



# CHILDREN'S BUDGET UPDATE



# OVERVIEW

## Key Policy Priorities:

- Affordable Quality Child Care for Families;
- Equitable Child Care for Underserved Populations;
- Healthy Child Care;
- Professional Development and Compensation;
- CCDBG Implementation



# Status of FY 2017 Budget

- In June, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2017 bill:
  - \$25 million increase for CCDBG (\$2.79 B)
  - \$35 million increase for Head Start (\$9.2 B)
  - \$250 million for Preschool Development Grants
- Last month, the House Appropriations Committee released its bill:
  - \$2.8 billion for CCDBG
  - \$9.3 billion for Head Start
  - \$250 million for Preschool Development Grants

# Status of FY 2017 Budget, Cont.

- Both House and Senate bills are far below the President's request
- FY 2016 ends on September 30; Congress will enact short-term "CR"
- Final budget likely tied to outcome of the election
- August toolkit now available on website:
  - <http://usa.childcareaware.org/augustrecess>





# FIRST FOCUS

MAKING CHILDREN & FAMILIES THE PRIORITY

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John Monsif  
Vice President  
Government Relations





# Learning Objectives

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Today we will discuss the following topics:

- First Focus;
- The Congressional appropriations process;
- The findings in the Children's Budget 2016; and

# First Focus

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- First Focus is a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal policy and budget decisions.
- We are not education advocates, or health care advocates, or child welfare advocates or housing advocates or tax advocates.
- First Focus moves beyond individual issues to serve a more important role:

**CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES**

# Congressional Appropriations Process

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- The House and Senate both have an Appropriations Committee composed of 12 subcommittees.
- The 12 Subcommittees are responsible for introducing 12 appropriations (spending) bills which provide funding for numerous programs in areas such as education, health and agriculture.
- A majority of the programs that impact children fall under the Labor, Health & Human Services and Education (Labor-H) Subcommittee.
- Appropriations bills provide funding for a Fiscal Year (FY) which begins on October 1<sup>st</sup> and expires on September 30<sup>th</sup>.



# Annual Appropriations Cycle

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## President's Budget

- The President initiates the annual budget cycle by submitting his/her annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year to Congress.
- He/she is required to submit his/her annual budget on or before the first Monday in February.
- The President recommends spending levels for various programs and agencies of the federal government.



# Annual Appropriations Cycle

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## Congress Adopts Budget Resolutions

- The House and Senate are then “required” to adopt their own budget resolutions by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The budget resolution provides spending ceilings for the House & Senate Appropriations Committee.
- The Appropriations Committee then allocates funding to each of the 12 Subcommittees establishing spending ceilings for each of their bills.
- The budget resolution is not sent to the President, and does not become law; instead, it is a guide for the House and Senate as they consider various budget-related bills.



# Annual Appropriations Cycle

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## Timetable to Consider Appropriations Bills

- The timing of the various stages of the appropriations process tends to vary from year to year.
- This year the House and Senate began working on their spending bills in both their Subcommittees and Full Committees in April.
- Once the spending bills pass out of full committee they are brought to the House and Senate Floor for a vote.



# Annual Appropriations Cycle

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## Timetable to Consider Appropriations Bills

- Once an appropriations bill passes both the House and Senate, the two chambers work through the differences in the bill.
- The two chambers then separately vote on the conference report (the compromise spending bill) and upon its passage it is sent to the President for either his signature or a veto.
- All 12 of the appropriations bills must be completed by September 30<sup>th</sup> – the end of the fiscal year – or the government will shut down.

# Children's Budget 2016

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- The federal government makes more than 200 distinct investments in children's programs across four subcommittees.
- First Focus publishes a *Children's Budget* annually offering a detailed guide to federal spending on children's programs.
- Programs include those for health; child welfare; education; housing; and nutrition.

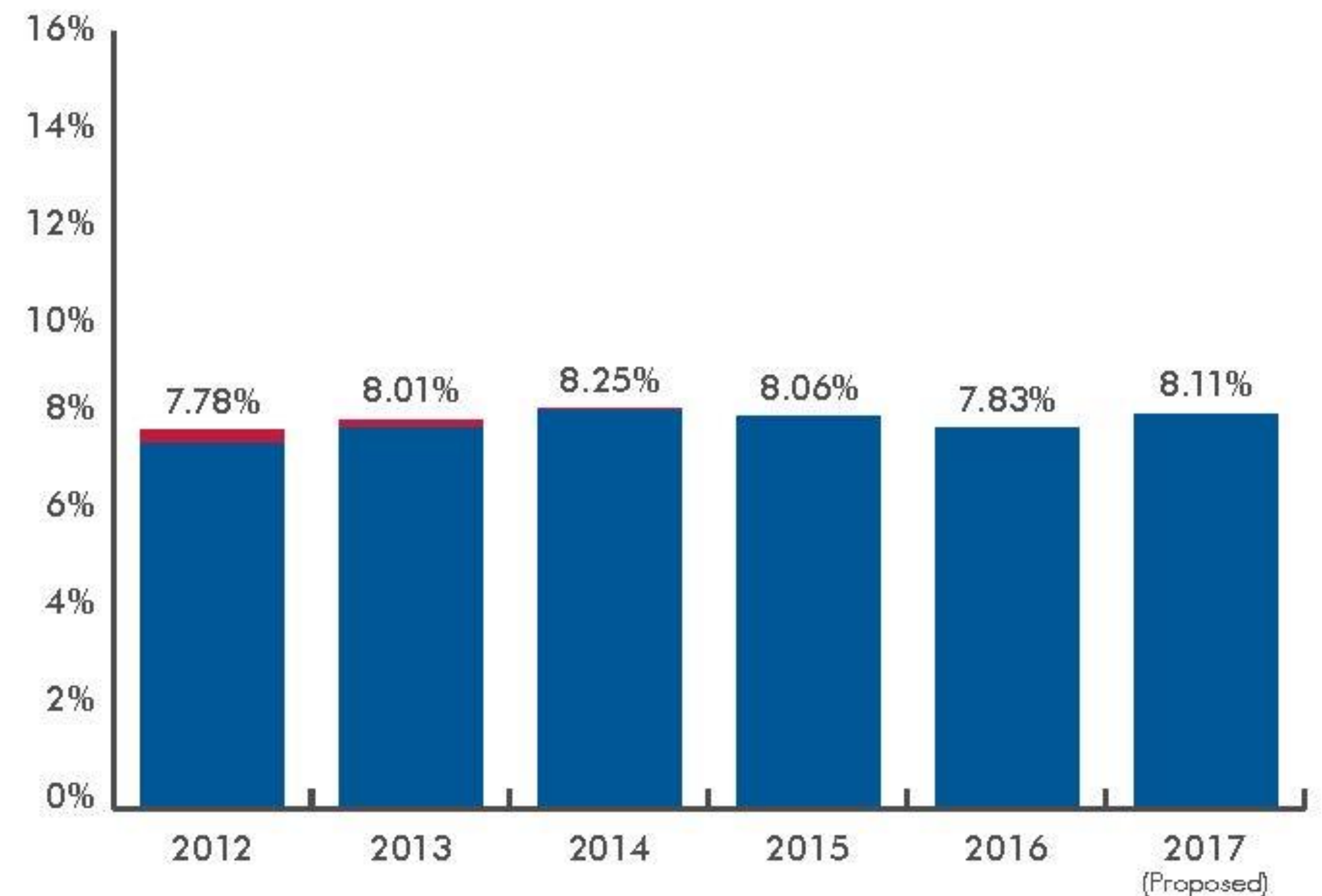




# Federal Children's Spending

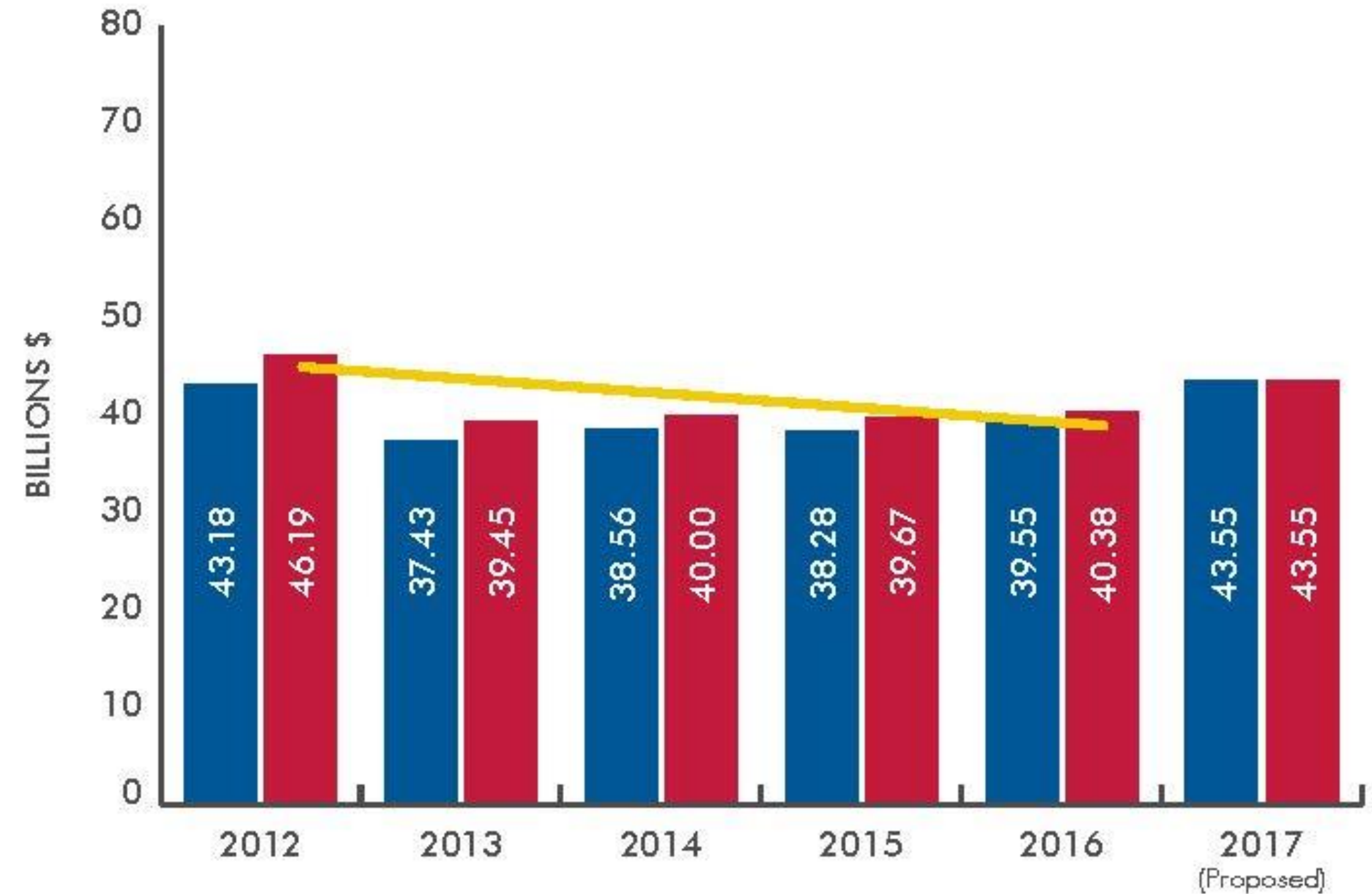
## As a Percent of Total Federal Spending

- The 2016 *Children's Budget* brought bad news for children.
- In 2016, the federal share of discretionary spending dedicated to children fell to 7.83 percent – 5.1 percent decrease from FY 14.
- The federal share of discretionary spending dedicated to children fell by 7.3 percent in last six years.



# Federal Spending on Education

- The federal government will invest \$39.55 billion on children's education in FY 16.
- Total spending on children's education has decreased by 12.6 percent from FY 12 to FY 16.
- Education was impacted the most by sequestration – a 15 percent decline from FY 12 to FY 13.





# The Children's Budget Coalition

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## A Solution to the Problem

- The Coalition's goal is to advocate for increased funding for children's programs.
- A diverse coalition of over 25 organizations.
- Employ a number of tactics for constituents – like yourselves – including:
  - Holding in-district meetings with members and/or staff
  - Contacting members and their staff via e-mail and phone calls
  - Submitting letters to the editor and op-eds in local papers

# Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations

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## Status

### Budget Resolutions

- The President released his FY 17 Budget on February 9, 2016.
- The House drafted a budget resolution that passed the House Budget Committee in March.
  - The Republicans however chose not to bring the budget to the House floor for a vote for fear that it may fail due to disagreements within their own party.
- The Senate did not draft a budget resolution.



# Questions & Discussion

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