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WEEKLY UPDATE

January 2 - 4, 2019

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Latest News

- The House and Senate returned this week, with the 116th Congress beginning on January 3. The Democrats have taken over control of the House, with Nancy Pelosi elected Speaker. On Tuesday, the Senate confirmed James Carroll, Jr. to be the next Director of ONDCP. Please note that all legislation that had been introduced before January 3, 2019 will need to be reintroduced in the new Congress before it can receive consideration. Additionally, all presidential nominations that did not receive consideration will need to be renominated by the President.
- The partial Federal government shutdown continues, affecting nine departments and various federal agencies, including the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. Under the new House Democratic majority, the House approved an omnibus appropriations bill to fund six of the remaining seven appropriations bills through the end of the fiscal year, and a short-term Continuing Resolution to fund the Department of Homeland Security. Senate Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stated that the bills are dead on arrival, and they would not consider them.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

Medical Marijuana Protected Under Democrats' Spending Bill, But DC Blocked From Legalizing Sales **Forbes | Tom Angell**

A provision to extend protections shielding state medical marijuana laws from federal interference is part of a 1,070-page bill the incoming House Democratic majority intends to pass this week as part of a plan to end an ongoing government shutdown. The cannabis protection rider, which has been enacted through appropriations bills since 2014, technically expired with the shutdown last month, leaving medical marijuana patients and providers in an uncertain situation as federal drug enforcement and prosecution efforts are exempted from furlough. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Blackburn, Ernst become first GOP women to serve on Senate Judiciary **Politico | Alice Miranda Ollstein**

Freshman Sen. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee and Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa will become the first Republican women to serve on the Judiciary Committee when the new Congress is seated this week, according to a roster obtained by POLITICO and confirmed by a Capitol Hill source. The appointments solve a longstanding optics problem for Republicans — there are four Democratic women senators on the influential panel, including ranking member Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), in contrast to the previously all-male GOP slate — while putting Blackburn and Ernst in a position to preside over judicial nominations and certain women's issues including the Violence Against Women Act. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Previous Updates:

- [FY 2018 Omnibus](#)
- [FY 2019 Budget Summary](#)
- [FY 2018 FEMA Grants](#)
- [FY2017 FEMA Grants](#)
- [Weekly 12/3/18](#)
- [Weekly 11/26/18](#)
- [Weekly 11/19/18](#)
- [Weekly 11/12/18](#)
- [Weekly 10/29/18](#)



For Third Straight Year, Police Suicides Outnumber Line-Of-Duty Deaths

Huffington Post | David Lohr

The estimated number of law enforcement officers who died by suicide outnumbered those who died in the line of duty for the third straight year in 2018, a newly released study shows. Blue H.E.L.P., a Massachusetts-based nonprofit run by active and retired police officers, medical professionals and victims' families, compiled and released the grim data this week. According to the organization, at least 159 officers took their own lives in 2018 — the same number of suicide fatalities it tracked in 2017 and 19 more than in 2016. By contrast, the estimated number of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty last year was 145, according to an annual report released by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Marijuana Is More Dangerous Than You Think

The Wall Street Journal | Alex Berenson

Over the past 30 years, a shrewd and expensive lobbying campaign has made Americans more tolerant of marijuana. In November 2018, Michigan became the 10th state to legalize recreational cannabis use; New Jersey and others may soon follow. Already, more than 200 million Americans live in states that have legalized marijuana for medical or recreational use. Yet even as marijuana use has become more socially acceptable, psychiatrists and epidemiologists have reached a consensus that it presents more serious risks than most people realize. Contrary to the predictions of both advocates and opponents, legalization hasn't led to a huge increase in people using the drug casually. About 15% of Americans used cannabis at least once in 2017, up from 10% in 2006, according to the federal government's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. By contrast, almost 70% of Americans had an alcoholic drink in the past year. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Four-year Senate investigation finds US Marshals Service plagued with corruption

Washington Examiner | Anna Giaritelli

Wasteful spending. Favoritism and nepotism. Sexual harassment. These were a few of the findings of a four-year Senate investigation into the U.S. Marshals Service, which concluded Thursday. A newly released report has revealed the Justice Department agency was rife with misconduct and abuse of authority, and at high levels. The Senate Judiciary Committee's report, that included more than 100 interviews with current and former agency employees, details a long list of serious offenses that touched every part of internal affairs. **Continue reading [here](#). You can view the report [here](#).**

Congressional report: Misconduct by federal prison leaders 'ignored' and 'covered up' on a regular basis

USA Today

Serious misconduct by senior federal prison officials is "largely tolerated or ignored altogether" as the agency fostered a culture in which some were shielded from discipline or even commended for their service by colleagues, according to a new congressional review. "For high-ranking officers, bad behavior is ignored or covered up on a regular basis, and certain officials who should be investigated can avoid discipline," House investigators concluded in a nine-page report for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. **Continue reading [here](#).**

Hearings & Markups Happening This Week

No hearings affecting the law enforcement or homeland security communities.



Legislation on the Floor This Week

House:

H.R. 21 - Making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes

Status: Approved by the House on 1/3.

Summary: This bill funds the remaining outstanding FY 2019 appropriations measures except the Department of Homeland Security. The bill provides \$71.4 billion for the Commerce-Justice-Science measure, specifically the Department of Justice would receive \$30.7 billion, \$400 million more than in fiscal 2018 and \$945 million more than requested. The bill includes \$2.9 billion for grants to state and local law enforcement, \$445 million for Byrne JAG, \$360 million for grants to reduce opioid abuse under CARA, \$310 million for COPS program, and \$100 million for the STOP School Violence Act grant program. The bill would continue a policy rider that has been included in the past that would bar the Justice Department from preventing states, the District of Columbia, Guam, or Puerto Rico from implementing their own medical marijuana laws.

H.J.Res. 1 - Making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes

Status: Approved by the House on 1/3.

Summary: Funds the Department of Homeland Security at fiscal year 2018 levels through Feb. 8.

Senate:

Note: Due to Senate scheduling and rules, additional items not listed may be added to the calendar for consideration.

Nomination of James W. Carroll, Jr., to be Director of National Drug Control Policy

Status: Approved by the Senate on 1/2/19.

Recap of Last Week's Hearings & Markups

Note: For more details on any of the following hearings, we can provide access to hearing transcripts upon request.

The House and Senate were not in session.

Legislation Considered Last Week

House:

The House was not in session.

Senate:

The Senate was not in session.



Legislation Introduced Last Week

Nothing affecting the law enforcement or homeland security communities.



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Our government relations practice helps clients advance critical policy priorities with Congress, federal agencies, and state legislatures. Our Capitol Hill experience and track record of successful advocacy for public safety causes is unmatched. Our business strategy consulting practice enables companies to connect innovative products and services with market needs. Through decades of service we have built a deep network of relationships at the local, state, and federal levels.

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Upcoming Events/Conferences

[National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition 2019 DC Conference](#)

February 3-6—Washington, DC

[Major County Sheriffs of America & Major Cities Chiefs Association 2019](#)

[Joint Winter Conference](#)

February 12-14—Washington, DC

[Mid-Atlantic Regional Gang Investigators Network - 13th Annual Gang](#)

[Training Conference](#)

March 3-6—Hanover, MD

[Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies 2019 Spring Conference](#)

May 5-8—Gulf Shores, AL

[Major County Sheriffs of America 2019 Summer Conference](#)

June 12-14—Louisville, KY

January 2019

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27	28	29	30	31		

February 2019

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sa
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Senate in Session

House & Senate in Session

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