



May 29, 2020



THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON:

Tweetstorm

There are many reasons this week to once again consider Dr. Martin Luther King's [Letter from a Birmingham Jail](#), not least of which is his refrain that whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

As the week comes to a tumultuous close nationally, the President signed an executive order aimed at challenging a liability shield for social media companies that prevents them from being sued for third party-content published on their platforms and asks state authorities to see if social media platforms are engaging in any unfair and deceptive acts or practices that may violate state laws. [See it here](#). The President retains an active Twitter presence that has shifted national policy and Congressional priorities more than once. Notably, this week, one such shift pushed Congress away from reauthorizing the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which lapsed in March. The House and Senate will recommence negotiations soon, but it currently unclear when a final bill will be ready.

This adds a wrench to an already-packed summer agenda for the House, which was announced today by Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. Priorities will include additional legislation for COVID-19 response and recovery, a 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), a reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), infrastructure, and healthcare in addition to its regular appropriations and committee work. At this time there are no plans to adjust the August recess, but only time will tell.

The President also announced via Twitter this week that the National Guard's Title 32 status for supporting COVID-19 response will be extended until mid-August, a move that will allow members deployed early on in pandemic response to reach the threshold of 90 days of deployment and become eligible for post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits, early retirement, and continued TRICARE healthcare. Department of Defense Secretary Mark Esper noted his support for National Guard members to continue the mission for as long as FEMA deems it "essential" ([Washington Examiner](#)).

More News from the Nation's Capital...

Selection of Recently Released Federal COVID-19 Resources

Understanding that it is a challenge to quickly review all the available grant programs for COVID-19, we are creating and updating a list of links for information on programs from FEMA, HHS, CDC, HUD, and others. While it is not comprehensive, it can be quickly consulted for resources on topics that have recently been of interest across the federal interagency (e.g. childcare for essential personnel).

This is updated weekly.

[Read More](#)

FEMA Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Application Open

The competitive grant focuses on closing preparedness capability gaps for catastrophic incidents, particularly with a regional focus. This year's grant also includes regional pandemic planning as a program objective.

[Read More](#)

CHDS-IAEM-NPS Alumni Webinar: The Battle to Regain Cyber Territory

The webinar will discuss the Cyberspace Solarium Commission's recommendations to strengthen national resilience for cybersecurity. The webinar is Monday, June 1, at 2:00pm EDT.

[Read More](#)

NOAA to Host Workshops on Needs for Fire Weather, Weather Forecasting, and More

The series of virtual workshops will consider user needs for the next generation of satellites to manage fire, weather, agriculture and land use, and human health.

[Read More](#)

Fourth Version of Public Assistance Policy and Program Guide Released

The newest version of FEMA's comprehensive resource for Public Assistance program implementation takes effect June 1.

[Read More](#)

Other News from DC and Around the Country:

Tampa Bay Times: [Sheltering in Motels? How Wildfires Helped a Florida County Get Ready for Hurricane Season](#)

Stateline: [This Disaster Season, 'Everything is Complicated by COVID-19'](#)

ABC 7 News: [DHS at Risk if Secret Service Moves Back to Treasury](#)

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