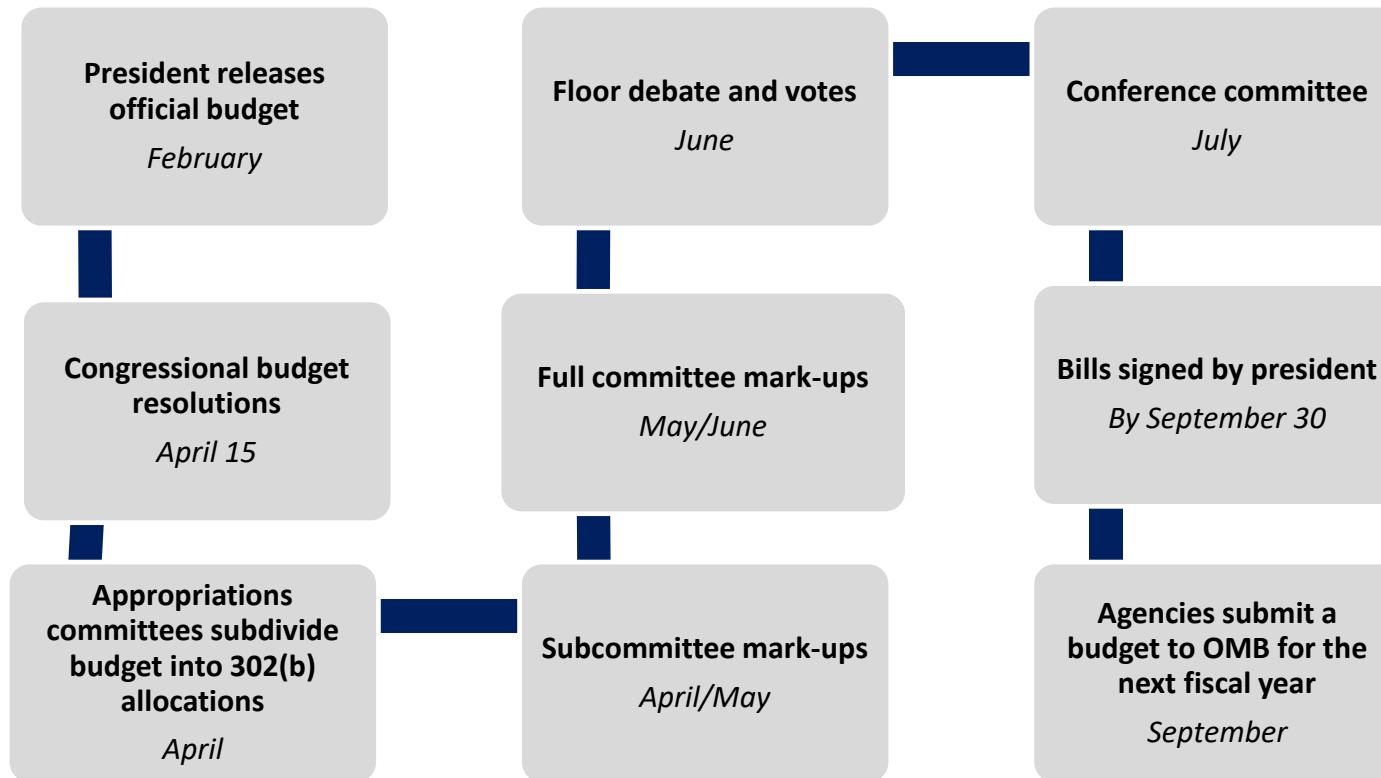


# HOW THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS IS \*SUPPOSED\* TO WORK



COALITION *for* HEALTH FUNDING

# HOW THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS IS \*SUPPOSED\* TO WORK CONTINUED

- President releases official budget (February): Each year the President releases their budget request including specific funding levels for each agency. The request has no statutory standing, but Congress will consider it (especially if the Congressional majority is the same party as the President) to begin their work.
- Congressional budget resolutions (mid-April): The Budget Committee introduces a budget resolution which establishes the overall discretionary spending level, also known as the 302(a)
- Appropriations committees subdivide allocations (April): The Appropriations Committees take the 302(a) allocation and divide it amongst the 12 appropriations bills, creating the 302(b) allocation, which is the amount of money each subcommittee has to work with.
- Subcommittee mark-ups (April/May): Subcommittees review and debate draft bills and members of the subcommittee can offer amendments. The amended bill is then voted on and advances to the full committee.
- Full committee mark-ups (May/June): After the bills pass out of their respective subcommittee, the process starts over again with the full committee.

# HOW THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS IS \*SUPPOSED\* TO WORK CONTINUED

- Floor debates and votes (June): Full House and Senate have the opportunity to offer changes and amendments, then the final votes on the bills are taken.
- Conference committee (July): The House and Senate work to iron out any differences between the two chambers' bills. Once that is done, each chamber will need to pass the legislation again.
- Bills signed by President (by September 30): Spending bills must be passed by Congress and signed into law by the President by the end of the day on September 30<sup>th</sup> in order to avoid a government shutdown. If the spending bills have not yet been passed, a continuing resolution is often used to avoid a shutdown.
- Agencies submit a budget to OMB for the next fiscal year (September): Before the work on the next fiscal year wraps up, work for the one after begins as the Executive Branch begins to prepare for the President's request which will be released the following February.