletter, and other communications. It also initiated a series of hosted panel conversations, "CRS Across the Decades," which highlighted experiences from long-tenured employees. CRS also finalized the transition of a legacy intranet to a new platform and validated the new website.

CORE VALUES

As part of the Service's directional planning efforts, CRS finalized review of its core values, mission and vision statements. The core elements working group refreshed the Service's mission statement to reflect Congress's roles as a coequal branch of government and confirmed the Service's core values of confidentiality, objectivity, nonpartisanship, authoritativeness, and timeliness. The core values inform every aspect of the Service's work and align with its statutory mandate. The working

group, with representatives from across the Service, sought staff input at multiple points throughout its deliberations. Input resoundingly reflected that the core values did not require change. Additionally, the group identified and sought feedback from staff on a new set of guiding principles for the Service. After consideration, the group identified five guiding principles: excellence, inclusion, collaboration, integrity, and innovation.



Across the Decades Panel. Angele A. Gilroy, specialist in telecommunications policy; Eugene Boyd, analyst in federalism and economic development; Amanda B. Donaldson, legislative analyst; and Robert Nickel, multimedia specialist

OPTIMIZING RESOURCES

DATA METRICS

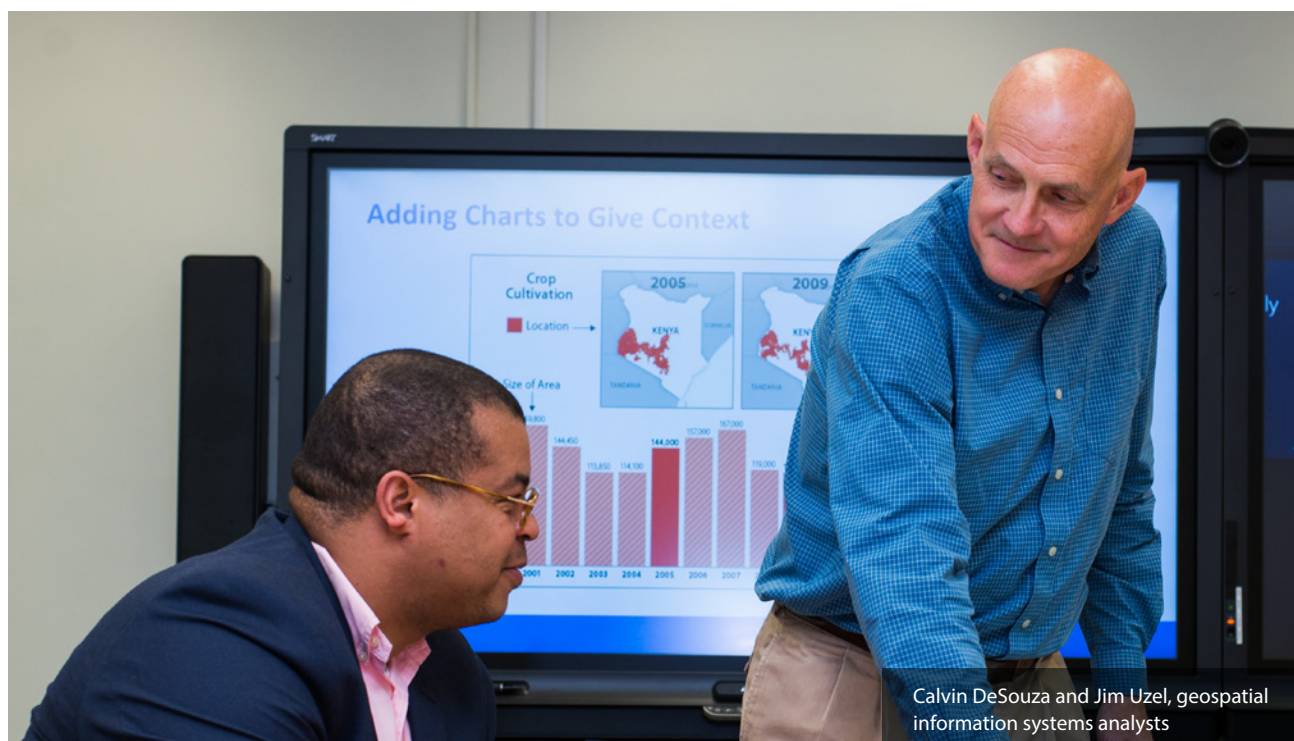
CRS uses data in a variety of ways, including to assess product output, gauge client usage and reveal trends in policy interests. The Service developed tools to assess the use of CRS products and services and to provide insights on congressional interests. A major area of data collection involved understanding CRS.gov usage by congressional clients. These efforts included the capture and analysis of search terms utilized on CRS.gov and analysis of general pages on the site, topic pages and CRS products.

Beyond assessment of website use, CRS developed prototype data analytic tools to reflect the scope and depth of CRS service to Congress. These tools were used by CRS management to anticipate and evaluate work demands, understand the range of clients receiving consultative services and help ensure that CRS reaches all Members and committees. CRS continued to explore new data available from congressional use of CRS products, websites and services.

DIRECTIONAL PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION

Fiscal 2019 marked the completion and approval of the 2019–2023 CRS Directional Plan. The plan represented the culmination of more than a year’s work to chart the future direction of the Service. The plan focuses on two strategic goals: Enhance service and access for all of Congress, and Optimize resource utilization. These goals align with the priorities identified in “Enriching

the Library Experience,” the fiscal 2019–2023 Strategic Plan of the Library of Congress and reflect CRS’s commitment to ensuring its products and services meet the changing needs of Members, committees and staff. Since the plan was completed, efforts have focused on implementation of the initiatives to meet its goals and objectives.



OPTIMIZING RESOURCES

IRIS

In collaboration with the Library, CRS moved ahead to modernize its information technology systems. The Integrated Research Information System (IRIS) is to leverage the latest advances in web-based technologies to provide an agile and flexible infrastructure that would enable efficient plug-and-play of technologies for rapid deployment and use by CRS staff and Congress. The new integrated environment is to support CRS's work for Congress in four key areas: information research, policy

and data analysis, content creation, and product delivery. The platform is to integrate a content management system (CMS), authoring and publishing tools, and other systems and applications required to perform expert research and analysis as well as create and deliver a broad range of products and services to Congress. The new system is to improve efficiency and creativity in CRS operations, while continuing to protect the security and confidentiality of congressional data.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND INTRANET GOVERNANCE

During fiscal 2019, CRS continued working on an initiative to capture institutional knowledge and facilitate knowledge sharing and reuse. It also grew the CRS Research Portal, a tool intended to curate research materials gathered by analysts, attorneys and librarians on selected public policy issues. Twelve new sites were launched on the portal, with eight more in development. Ad hoc sites were quickly developed to

allow cross-divisional teams to capture work documents and collaborate as fast-moving legislative issues developed. At the end of fiscal 2019, almost all divisions and offices had launched new or enhanced intranets, which contain CRS-facing and division-internal content and are used for internal communication, scheduling work and facilities, tracking tasks, and posting procedures and best practices.



Elizabeth C. Larson, senior knowledge services librarian; Sundeep Mahendra, senior knowledge services librarian; and Caitlin Curran, reference and digital services librarian

OPTIMIZING RESOURCES

OUTREACH

At the start of the 116th Congress, CRS engaged in robust outreach to congressional staff and newly elected Members. In addition to hosting the New Member Seminar, which provided Members with an orientation to CRS's products and services, CRS conducted in-office visits to all new House and Senate offices, as well as hosted a variety of programs specifically focused on these offices. The Service also worked to improve outreach to new staff in all offices, participated in

outreach fairs and other activities, and developed a variety of outreach materials, such as monthly program bulletins and informative one-pagers.

The Service also continued digital efforts to strengthen congressional awareness of CRS products and services. The CRS4Congress Twitter account gained 318 followers and saw its monthly impressions increase to 21 thousand.

WORKFORCE

The Service supported a variety of initiatives to recruit and maintain a world-class workforce. These included two diversity and inclusion working groups, CRS staff recognition, and opportunities for training and professional development.

Two diversity and inclusion working groups (Workplace Inclusion Working Group and Diversity Recruitment and Retention Working Group) met regularly to address specified objectives in CRS's Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. The Workplace Inclusion Working



Bruce Krafte, head, staff development and performance section; Shaunetta M. Workman, human capital management specialist; and JoVaughn A. Proctor, administrative support assistant

OPTIMIZING RESOURCES



Group researched and evaluated best practices in the area of diversity and inclusion. The Diversity Recruitment and Retention Working Group worked on a variety of efforts, including those to help explain Merit Selection Plans that govern competitive hiring at the Library of Congress. Working group members also supported an effort led by the Service to bring diversity expert and author Howard Ross to lead a session on “Understanding Everyday Bias” for CRS staff.

In recognition of staff accomplishments, the Service held its annual Staff Appreciation Week in June. The week highlights employee accomplishments and various contributions throughout the year through social events and the annual Staff Appreciation ceremony. In recognition of exceptional work done in support of Congress and the CRS mission, the Director’s Award is awarded on an annual basis. In 2019, the award was presented to Dianne Rennack, a specialist in the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division. Rennack has served Congress as an employee of CRS for more than 30 years. During the course of the fiscal year, staff were also recognized in various ways for exceptional service, including certificates of achievement, time off,

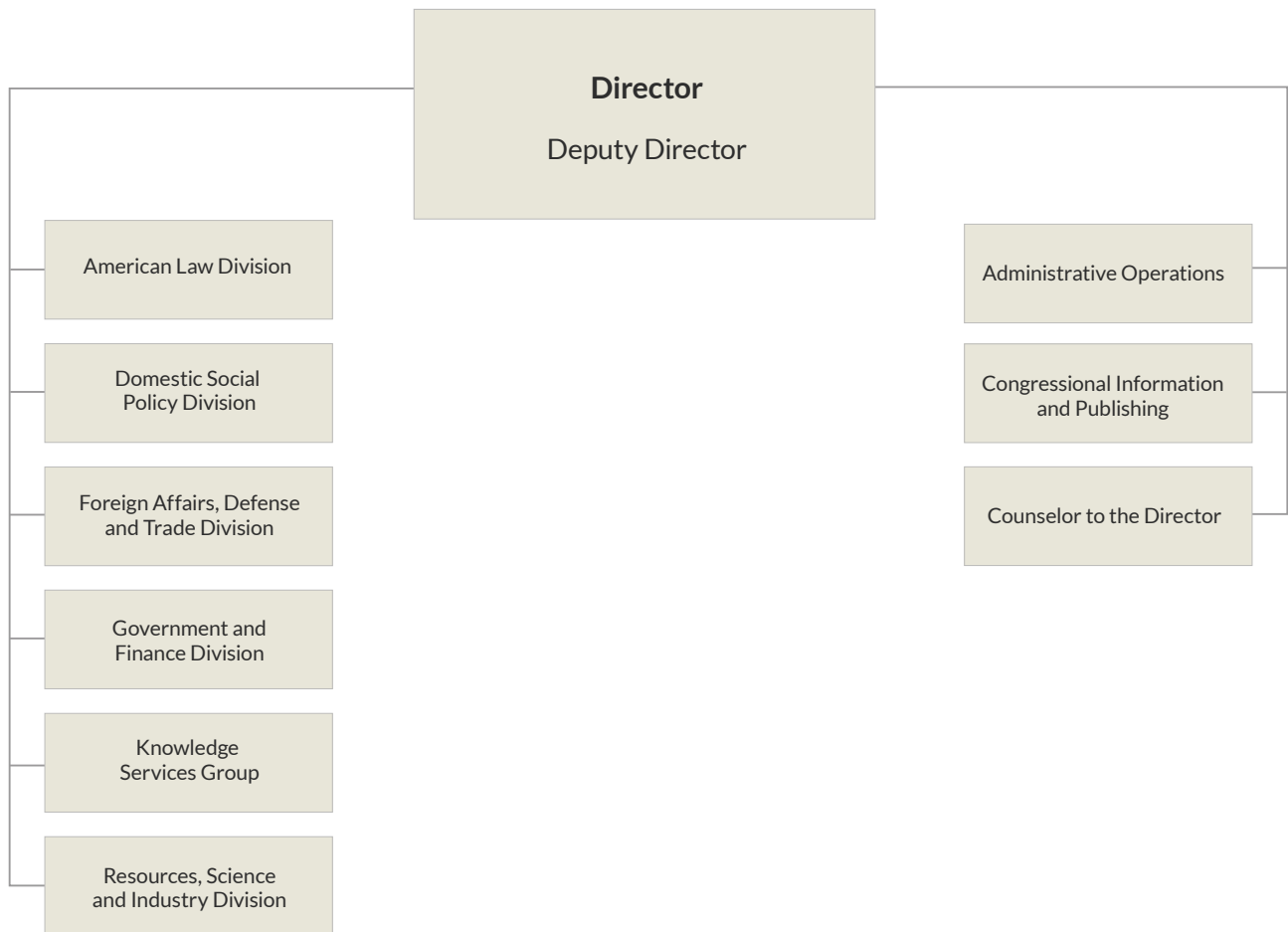
on-the-spot awards, catered lunches, and performance awards. In addition, brainstorming sessions were held with a number of CRS staff to help identify new methods of recognizing and rewarding notable staff achievements.

The Service continued to prioritize professional development and training, empowering staff to strengthen and maximize their knowledge and skills. Staff engaged in a variety of training initiatives, including training on professional writing, presentations delivery, and leadership. Senior executives participated in quarterly forums featuring presentations on leading people, leading change, business acumen and effective communications. “Hot Topics” discussions were held to engage staff on issues related to their work or work environment. The discussions primarily focused on geographical information systems and tools used to develop maps that enrich the analysis and presentation of products. Programs were also held for new staff, including New Employee Orientations and a mentoring program that matched new staff with more tenured employee mentors to help familiarize the new employees with CRS’s mission, operations, and culture.

The background image is a photograph of a highly ornate ceiling. At the top, there is a large, rectangular golden mosaic or fresco depicting a symmetrical floral and foliate design. Below this is a wide, horizontal band of a repeating geometric pattern in dark red and gold. The central part of the ceiling features a large triangular fresco. This fresco shows two figures, possibly cherubs or deities, in red and white garments, holding a long red banner that curves across the triangle. The banner contains the word 'SHAKESPEARE' in a simple, capital font. The triangular fresco is surrounded by intricate golden scrollwork and floral motifs. The sides of the ceiling are decorated with vertical panels of golden mosaics. The bottom edge of the ceiling is finished with a row of small, square, white decorative elements, possibly medallions or tiles, set against a dark background.

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 nominated by the Librarian of Congress and confirmed by 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 to 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; produces multimedia, including video, for clients; and manages media requests, social media, website and internal communication.

The Office of Administrative Operations manages the business operations of the Service and its strategic planning 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 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, maintains property and workplace security, and manages conference space. 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 in order to ensure accurate, timely and complete access to legislative information. The office develops innovative tools to improve understanding of legislative documents, responds to congressional queries about the use and content of legislative information systems, and maintains authoritative Member and staff data records.

The Office of the Counselor to the Director examines and defines the range of legal and policy questions and issues that arise from CRS operations, as well as its relationship 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 received by the Congressional Services Section, providing authoritative guidance on policy questions involving sensitive or complex congressional requests, and supporting outreach to congressional clients.

RESEARCH DIVISIONS

The American Law Division provides objective, authoritative and non-partisan legal analysis and consultation to Members of Congress and their staff on issues of national importance that arise as part of the legislative process or that are otherwise of interest to Congress. Division attorneys advise Congress on its legislative and oversight powers under the Constitution, delineating the limits of federal power over individuals and the states; illuminating challenges to enacted legislation and potential problems with contemplated legislation; and examining constitutional and statutory issues, including the separation of powers, individual rights, federalism and statutory interpretation. Members of Congress and their staff consult with division attorneys on all facets of law in the United States, including administrative, business, civil rights, cybersecurity, energy, environmental, immigration, intellectual property, international, labor, military, national security, procurement, tax and trade law. The division prepares and updates the Constitution of the United States: Analysis and Interpretation, which has served as the nation's Constitution of record for more than 100 years and which documents for Congress and the public how constitutional interpretations and applications have evolved over time.

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, social welfare programs, nutrition assistance, housing, immigration, drug control, crime and criminal justice, labor and occupational safety, unemployment and workers' compensation, and other issues related to persons with disabilities, the aged, the poor, children and families, 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 and political and economic developments for Congress. These include U.S. relations with individual countries; regional trends; 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 and 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; the impact of advanced technologies on global security; 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. Additionally, 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. Lastly, the division plays a leading role in addressing congressional needs in the area of cybersecurity.

The Knowledge Services Group responds to congressional requests and partners with analysts and attorneys to provide authoritative and reliable information for Congress. KSG's reference librarians author descriptive reference products and support CRS analysts and Congress by finding solutions for their information needs. The KSG geographical information system (GIS) team provides geospatial analysis and mapping services, and KSG staff also captures, organizes and manages information and data to facilitate future use.

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 the environment; public lands, water and other natural resources issues; 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, industrial market structure and regulation, and sector-specific industry analysis.

APPENDIX C. BUDGET, RESOURCES AND OTHER FUNDING



Carmen M. Reese, human capital management specialist and
Francois A. DiFolco, associate director, Administrative Operations

The Service managed \$125.69 million in appropriated funds and \$627,297 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 and the Pew Charitable Trusts. Of the grant funds secured, \$582,224 was expensed for the CRS “New Member Seminar,” which was held in early January 2019. The program was the 12th 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 “116th Congress: Issues and Policy Seminar,” held in February 2019. This all-day program provided congressional staff with an objective and nonpartisan overview of pertinent issues facing the 116th 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 17 advanced seminars. Of these programs, CRS conducted single-session seminars on the Supreme Court; reauthorizing federal highway programs; and reauthorizing transit, rail and highway safety programs. It also hosted the following three thematic series:

- “Master the Legislative Process.” This series built on its success from previous years and used recent floor examples to examine how rules and procedures have an impact on legislative outcomes.
- “Challenges to the Global Order.” This series provided analysis and insight to help participants understand and respond to the potential impact on U.S. interests on 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 they create.

APPENDIX D. NEW PRODUCTS

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

- The 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334): Summary and Side-by-Side Comparison, by Mark A. McMinimy, Sahar Angadjivand, Randy Alison Aussenberg, Kara Clifford Billings, Kelsi Bracmort, Alyssa R. Casey, Tadlock Cowan, Joel L. Greene, Katie Hoover, Renée Johnson, Jim Monke, Anita Regmi, Isabel Rosa, Randy Schnepf, Megan Stubbs, Michaela D. Platzer and Jerry H. Yen. 367 p. (R45525)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Agricultural Research and Extension, by Genevieve K. Croft. 2 p. (IF11319)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Agricultural Trade and Food Assistance, by Anita Regmi and Alyssa R. Casey. 2 p. (IF11223)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: ARC and PLC Support Programs, by Randy Schnepf. 2 p. (IF11161)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Beginning Farmers and Ranchers, by Renée Johnson and Tadlock Cowan. 2 p. (IF11227)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Dairy Programs, by Joel L. Greene. 2 p. (IF11188)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Hemp Cultivation and Processing, by Renée Johnson. 2 p. (IF11088)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Marketing Assistance Loan Program, by Randy Schnepf. 2 p. (IF11162)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Program Eligibility and Payment Limits, by Randy Schnepf and Megan Stubbs. 2 p. (IF11165)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Rural Development Programs, by Tadlock Cowan. 2 p. (IF11225)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: SNAP and Nutrition Title Programs, by Randy Alison Aussenberg and Kara Clifford Billings. 2 p. (IF11087)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Specialty Crops and Organic Agriculture, by Renée Johnson. 2 p. (IF11317)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Support for Indian Tribes, by Renée Johnson and Tadlock Cowan. 2 p. (IF11287)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Support for Local Food Systems, by Renée Johnson, Tadlock Cowan and Randy Alison Aussenberg. 2 p. (IF11252)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Support for Urban Agriculture, by Renée Johnson and Tadlock Cowan. 2 p. (IF11210)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: The Farm Safety Net, by Randy Schnepf. 2 p. (IF11163)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Title I Commodity Programs, by Randy Schnepf. 2 p. (IF11164)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Title II Conservation Programs, by Megan Stubbs. 2 p. (IF11199)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: Veteran Farmers and Ranchers, by Renée Johnson. 2 p. (IF11093)
- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: What Is the Farm Bill? by Renée Johnson and Jim Monke. 2 p. (IF11126)
- African Swine Fever (ASF), by Sahar Angadjivand and Joel L. Greene. 2 p. (IF11215)
- Agricultural Conservation in the 2018 Farm Bill, by Megan Stubbs. 42 p. (R45698)

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, LSB = legal sidebar, and WVB = video brief

Agricultural Provisions of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, by Jenny Hopkinson. 2 p. (IF10996)	Farm Policy: Comparison of 2018 and 2019 MFP Programs, by Randy Schnepf. 2 p. (IF11289)
Agricultural Provisions of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, by Anita Regmi. 17 p. (R45661)	Farm Policy: USDA's 2019 Trade Aid Package, by Randy Schnepf. 18 p. (R45865)
Agriculture and Food Policy Open House. (WPE11160)	FDA Regulation of Cannabidiol (CBD) Products, by Agata Dabrowska and Renée Johnson. 2 p. (IF11250)
Animal and Plant Health Import Permits in U.S. Agricultural Trade, by Sahar Angadjivand. 12 p. (R45457)	Federal Crop Insurance: Specialty Crops, by Isabel Rosa and Renée Johnson. 23 p. (R45459)
Budget Issues That Shaped the 2018 Farm Bill, by Jim Monke. 7 p. (R45425)	Federal Research and Development (R&D) Funding: FY2020, by John F. Sargent Jr., Tadlock Cowan, Robert Esworthy, Marcy E. Gallo, Laurie A. Harris, Eva Lipiec, Daniel Morgan and Kavya Sekar. 68 p. (R45715)
The CCC Anomaly in an FY2020 Continuing Resolution, by Megan Stubbs and Jim Monke. 3 p. (IN11168)	Foodborne Illnesses and Outbreaks from Fresh Produce, by Renée Johnson. 2 p. (IF11092)
Charitable Conservation Contributions: Potential for Abuse? by Molly F. Sherlock. 4 p. (IN11141)	FY2018 and FY2019 Agriculture Appropriations: Federal Food Safety Activities, by Renée Johnson and Sahar Angadjivand. 18 p. (R45413)
Child Nutrition Programs: Current Issues, by Kara Clifford Billings. 19 p. (R45486)	FY2018 and FY2019 Agriculture Appropriations: International Food Aid, by Alyssa R. Casey. 15 p. (R45712)
China's Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S. Agriculture: In Brief, by Anita Regmi. 9 p. (R45929)	FY2018 and FY2019 Appropriations for Agricultural Conservation, by Megan Stubbs. 13 p. (R45406)
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Government Response, by Sahar Angadjivand and R. Eliot Crafton. 2 p. (IF11213)	FY2019 Supplemental Appropriations for Agriculture, by Megan Stubbs and Jim Monke. 2 p. (IF11245)
Dairy Provisions in USMCA, by Joel L. Greene. 2 p. (IF11149)	FY2020 Agriculture Appropriations: H.R. 3164, by Jim Monke. (IN11132)
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): Background and Funding, by Kara Clifford Billings. 22 p. (R45408)	FY2020 Federal Research and Development Funding: Department of Agriculture, by Tadlock Cowan. (WVB00275)
Expiration of the 2014 Farm Bill, by Jim Monke, Randy Alison Aussenberg and Megan Stubbs. 20 p. (R45341)	International Food Assistance: Food for Peace Nonemergency Programs, by Emily M. Morgenstern. 17 p. (R45879)
Farm Commodity Provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334), by Randy Schnepf. 53 p. (R45730)	Invasive Species: A Brief Overview, by R. Eliot Crafton and Sahar Angadjivand. 2 p. (IF11011)
Farm Debt and Chapter 12 Bankruptcy Eligibility, by Jim Monke. 3 p. (IN11073)	

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, LSB = legal sidebar, and WVB = video brief

Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act: Overview for Reauthorization in the 116th Congress, by Joel L. Greene. 14 p. (R45777)

Major Agricultural Trade Issues in the 116th Congress, by Anita Regmi, Sahar Angadjivand, Tadlock Cowan, Joel L. Greene, Renée Johnson and Randy Schnepf. 46 p. (R45728)

New Round of Farm Trade Aid Proposed by Administration for 2019, by Randy Schnepf. 3 p. (IN11126)

Overview of U.S. International Food Assistance, by Alyssa R. Casey. 2 p. (IF11059)

Prior Converted Cropland Under the Clean Water Act, by Laura Gatz and Megan Stubbs. 2 p. (IF11136)

Profiles and Effects of Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S. Agricultural Exports, by Jenny Hopkinson. 20 p. (R45448)

Proposed Relocation/Realignment of USDA's ERS and NIFA, by Tadlock Cowan. 2 p. (IF11166)

Proposed U.S.-EU Trade Agreement Negotiations, by Shayerah Ilias Akhtar, Andres B. Schwarzenberg and Renée Johnson. 2 p. (IF11209)

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Foreign Aid in the 115th Congress: A Legislative Wrap-Up in Brief, by Marian L. Lawson. 6 p. (R45458)	FY2020 Defense Budget Request: An Overview, by Brendan W. McGarry and Christopher T. Mann. 8 p. (IN11083)
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- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Frequently Asked Questions, by Carol Hardy Vincent and Bill Heniff Jr. 2 p. (IF11198)
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- National Park Service: FY2020 Appropriations, by Laura B. Comay. 2 p. (IF11178)
- National Park Service: Government Shutdown Issues, by Laura B. Comay and Carol Hardy Vincent. 2 p. (IF11079)
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- Overseas Contingency Operations Funding: Trends and Issues, by Brendan W. McGarry. (WPE11109) (WPE11175) (WRE00267)
- Overview of FY2020 Appropriations for Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS), by Nathan James. 24 p. (R45702)
- Overview of FY2020 Appropriations for the Census Bureau, by Jennifer D. Williams. 2 p. (IF11310)
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- Trade-Related Agencies: FY2019 Appropriations, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS), by Keigh E. Hammond and M. Angeles Villarreal. 15 p. (R45335)
- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations for FY2019: In Brief, by Maggie McCarty and David Randall Peterman. 4 p. (R45487)
- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations for FY2020: In Brief, by Maggie McCarty and David Randall Peterman. 12 p. (R45774)
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- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FY2019 Appropriations, by Robert Esworthy and David M. Bearden. 2 p. (IF11067)
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Using Defense Funds for Construction in a National Emergency - Senate, by Brendan W. McGarry, Jennifer K. Elsea, Michael J. Vassalotti, Edward C. Liu, Liana W. Rosen and Nicole T. Carter. (WPE11062)

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BANKING AND FINANCE

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- CFPB Proposes New Payday Lending Rule, Reversing Recently Finalized Regulation, by Cheryl R. Cooper. 4 p. (IN11059)
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- Challenges and Solutions: Access to Banking Services for Cannabis-Related Businesses, by David H. Carpenter. 12 p. (TE10031)
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- Consumer Credit Markets and Loan Pricing: The Basics, by Darryl E. Getter. 2 p. (IF10993)
- CRS Series: Introduction to Financial Services, by Marc Labonte and Raj Gnanarajah. 5 p. (IN11016)
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- Enhanced Prudential Regulation of Large Banks, by Marc Labonte. 30 p. (R45711)
- Examining Regulatory Frameworks for Digital Currencies and Blockchain, by Rebecca M. Nelson. 14 p. (TE10034)
- The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act: Legal Framework, by Kevin M. Lewis. 2 p. (IF11247)
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- Introduction to Bank Regulation: Supervision, by Marc Labonte and David W. Perkins. 2 p. (IF11055)
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- Introduction to Financial Services: Capital Markets, by Eva Su. 2 p. (IF11062)
- Introduction to Financial Services: Corporate Governance, by Raj Gnanarajah and Gary Shorter. 2 p. (IF11221)

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- The Federal Communications Commission: Current Structure and Its Role in the Changing Telecommunications Landscape, by Patricia Moloney Figliola. (R45699)
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Media Ownership Rules, by Dana A. Scherer. 24 p. (R45338)
- Federal Communications Commission: Progress Protecting Consumers from Illegal Robocalls, by Patricia Moloney Figliola. 2 p. (IF11290)
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- First Tax Season under the 2017 Tax Act (P.L. 115-97): Potential Constituent Questions, by Grant A. Driessen, Molly F. Sherlock, Mark P. Keightley and Margot L. Crandall-Hollick. (WVB00244)
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- Internet of Things (IoT): An Introduction, by Suzy E. Park. 2 p. (IF11239)
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- Regulating Big Tech: Legal Implications, by Valerie C. Brannon. 6 p. (LSB10309)
- Robocall Regulation and Judicial Review, by Eric N. Holmes. 3 p. (LSB10333)
- Robocalls: Background, Government Activity and Enforcement, and Current Challenges, by Patricia Moloney Figliola. (WVB00263)
- Robocalls: Overview and Government Activity, by Patricia Moloney Figliola. (WVB00227)
- Science and Technology Issues in the 116th Congress, by Frank Gottron, Sahar Angadjivand, Kelsi Bracmort, Nicole T. Carter, Laura B. Comay, Tadlock Cowan, Agata Dabrowska, Patricia Moloney Figliola, Kristin Finklea, Eric A. Fischer, Peter Folger, Jill C. Gallagher, Marcy E. Gallo, Angele A. Gilroy, Boris

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Sarah A. Lister, Sean Lowry, Daniel Morgan, Anna E. Normand, Amanda K. Sarata, John F. Sargent Jr., Kavya Sekar, Pervaze A. Sheikh. (R45491)

CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS, ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

116th Congress Issues and Policy Seminar, by Christopher M. Davis, Elizabeth Rybicki, K. Alan Kronstadt, Susan V. Lawrence, Mark E. Manyin, R. Sam Garrett, L. Paige Whitaker, Patricia A. Davis, Bernadette Fernandez, Jim Hahn, Alison Mitchell, Chris Jaikaran, Jeremiah Gertler, Kristy N. Kamarck, Pat Towell, William J. Krouse, Eric A. Fischer, Marcy E. Gallo, Laurie A. Harris, Marc Levinson, William J. Mallett, Shayerah Ilias Akhtar, Wayne M. Morrison, Brock R. Williams, William A. Kandel, Audrey Singer, Hillel R. Smith, Jill H. Wilson, Zoe Danon, Carla A. Humud, Kenneth Katzman, Jeremy M. Sharp, Laura B. Comay, Richard K. Lattanzio, Michael Ratner and Linda Tsang. (WPE11069) (WPE11078) (WPE11070) (WPE11074) (WPE11071) (WPE11067) (WPE11077) (WPE11076) (WPE11080) (WPE11073) (WPE11068) (WPE11079) (WPE11075) (WPE11072)

The 2020 Decennial Census: Overview and Issues, by Jennifer D. Williams. 2 p. (IF11015)

Administration of the House of Representatives: Actions Taken During a New Congress and Following a Majority Change, by Ida A. Brudnick and Jennifer E. Manning. 2 p. (IF11028)

Advanced Legislative Process Institute, by Christopher M. Davis, Elizabeth Rybicki, Mark J. Oleszek, Walter J. Oleszek, Megan S. Lynch and Valerie Heitshusen. (WPE11171) (WPE11251)

An Introduction to Committee Procedure for New House Offices, by Christopher M. Davis. (WPE11103)

An Introduction to House Floor Procedure for New House Offices, by Elizabeth Rybicki. (WPE11115)

An Introduction to Senate Procedure for New Senate

Offices, by Elizabeth Rybicki and Valerie Heitshusen. (WPE11081)

Budget Resolutions and Budget Enforcement, by Bill Heniff Jr., James V. Saturno and Megan S. Lynch. (WPE11188) (WPE11155) (WPE11254)

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Campaign and Election Security Policy: Brief Introduction, by R. Sam Garrett. 2 p. (IF11265)

Campaign Finance: Key Policy and Constitutional Issues, by R. Sam Garrett and L. Paige Whitaker. 2 p. (IF11034)

Changes to House Rules Affecting the Congressional Budget Process Included in H.Res. 6 (116th Congress), by James V. Saturno and Megan S. Lynch. 5 p. (R45552)

Congress: An Introduction to Process and Resources, by Christopher M. Davis, Elizabeth C. Larson, Elizabeth Rybicki, Valerie Heitshusen, Jane A. Hudiburg, Keri B. Stophel, Mark J. Oleszek, Jacob R. Straus, Michele L. Malloy, Sarah W. Caldwell, Theresa A. Reiss, Molly Higgins, Kezee Procita, Susan G. Chessner, Jennifer E. Manning and Ida A. Brudnick. (WPE11161) (WPE11246) (WPE10964) (WPE11040) (WPE11323) (WPE11106) (WPE11043) (WPE11051) (WPE11252) (WPE11233) (WPE11281) (WPE11183) (WPE11102)

Congressional Access to the President's Federal Tax Returns, by David H. Carpenter, Todd Garvey and Edward C. Liu. 6 p. (LSB10275)

Congressional Commissions: Funding and Expenditures, by William T. Egar. 19 p. (R45826)

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- Congressional Member Organizations (CMOs) and Informal Member Groups, by Sarah J. Eckman. 3 p. (IN11036)
- Congressional Oversight of Covert Action and Other Intelligence Activities, by Heidi M. Peters, Michael E. DeVine and Moshe Schwartz. (WPE11191) (WPE11181)
- Congressional Oversight: Investigations and Beyond, by Daniel J. Sheffner and Todd Garvey. (WPE11057)
- Congressional Subpoenas: Enforcing Executive Branch Compliance, by Todd Garvey. 44 p. (R45653)
- The Congressional Subpoena: Investigative Conflicts with the Executive Branch, by Todd Garvey. (WRE00271)
- Continuing Resolutions: Components and Procedures for Congressional Consideration, by James V. Saturno. (WPE11299) (WPE11280)
- Designing Congressional Commissions: Background and Considerations for Congress, by William T. Egar. 27 p. (R45328)
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- Donor Disclosure: 501(c) Groups and Campaign Spending, by R. Sam Garrett. 2 p. (IF11005)
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- Election Policy on the November 2018 Ballot, by Karen L. Shanton. 3 p. (IN11000)
- Election Security: Federal Funding for Securing Election Systems, by Karen L. Shanton. 2 p. (IF11286)
- Election Security: Voter Registration System Policy Issues, by Sarah J. Eckman. 2 p. (IF11285)
- H.R. 1: Overview and Related CRS Products, by R. Sam Garrett, Sarah J. Eckman, Karen L. Shanton, Jacob R. Straus and Raymond T. Williams. 2 p. (IF11097)
- House Advanced Legislative Process Series (HALPS): Winter 2018, by Christopher M. Davis, Elizabeth Rybicki, James V. Saturno and Walter J. Oleszek. (WPE10969) (WPE10991) (WPE10972) (WPE10970)
- House Advanced Legislative Process Series (HALPS): Spring 2019, by Christopher M. Davis, Mark J. Oleszek, Valerie Heitshusen and Walter J. Oleszek. (WPE11116) (WPE11117) (WPE11119) (WPE11118)
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DEFENSE AND INTELLIGENCE

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- Defense Institute: Intro to the Military Health System, by Bryce H. P. Mendez. (WPE11132)
- Defense Institute: Intro to the Military Health System, by Bryce H. P. Mendez. (WPE11124)
- Defense Institute: NDAA & Defense Appropriations Basics: Process and Navigating, by Brendan W. McGarry, Ronald O'Rourke and Pat Towell. (WPE11122)
- Defense Institute Part I, by Brendan W. McGarry, Jennifer K. Elsea, Michael E. DeVine, Kristy N. Kamarck and Pat Towell. (WPE11127) (WPE11125) (WPE11126) (WPE11123) (WPE11129) (WPE11131) (WPE11128)
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- Using Defense Funds for Construction in a National Emergency—Senate, by Brendan W. McGarry, Jennifer K. Elsea, Michael J. Vassalotti, Edward C. Liu, Liana W. Rosen and Nicole T. Carter. (WPE11062)
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- What is the “Widow’s Tax”? Understanding the Military Survivor Benefit Plan and Veterans’ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, by Kristy N. Kamarck. (WPD00018)

EDUCATION

- “Affirmative Action” and Equal Protection in Higher Education, by Christine J. Back. 44 p. (R45481)
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- The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (P.L. 115-271): Medicare Provisions, by Suzanne M. Kirchhoff, Cliff Binder, Jim Hahn, Sarah A. Lister, Paulette C. Morgan, Amanda K. Sarata, Jennifer A. Staman, Marco A. Villagrana and Phoenix Voorhies. 42 p. (R45449)
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- District Court Temporarily Blocks Implementation of Asylum Restrictions on Unlawful Entrants at the Southern Border, by Hillel R. Smith and Ben Harrington. 6 p. (LSB10222)
- The Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA): A Summary of Selected Statutory Provisions, by Elizabeth M. Webster, Bruce R. Lindsay, Peter Folger, Diane P. Horn, Natalie Keegan, Sarah A. Lister, Shawn Reese and Julie M. Whittaker. 70 p. (R45819)
- The Disaster Recovery Reform Act: Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress, by Elizabeth M. Webster. 3 p. (IN11055)
- The Disaster Relief Fund: Overview and Issues, by William L. Painter. 30 p. (R45484)
- Emergency Communications: Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress, by Jill C. Gallagher. 3 p. (IN11028)
- The Evolving Use of Disaster Housing Assistance and the Roles of the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) and the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), by Elizabeth M. Webster. 3 p. (IN11094)
- Expected Costs from Storms: Implications for Disaster Mitigation, the NFIP, and Policy Options, by Diane P. Horn. (WPE11236)
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- Federal District Court Enjoins the Department of Homeland Security from Terminating Temporary Protected Status, by Hillel R. Smith. 5 p. (LSB10215)
- The Federal Role in Railroad Bridge Safety, by Ben Goldman. 2 p. (IF10995)
- Firefighter Assistance Grants: Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress, by Lennard G. Kruger. 3 p. (IN11022)
- FY2019 Disaster Supplemental Appropriations: CRS Experts, by William L. Painter. 8 p. (R45714)
- FY2019 Disaster Supplemental Appropriations: Overview, by William L. Painter. 27 p. (R45844)
- The Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and U.S. Policy, by Rhoda Margesson. 2 p. (IF11003)
- Hurricane Michael: Brief Overview of FEMA Programs and Resources, by Bruce R. Lindsay, Shawn Reese, Jared T. Brown, Diane P. Horn and William L. Painter. 4 p. (IN10978)
- Icebreaker Acquisition and the Need for a National Maritime Strategy, by Ronald O'Rourke. 26 p. (TE10030)

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- Immigration Relief Options for Bahamians After Hurricane Dorian, by Jill H. Wilson. 3 p. (IN11166)
- Immigration: “Recalcitrant” Countries and the Use of Visa Sanctions to Encourage Cooperation with Alien Removals, by Jill H. Wilson. 2 p. (IF11025)
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- Immigration: U.S. Asylum Policy, by Andorra Bruno. 41 p. (R45539)
- Introduction to the National Flood Insurance Program, by Baird Webel and Diane P. Horn. (WPE11227) (WVB00266) (WRE00286)
- Is Mandatory Detention of Unlawful Entrants Seeking Asylum Constitutional? by Hillel R. Smith. 5 p. (LSB10343)
- Legal Authority to Repurpose Funds for Border Barrier Construction, by Jennifer K. Elsea, Benjamin Hayes and Edward C. Liu. 34 p. (R45908)
- Migrant Protection Protocols: Legal Issues Related to DHS’s Plan to Require Arriving Asylum Seekers to Wait in Mexico, by Ben Harrington and Hillel R. Smith. 6 p. (LSB10251)
- Military Funding for Southwest Border Barriers, by Christopher T. Mann. 50 p. (R45937)
- National Preparedness Policy: Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress, by Shawn Reese. 3 p. (IN11051)
- Nielsen v. Preap: High Court Clarifies Application of Immigration Detention Statute to Criminal Aliens, by Hillel R. Smith. 5 p. (LSB10282)
- Permanent Employment-Based Immigration and the Per-country Ceiling, by William A. Kandel. 20 p. (R45447)
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- Presidential Proclamation on Unlawful Border Crossers and Asylum, by Andorra Bruno. 2 p. (IN10993)
- Protection of Executive Branch Officials: Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress, by Shawn Reese. 3 p. (IN11048)
- Recent Migration to the United States from Central America: Frequently Asked Questions, by Jill H. Wilson, Andorra Bruno, Jennifer K. Elsea, William A. Kandel, Lawrence Kapp, Rhoda Margesson, Peter J. Meyer, Clare Ribando Seelke, Audrey Singer and Maureen Taft-Morales. 22 p. (R45489)
- Redirecting Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Resources During National Emergencies, by Nicole T. Carter. 2 p. (IF11084)
- Selected Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress, by William L. Painter, Michael E. DeVine, Bart Elias, Kristin Finklea, John Frittelli, Jill C. Gallagher, Frank Gottron, Diane P. Horn, Chris Jaikaran, Lennard G. Kruger, Sarah A. Lister, Daniel Morgan, Paul W. Parfomak, David Randall Peterman, R. Eric Petersen, Shawn Reese, John W. Rollins, Barbara L. Schwemle, Audrey Singer and Elizabeth M. Webster. 39 p. (R45701)
- Selected Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress: CRS Experts, by William L. Painter. 3 p. (R45684)
- Selected Issues for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Reauthorization and Reform: Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress, by Diane P. Horn. 3 p. (IN11050)
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JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

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Firearms Background Checks Under H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112, by William J. Krouse. 2 p. (IF11113)

Firearms Eligibility: Stalking- and Domestic Violence-Related Provisions in H.R. 1585, by William J. Krouse. 2 p. (IF11157)

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- Gun Crime Penalty Tossed, by Charles Doyle. 3 p. (LSB10312)
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- Marijuana Legalization in Canada: Implications for U.S. Policy and International Drug Control, by Peter J. Meyer, Liana W. Rosen and Lisa N. Sacco. 3 p. (IN10991)
- Mom’s Prenatal Drug Abuse Sustains Federal Manslaughter Indictment in Newborn’s Death, by M. Maureen Murphy. 4 p. (LSB10334)
- The Opioid Epidemic: Supply Control and Criminal Justice Policy—Frequently Asked Questions, by Lisa N. Sacco, Kristin Finklea, Susan V. Lawrence, Liana W. Rosen and Clare Ribando Seelke. 32 p. (R45790)
- Prisoners’ Eligibility for Pell Grants: Issues for Congress, by Cassandra Dortch and Nathan James. 20 p. (R45737)
- Private Health Information and Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs), by Amanda K. Sarata. 2 p. (IF11042)
- Protection of Executive Branch Officials: Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress, by Shawn Reese. 3 p. (IN11048)
- Public Health and Other Related Provisions in P.L. 115-271, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, by Elayne J. Heisler, Johnathan H. Duff, David H. Bradley, Michelle D. Christensen, Victoria L. Elliott, Kristin Finklea, Victoria R. Green, Bill Heniff Jr., Nathan James, Sarah A. Lister, David Randall Peterman, Ryan J. Rosso, Lisa N. Sacco, Amanda K. Sarata, Kavya Sekar, Jennifer A. Staman and Emilie Stoltzfus. 86 p. (R45423)
- The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF): Background and Potential Reauthorization, by Scott D. Szymendera. 12 p. (R45808)
- State Money-Bail Systems: Differing Approaches, by Alison M. Smith. 5 p. (LSB10220)
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MISCELLANEOUS

Congress.gov Training Series, by Claudia Guidi and Kelly J. Yuzawa. (WPE11321)

CRS Services Briefing, by Megan D. Meehan. (WPE11298) (WPE11221) (WPE11066) (WPE11000)

Congress.gov Training Series, by Claudia Guidi and Kelly J. Yuzawa. (WPE11318) (WPE11317) (WPE11278) (WPE11245) (WPE11242) (WPE11185) (WPE11184) (WPE11056) (WPE11055) (WPE11054) (WPE11010) (WPE11009) (WPE11008) (WPE11007) (WPE10962) (WPE10961) (WPE10960) (WPE10959) (WPE10958) (WPE10957)

CRS Services Briefing, by Ryan J. Carney. (WPE11270) (WPE11173) (WPE11059)

Congress.gov Training Series – Webinar. (WPE11320) (WPE11319) (WPE11279) (WPE11244) (WPE11243) (WPE11187) (WPE11186) (WPE11105) (WPE11053) (WPE10998)

District/State Staff Institute, by Christopher M. Davis, Gail E. Baitinger, Julie Jennings, Christina Finch, Elizabeth Larson, James Saturno, Jane A. Hudiburg, Mark J. Oleszek Bill Heniff Jr., Maria Kreiser and R. Eric Petersen. (WPE11314) (WPE11326) (WPE11044) (WPE11277) (WPE11104) (WPE11248) (WPE11159) (WPE10994)

CRS Legislative and Constituent Services Fundamentals Pre-Conference. (WPE10993) (WPE10992)

Elearn - Orientation for Congressional Interns and Volunteers. (WPE11283) (WPE11282) (WPE10985) (WPE10984) (WPE10983) (WPE10982) (WPE10981) (WPE10980) (WPE10979) (WPE10978) (WPE10977) (WPE10976) (WPE10975) (WPE10974)

CRS Services Briefing, by Anna Groves. (WPE11324) (WPE11230) (WPE11120) (WPE11036)

Federal Legislative History Research: Using Print and Electronic Resources, by Barbara Bavis. (WPE11268) (WPE11211) (WPE11206) (WPE11032) (WPE11026)

CRS Services Briefing, by Cheryl Ingraham. (WPE11325) (WPE11229) (WPE11121) (WPE11038)

CRS Services Briefing, by Elsie S. Karnley. (WPE11037)

Federal Statutory Research: Using Print and Electronic Resources, by Elizabeth Osborne. (WPE11257) (WPE11210) (WPE11028) (WPE11027)

CRS Services Briefing, by Emiliano E. de Castro. (WPE11297) (WPE11222) (WPE11065) (WPE11001)

Introduction to Legislative Research. (WPE11262) (WPE11256) (WPE11208) (WPE11207) (WPE11204) (WPE11189) (WPE11025) (WPE11024) (WPE11023) (WPE11022)

CRS Services Briefing, by Lee A. Rowe. (WPE11269) (WPE11172) (WPE11060)

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National Museums: In Brief, by Shannon S. Loane. 5 p. (R45674)

Orientation for Interns and Volunteers, by Patrice M. George. (WPE11312) (WPE11302) (WPE11296) (WPE11266) (WPE11265) (WPE11260) (WPE11259) (WPE11258) (WPE11232) (WPE11231) (WPE11203) (WPE11202) (WPE11201) (WPE11200) (WPE11199)

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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A Brief Comparison of Two Climate Change Mitigation Approaches: Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Tax (or Fee), by Jonathan L. Ramseur. 2 p. (IF11103)

A Brief History of U.S. Electricity Portfolio Standard Proposals, by Ashley J. Lawson. 2 p. (IF11316)

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Biologics and Biosimilars: Issues in Pricing, Regulation, and Consumer Access, by Agata Dabrowska, Erin H. Ward and Kevin J. Hickey. (WPE11225) (WVB00268) (WRE00288)

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Critical Infrastructure: Emerging Trends and Policy Considerations for Congress, by Brian E. Humphreys. 32 p. (R45809)

CRS Science, Technology, and Innovation Experts Open House. (WPE11047)

CRS Seminars on Disruptive Technologies: Videos, by Eric A. Fischer. 5 p. (R45517)

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Defense Primer: Emerging Technologies, by Kelley M. Saylor. 2 p. (IF11105)

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): A Primer on Telehealth, by Victoria L. Elliott. 32 p. (R45834)

Drug Pricing and Intellectual Property Law, by Kevin J. Hickey and Erin H. Ward. (WVB00254)

Drug Pricing and Intellectual Property Law: A Legal Overview for the 116th Congress, by Kevin J. Hickey, Erin H. Ward and Wen S. Shen. 51 p. (R45666)

Drug Pricing and the Law: Pharmaceutical Patent Disputes, by Kevin J. Hickey. 2 p. (IF11214)

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Electricity Portfolio Standards: Background, Design Elements, and Policy Considerations, by Ashley J. Lawson. 31 p. (R45913)

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The Federal Communications Commission: Current Structure and Its Role in the Changing Telecommunications Landscape, by Patricia Moloney Figliola. (R45699)	FY2020 Federal Research and Development Funding: Part Two, by John F. Sargent Jr., Daniel Morgan, Kavya Sekar and Tadlock Cowan. (WRE00290)
Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Media Ownership Rules, by Dana A. Scherer. 24 p. (R45338)	Google Fined for Violation of EU Data Protection Law, by Stephen P. Mulligan. 4 p. (LSB10264)
Federal Communications Commission: Progress Protecting Consumers from Illegal Robocalls, by Patricia Moloney Figliola. 2 p. (IF11290)	Homeland Security Research and Development: Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress, by Daniel Morgan. 3 p. (IN11021)
Federal Research and Development (R&D) Funding: FY2020, by John F. Sargent Jr., Tadlock Cowan, Robert Esworthy, Marcy E. Gallo, Laurie A. Harris, Eva Lipiec, Daniel Morgan and Kavya Sekar. 68 p. (R45715)	Internet of Things (IoT): An Introduction, by Suzy E. Park. 2 p. (IF11239)
FY2020 Federal Research and Development Funding: Context and Overview, by John F. Sargent Jr. (WVB00269)	Market-Based Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Legislation: 108th Through 116th Congresses, by Jonathan L. Ramseur. 65 p. (R45472)
FY2020 Federal Research and Development Funding: Department of Agriculture, by Tadlock Cowan. (WVB00275)	Military Installations and Sea-Level Rise, by Margaret Tucker and G. James Herrera. 2 p. (IF11275)
FY2020 Federal Research and Development Funding: Department of Defense, by Marcy E. Gallo and John F. Sargent Jr. (WVB00270)	National Security Implications of Fifth Generation (5G) Mobile Technologies, by John R. Hoehn and Kelley M. Sayler. 2 p. (IF11251)
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FY2020 Federal Research and Development Funding: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, by Daniel Morgan. (WVB00273)	Overview of Legal Challenges to the FCC's 5G Order on Small Cell Siting, by Chris D. Linebaugh. 5 p. (LSB10265)
FY2020 Federal Research and Development Funding: National Institutes of Health, by Kavya Sekar. (WVB00274)	Patent-Eligible Subject Matter Reform in the 116th Congress, by Kevin J. Hickey. 38 p. (R45918)
FY2020 Federal Research and Development Funding: National Science Foundation, by Laurie A. Harris. (WVB00272)	The Pharmaceutical Drug Development Process, by Agata Dabrowska and Kavya Sekar. (IG10013)
	Projected Economic Impacts of Climate Change, by Danielle A. Arostegui and Jane A. Leggett. 2 p. (IF11156)
	Quantum Information Science, by Patricia Moloney Figliola. (WVB00242)

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Robocalls: Background, Government Activity and Enforcement, and Current Challenges, by Patricia Moloney Figliola. (WVB00263)

Robocalls: Overview and Government Activity, by Patricia Moloney Figliola. (WVB00227)

Science and Technology Issues in the 116th Congress, by Frank Gottron, Sahar Angadjivand, Kelsi Bracmort, Nicole T. Carter, Laura B. Comay, Tadlock Cowan, Agata Dabrowska, Patricia Moloney Figliola, Kristin Finklea, Eric A. Fischer, Peter Folger, Jill C. Gallagher, Marcy E. Gallo, Angele A. Gilroy, Boris Granovskiy, Victoria R. Green, Joel L. Greene, Gary

Guenther, Laurie A. Harris, Mark Holt, Elena H. Humphreys, Chris Jaikaran, Judith A. Johnson, Lennard G. Kruger, Jane A. Leggett, Eva Lipiec, Sarah A. Lister, Sean Lowry, Daniel Morgan, Anna E. Normand, Amanda K. Sarata, John F. Sargent Jr., Kavya Sekar and Pervaze A. Sheikh. 49 p. (R45491)

Smart Cars and Trucks: Spectrum Use for Vehicle Safety, by Bill Canis and Jill C. Gallagher. 2 p. (IF11260)

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Updated Common Rule: Key Changes for Research Using Stored Biospecimens, by Amanda K. Sarata. 2 p. (IF11043)

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SOCIAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL INSURANCE

- Availability of Unemployment Benefits for Affected Federal Employees During a Government Shutdown, by Katelin P. Isaacs and Julie M. Whittaker. 3 p. (IN11169)
- Drug Price Disclosure to Consumers: Current Legal Authority and Considerations for Congress, by Jennifer A. Staman. 6 p. (LSB10323)
- Health Care-Related Expiring Provisions of the 116th Congress, First Session, by Phoenix Voorhies, Kirsten J. Colello, Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara, Bernadette Fernandez, Jim Hahn, Elayne J. Heisler, Alison Mitchell, Paulette C. Morgan, Ryan J. Rosso, Amanda K. Sarata and Marco A. Villagrana. 41 p. (R45781)
- Household Debt Among Older Americans, 1989-2016, by Zhe Li. 20 p. (R45911)
- Negotiation of Drug Prices in Medicare Part D, by Suzanne M. Kirchhoff. 2 p. (IF11318)
- Poverty Among Americans Aged 65 and Older, by Zhe Li and Joseph Dalaker. 19 p. (R45791)
- Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) and Public Safety Officers' Educational Assistance (PSOEA) Programs, by Scott D. Szymendera. 9 p. (R45327)
- The September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF): Background and Potential Reauthorization, by Scott D. Szymendera. 12 p. (R45808)
- Social Security 101, by Barry F. Huston, William R. Morton, Zhe Li and Laura Haltzel. (WPE11157)
- Social Security and State and Local Government Pensions: The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), by Zhe Li. (WVB00259) (WRE00280)
- Social Security Benefit Claiming Age, by Zhe Li. 2 p. (IF11115)
- Social Security Benefits and State and Local Government Pensions: The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), by Zhe Li. (WPE11170)
- Social Security: Beneficiaries Affected by Both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), by Zhe Li. 12 p. (R45845)
- Social Security: Projected Shortfall of Trust Funds, by Barry F. Huston. (WPE11220) (WVB00265) (WRE00285)
- Social Security: Select Findings of the 2019 Annual Report, by Barry F. Huston. 2 p. (IF11261)
- Social Security: The Trust Funds and Alternative Investments, by Barry F. Huston. 21 p. (R45709)
- The SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (P.L.115-271): Medicare Provisions, by Suzanne M. Kirchhoff, Cliff Binder, Jim Hahn, Sarah A. Lister, Paulette C. Morgan, Amanda K. Sarata, Jennifer A. Staman, Marco A. Villagrana and Phoenix Voorhies. 42 p. (R45449)
- Trends in Social Security Disability Insurance Enrollment, by Zhe Li. 18 p. (R45419)
- Unemployment Compensation (UC): Issues Related to Drug Testing, by Katelin P. Isaacs, Julie M. Whittaker, David H. Carpenter and Jon O. Shimabukuro. 32 p. (R45889)

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SOCIAL WELFARE AND HOUSING

- 2018 Farm Bill Primer: SNAP and Nutrition Title Programs, by Randy Alison Aussenberg and Kara Clifford Billings. 2 p. (IF11087)
- CCAI 2019 CRS Foster Youth Briefing, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara and Emilie Stoltzfus. (WPE11247)
- Child Nutrition Programs: Current Issues, by Kara Clifford Billings. 19 p. (R45486)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): FY2020 Budget Request Fact Sheet, by Maggie McCarty and Alyse N. Minter. 6 p. (R45660)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): Background and Funding, by Kara Clifford Billings. 22 p. (R45408)
- The Evolving Use of Disaster Housing Assistance and the Roles of the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) and the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), by Elizabeth M. Webster. 3 p. (IN11094)
- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara. 2 p. (IF11170)
- Federal Support for Runaway and Homeless Youth, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara. 2 p. (IF11152)
- Head Start: Overview and Current Issues, by Karen E. Lynch. 2 p. (IF11008)
- Homelessness: Targeted Federal Programs, by Libby Perl, Eugene Boyd, Johnathan H. Duff, Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara, Boris Granovskiy, Elayne J. Heisler and Lisa N. Sacco. 29 p. (RL45346)
- Housing Issues in the 116th Congress, by Maggie McCarty, Katie Jones, Mark P. Keightley, N. Eric Weiss and Elizabeth M. Webster. 27 p. (R45710)
- HUD's Proposal to End Assistance to Mixed Status Families, by Maggie McCarty and Jameson A. Carter. 3 p. (IN11121)
- John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara. 2 p. (IF11070)
- Medicaid Coverage for Former Foster Youth Up to Age 26, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara and Evelyne P. Baumrucker. 2 p. (IF11010)
- Older Americans Act: Senior Community Service Employment Program, by Benjamin Collins. 8 p. (R45626)
- Poverty Among Americans Aged 65 and Older, by Zhe Li and Joseph Dalaker. 19 p. (R45791)
- Poverty in the United States in 2017: In Brief, by Joseph Dalaker. 13 p. (R45397)
- The Pregnancy Assistance Fund, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara. 2 p. (IF11040)
- The Pregnancy Assistance Fund: An Overview, by Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara. 19 p. (R45426)
- TANF Reauthorization: Senate Finance Committee Discussion Draft of November 19, 2018, by Gene Falk, Jameson A. Carter and Mariam Ghavalyan. 2 p. (IF11044)
- Trends in the U.S. Poverty Rate after Recessions, by Joseph Dalaker. 4 p. (R45854)
- USDA Domestic Food Assistance Programs: FY2018 Appropriations, by Randy Alison Aussenberg and Kara Clifford Billings. 13 p. (R45433)
- USDA Domestic Food Assistance Programs: FY2019 Appropriations, by Randy Alison Aussenberg and Kara Clifford Billings. 14 p. (R45743)

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Why Subsidize Homeownership? A Review of the Rationales, by Mark P. Keightley. 2 p. (IF11305)

TAXES, THE BUDGET AND THE ECONOMY

2019 Tax Filing Season (2018 Tax Year): Examples of Deducting Interest on Mortgage Debt and Home Equity Loans, by Mark P. Keightley. 2 p. (IF11111)

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Budget Resolutions and Budget Enforcement, by Bill Heniff Jr., James V. Saturno and Megan S. Lynch. (WPE11188) (WPE11155) (WPE11254)

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- The Federal Budget and the Economy: An Introduction, by D. Andrew Austin and Grant A. Driessen. (WPE11108) (WPE11272) (WPE11058)
- The Federal Income Tax: How Did P.L. 115-97 Change Marginal Income Tax Rates? by Margot L. Crandall-Hollick. 7 p. (IN11039)
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- Tax Expenditures: Compendium of Background Material on Individual Provisions — A Committee Print Prepared for the Senate Committee on the Budget, 2018, by Jane G. Gravelle, Steven Maguire, Donald J. Marples, D. Andrew Austin, Margot L. Crandall-Hollick, Grant A. Driessen, Gary Guenther, Joseph S. Hughes, Mark P. Keightley, Sean Lowry, Molly F. Sherlock, Alexandra Hegji, William R. Morton, Scott D. Szymendera and Jennifer Teefy. (CP10003)
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- The BUILD Act and the New U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, by Marian L. Lawson and Shayerah Ilias Akhtar. (WPD00009)
- BUILD Act: Frequently Asked Questions About the New U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, by Shayerah Ilias Akhtar and Marian L. Lawson. 21 p. (R45461)
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- International Trade and E-commerce, by Rachel F. Fefer. 2 p. (IF11194)
- International Trade and Finance: Overview and Issues for the 116th Congress, by Rebecca M. Nelson, Andres B. Schwarzenberg, Shayerah Ilias Akhtar, Christopher A. Casey, Cathleen D. Cimino-Isaacs, Benjamin Collins, Rachel F. Fefer, Ian F. Fergusson, James K. Jackson, Vivian C. Jones, Wayne M. Morrison, Dianne E. Rennack, M. Angeles Villarreal, Martin A. Weiss and Brock R. Williams. 56 p. (R45474)
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- Trade-Related Agencies: FY2019 Appropriations, Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS), by Keigh E. Hammond and M. Angeles Villarreal. 15 p. (R45335)
- Trump Administration Tariff Actions (Sections 201, 232, and 301): Frequently Asked Questions, by Brock R. Williams, Cathleen D. Cimino-Isaacs, Rachel F. Fefer, Keigh E. Hammond, Vivian C. Jones, Wayne M. Morrison and Andres B. Schwarzenberg. 49 p. (R45529)
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- USMCA: Labor Provisions, by M. Angeles Villarreal, Cathleen D. Cimino-Isaacs and Katarina De la Rosa. 2 p. (IF11308)
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- World Trade Organization: Overview and Future Direction, by Cathleen D. Cimino-Isaacs, Rachel F. Fefer and Ian F. Fergusson. 62 p. (R45417)

TRANSPORTATION

- Boeing 737 MAX Crashes Shake Confidence in International Air Safety, by Bart Elias. 3 p. (IN11072)
- Climate Change and the America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019 (S. 2302), by William J. Mallett. 2 p. (IF11299)
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- The Plug-In Electric Vehicle Tax Credit, by Molly F. Sherlock. 2 p. (IF11017)
- Reauthorizing Federal Highway Programs, by John Frittelli, Robert S. Kirk, Marc Levinson and William J. Mallett. (WPE11249) (WVB00278) (WRE00292)
- Reauthorizing Highway and Transit Funding Programs, by Robert S. Kirk and William J. Mallett. 2 p. (IF11125)
- Reauthorizing Transit, Rail, and Highway Safety Programs, by Ben Goldman, David Randall Peterman, Marc Levinson and William J. Mallett. (WPE11250) (WVB00279) (WRE00293)
- Shipping Under the Jones Act: Legislative and Regulatory Background, by John Frittelli. 23 p. (R45725)
- Smart Cars and Trucks: Spectrum Use for Vehicle Safety, by Bill Canis and Jill C. Gallagher. 2 p. (IF11260)
- Supersonic Passenger Flights, by Rachel Y. Tang, Bart Elias, Linda Luther and Daniel Morgan. 14 p. (R45404)
- Surface Transportation Reauthorization and the America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (S. 2302), by Robert S. Kirk. 2 p. (IF11300)
- The TIGER/BUILD Program at 10 Years: An Overview, by David Randall Peterman. 16 p. (R45916)
- The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Program, by William J. Mallett. 13 p. (R45516)
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- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations for FY2020: In Brief, by Maggie McCarty and David Randall Peterman. 12 p. (R45774)
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