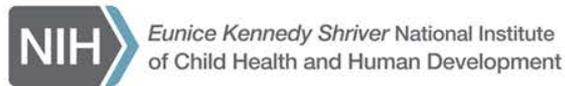


Working with Congress

Myths and Facts

Lisa Kaeser, J.D.

Director, Office of Legislation and Public Policy

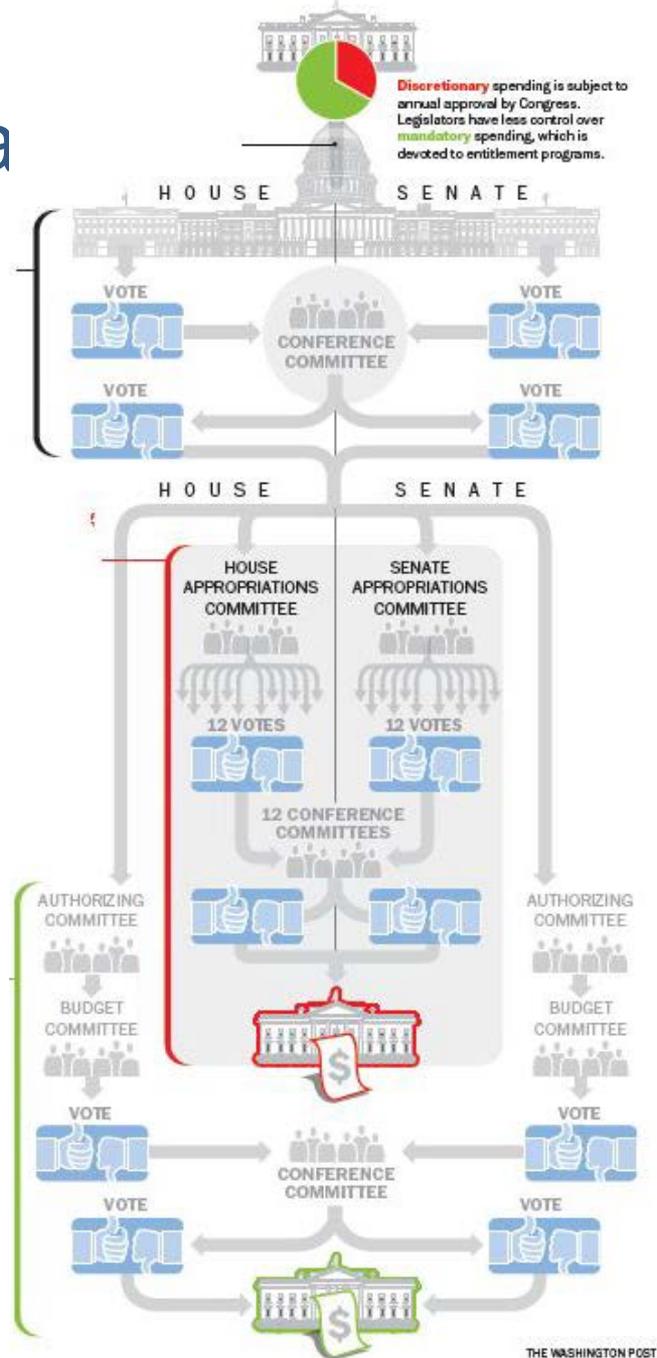




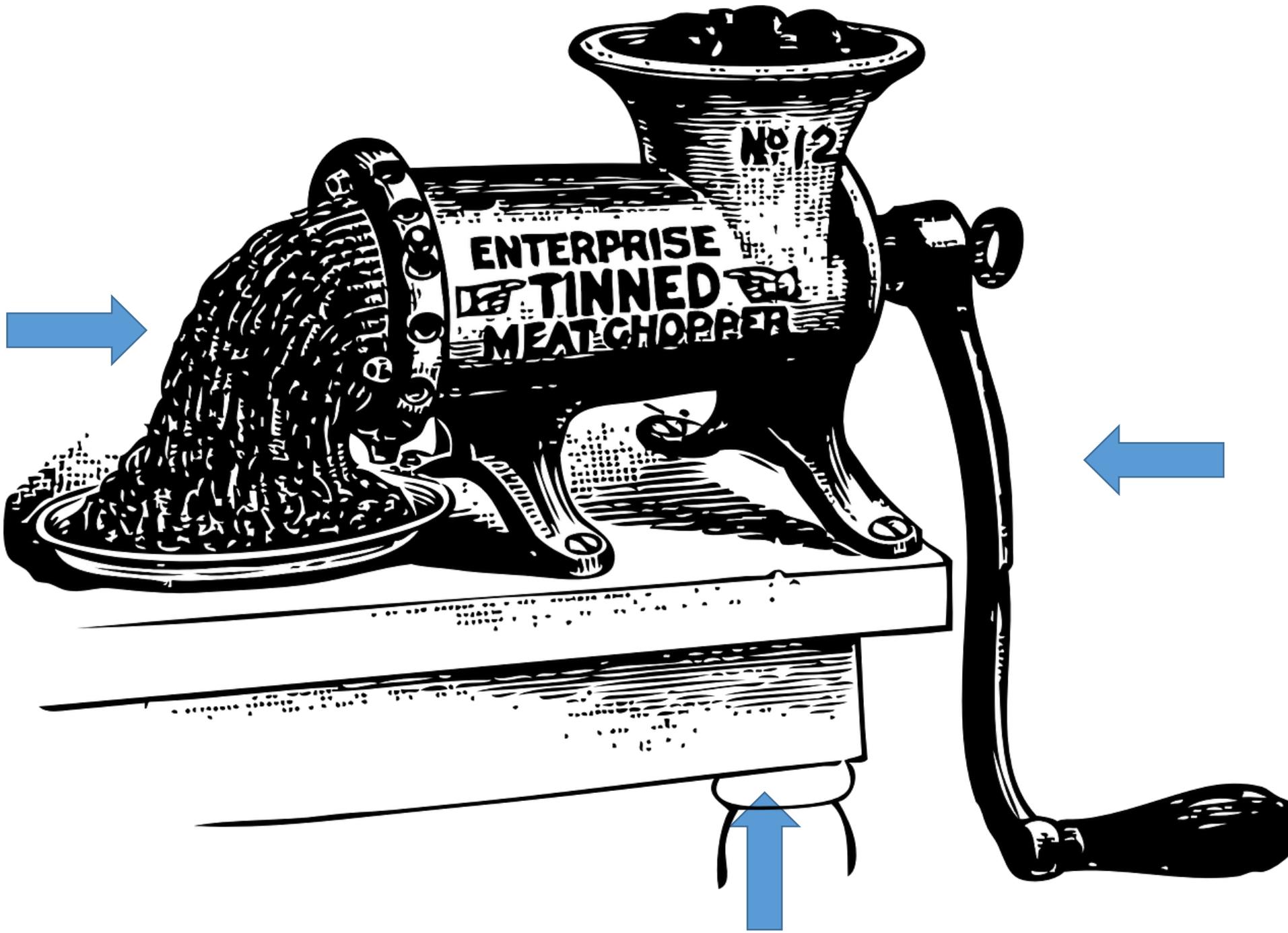
Office of
Legislation
and Public
Policy

- Legislative Liaison
- Public Liaison
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Controlled Correspondence

The Appropriations Process



<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/politics/federal-budget-process/>



ENTERPRISE
TINNED
MEAT CHOPPER

No. 12

Myth

NIH staff can tell Congress how much money is needed to fund our research

Fact

The Anti-Lobbying Act prohibits Federal employees from using appropriated funds or resources to lobby Congress

Myth

NIH staff decide what directives Congress includes each year in the Appropriations Committee reports

Fact

NIH staff see the Committee reports/directives only when publicly posted

Myth

Congress regularly defunds specific NIH grants or programs of which it does not approve

Fact

Because Congress makes annual appropriations, it can pass legislation defunding specific projects, but has only rarely



Friends of NICHD

Myth

NICHD runs a coalition of research advocacy organizations to facilitate increased appropriations

Fact

The Friends of NICHD is a voluntary coalition, run by the organizations; NICHD staff provide information as needed

Myth

NIH staff can propose new legislation and suggest hearings

Fact

NIH staff can participate on request:

- Technical Assistance
- Questions for the Record
- Correspondence

Authorization Process

Myth

New legislation that *authorizes* increases in funding for research means that NIH will receive new money for that area

Fact

Authorization bills only allow Congress to increase funding; the Appropriations Committees decide which areas will receive additional funds

Council's Role

Myth

Council members cannot contact Congress during their terms

Fact

As Special Government Employees, not during Council meetings; contact your institution's government affairs office



Questions?

