

One Hundred and Fourteenth Congress

Jan. 3, 2015-Jan. 3, 2017

Second Administration of Barack H. Obama

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Historical Background

The final two years of Barack H. Obama’s presidency were overshadowed by the unprecedentedly rancorous campaign to succeed him in the White House. The 2014 mid-term elections saw the opposition Republican party strengthen its majority in the House of Representatives and win back the majority in the Senate for the first time since losing it to the Democrats in the 2006 mid-term elections. The party’s electoral success emboldened the party leadership’s obstructionist tendencies.

The sudden death of conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on February 13, 2016 plunged the nation’s highest court into the murk of electoral politics, from which it is generally inoculated. With nearly a year remaining in his term, President Obama nominated Merrick Garland, then chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Washington D.C. Circuit to the seat vacated by Justice Scalia. Though unusual, a Supreme Court nomination in a general election year was by no means unprecedented and newspaper editorial boards across the country joined the President and Democrats in the Congress calling for the Senate Republican leadership to fulfill its role in the appointment process by facilitating a vote on the nomination. Republicans, mindful of the profound implications of replacing a reliable conservative stalwart like Scalia with even a reputedly moderate jurist such as Garland and banking on the hope that their candidate might prevail in November, dug in, arguing on the one hand that the voters should be afforded the chance to have their say before a new Justice is confirmed, while also making the case that, the testimony of the Obama administration notwithstanding, Merrick Garland was no moderate and his accession to the Court would exacerbate the sort of judicial activism that is anathema to their governing philosophy.



Barack H. Obama
President of the United States

President
Barack H. Obama

House	Senate
Majority Party: Republican (247 seats)	Majority Party: Republican (54 seats)
Minority Party: Democrat (188 seats)	Minority Party: Democrat (44 seats)
Other Parties: 0	Other Parties: Independent (2 seats)
Speaker of the House: John Boehner; Paul D. Ryan	Majority Leader: Mitch McConnell

Sources:

Committee on Democratic Policy and Communications; Commissions and Temporary Committees. Senate. [Fact Check: Chuck Grassley Can't "Debunk" the Fact That Unprecedented Supreme Court Obstruction Is Wrong](#). GPO. May 11, 2016. 114th Congress, 1st Session. Committee Print. ProQuest Congressional. CMP-2016-DPC-0032

Committee on Republican Policy; Commissions and Temporary Committees. Senate. [Garland's Judicial Philosophy Is Not Moderate, Republican Judiciary Policy](#). GPO. Apr. 12, 2016. 114th Congress, 2nd Session. Committee Print. ProQuest Congressional. CMP-2016-SER-0041

Committee on Democratic Policy and Communications; Commissions and Temporary Committees. Senate. [Senate Republicans Wake Up to Familiar Message in Local Newspapers Following President Obama's Nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court: Do Your Job](#). GPO. Mar. 17, 2016. 114th Congress, 2nd Session. Committee Print. ProQuest Congressional. CMP-2016-DPC-0013



Senate Majority Leader
Mitch McConnell

War or Peace?

Withdraw from Afghanistan and Rise of ISIL

Fifteen years after the attacks of September 11 and the subsequent wars engaged in Afghanistan and Iraq, the United States was finally seeing its large military contingents abroad begin to come back home. In his address before the Congress in 2015, President Obama remarked, “For the first time since 9/11, our combat mission in Afghanistan is over. Six years ago, nearly 180,000 American troops served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, fewer than 15,000 remain.” But even as the country was drawing down the substantial numbers of ground forces fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, the civil war in Syria and continued factional unrest in Iraq combined to facilitate the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (variously termed ISIL, ISIS, the Islamic State, and Daesh).

Consonant with his philosophy of statesmanship and internationalism, President Obama advocated a broad, coalition-based strategy to combat the specter of ISIL and support moderate actors on the Syrian stage, rather than committing large numbers of U.S. ground forces to further multi-year foreign commitments. He thus called on the Congress to authorize U.S. military operations against ISIL: “In Iraq and Syria, American leadership—including our military power—is stopping ISIL’s advance . . . We are also supporting a moderate opposition in Syria that can help us in this effort . . . And tonight, I call on this Congress to show the world that we are united in this mission by passing a resolution to authorize the use of force against ISIL.”

Another major item on the Obama administration’s foreign policy agenda was the ongoing negotiation with the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at putting a halt to that nation’s nuclear weapons program in exchange for sanctions relief and normalization of its foreign relations. As the administration worked to finalize a deal with Iranian negotiators, Republicans in the Congress joined with the government of Israel, the United States’ strongest ally in the middle east, in vehemently opposing the deal. In



Speaker of the House
John Boehner

an affront to the President's position as head of state and constitutionally mandated responsibility for conducting foreign relations, Republican leaders in the House of Representatives invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address the United States Congress on the subject of the Iranian nuclear deal without consulting the President. The Republican move and the Israeli Prime Minister's response incurred a strong rebuke from senior Obama administration officials and the Iran nuclear deal remained a thorny issue during the 2016 Presidential campaign.

Sources:

Committee on Republican Policy; Commissions and Temporary Committees. Senate. [Congress Welcomes Prime Minister Netanyahu, Republican Defense Policy](#). GPO. Mar. 3, 2015. 114th Congress, 1st Session. Committee Print. ProQuest Congressional. CMP-2015-SER-0023

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Obama, Barack H. [Presidential Address Before a Joint Session of Congress, Message from the President of the United States](#). House Jan. 13, 2016. 114th Congress, 2nd Session. H. Doc. 114-84 (Y1.1/7:114-84) ProQuest Congressional. H.doc.114-84

Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate. [\[Assessing the Recent North Korea Nuclear Event, Missile Tests and Regional Dynamics\]](#). Pre-Published Hearing. Sept. 19, 2016. 114th Congress, 2nd Session. ProQuest Congressional. S38-20160919-01



Economic Trends and Conditions

As the United States economy continued its gradual but steady recovery from the economic turmoil engendered by the 2008 financial crisis, the President continued to tout the success of his administration's policies in bringing the nation back from the economic abyss and encouraged the Congress to work with the administration in devising policies designed to broaden the scope of the economic recovery to include more working and middle-class Americans. In his 2015 address before a joint session of Congress, President Obama advocated a series of policy proposals designed to encourage what he termed "middle class economics." These included expanding access to affordable child care, guaranteeing paid sick leave, enactment of legislation requiring equal pay for equal work, increased funding for skilled job training, and infrastructure development.

The President continued these themes in his 2016 address before the Congress, in which he again stated the economic gains achieved during the eight years of his Presidency: "We're in the longest streak of private-sector job creation in history. More than 14 million new jobs; an unemployment rate cut in half. Manufacturing has created nearly 900,000 new jobs in the past six years." Reflecting on the rapid pace of change to the nature of the American economy, the President encouraged the Congress to work with him to develop a program that would provide retraining for jobs in high-demand sectors for workers receiving unemployment insurance.

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Obama, Barack H. [*Presidential Address Before a Joint Session of Congress. Message from the President of the United States*](#). House, Jan. 21, 2015. 114th Congress, 1st Session. H. Doc. 114-1 (Y1.1/7:114-1) ProQuest Congressional. H.doc.114-1

Obama, Barack H. [*Presidential Address Before a Joint Session of Congress. Message from the President of the United States*](#). House Jan. 13, 2016. 114th Congress, 2nd Session. H. Doc. 114-84 (Y1.1/7:114-84) ProQuest Congressional. H.doc.114-84

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Zivotofsky v. Kerry, held that the State Department was justified in its actions when it listed “Jerusalem” instead of “Israel” on a passport of a child born to U.S. citizens in Jerusalem, stating that to do otherwise would infringe on the Presidential power to recognize foreign nations as related to consular reports, [576 U.S. \(2015\)](#)

Los Angeles v. Patel, held that searching hotel registries without a warrant is unconstitutional, in that it doesn’t provide the opportunity for hotel operators to perform pre-compliance review of the Los Angeles Municipal Code requirement for keeping such records, [576 U.S. \(2015\)](#)

Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Comm’n, concluded that the creation and use of an independent committee tasked with Congressional redistricting is not in violation of the Elections Clause, [576 U.S. \(2015\)](#)

Williams-Yulee v. Florida Bar, held that personal solicitations of campaign funds in a judicial election are prohibited, and the restriction of such solicitation is not in violation of the First Amendment, [575 U.S. \(2015\)](#)

Walker v. Texas Div., Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc., held that specialty license plates, in this case a design displaying the Confederate flag, fall under government speech. As a result, states can decline to produce the plate design, [576 U.S. \(2015\)](#)

Armstrong v. Exceptional Child Center, Inc., held that Medicaid providers do not have a private right of action against a state if Congress has not created rights under the Medicaid Act, [575 U.S. \(2015\)](#)

Reed v. Town of Gilbert, held that the restriction of signage, which involved the size, number, duration of placement and location, under the Gilbert, Arizona Sign Code ordinance is a violation of the First Amendment [576 U.S. \(2015\)](#)

Michigan v. Environmental Protection Agency, held that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider costs when regulating pollution emitting from power plants and in its failure to do so the agency interpreted the Clean Air Act unreasonably, [576 U.S. \(2015\)](#)

Obergefell v. Hodges, held that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, [576 U.S. \(2015\)](#)

Bank Markazi v. Peterson, held that statutes that direct a specific result in a single pending case do not violate the separation of powers, in this case, the passage of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 in response to plaintiffs asking for judgements for death or injury as a result of terrorism by Iran, [578 U.S. \(2016\)](#)

Evenwel v. Abbott, held that allotting legislative districts based on total population is permitted and the “one person, one vote” rule of the Equal Protection Clause lets a state plan its legislative districts based on total population, rather than registered voter population, [578 U.S. \(2016\)](#)

Friedrichs v. California Teachers Ass'n, affirmed the judgment of the lower court that school districts send notice to union nonmembers, requiring these public school employees to either join the union, pay fees equivalent to union member dues, and/or annually opt-out of the nonchargeable portion of the fee, [578 U.S. \(2016\)](#)

Luis v. United States, held that the freezing of a defendant’s assets in a pretrial motion would violate the right to counsel in that the defendant must have funds to pay for counsel of their choice, [578 U.S. \(2016\)](#)

Puerto Rico v. Sánchez Valle, held that the Double Jeopardy Clause prevents those prosecuted of a crime in Puerto Rico from being prosecuted of the same crimes by the federal court and vice versa; determined that the states get their sovereign power from a source other than the federal government and territories of the United States do not, [579 U.S. \(2016\)](#)

United States v. Texas, affirmed the standing of the lower courts that Texas and additional states had standing to file a suit against implementation of Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program, who argued that it violated the Administrative Procedure Act, because it had not gone through the notice-and-comment process, and argued that it also violated the Take Care Clause, which centers on Presidential powers, [579 U.S. \(2016\)](#)

Utah v. Strieff, held that evidence seized incidentally during an arrest for an outstanding warrant can be used against a defendant in court proceedings, even if the warrant was found during an investigatory stop, [579 U.S. \(2016\)](#)

Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstadt, ruled that a Texas law requiring that abortion providers have difficult to obtain admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles placed an undue burden on women seeking abortions, [579 U.S. \(2016\)](#)

2015 Events

- **Jan. 7:** [Two gunmen allied with al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula \(AQAP\) kill 12 and injure 11 at the Paris headquarters of the satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* in response to the paper's publication of cartoons lampooning the Islamic prophet Muhammad](#)
- **Jan. 22:** [When Houthi rebels seize the presidential palace, Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi resigns after months of unrest](#)
- **Jan. 23:** King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia dies, his half-brother Salman bin Abdulaziz succeeds him as King
- **Mar. 5-8:** [The ancient archaeological sites of Nimrud, Hatra and Dur-Sharrukin in northern Iraq are demolished by the Islamic State \(ISIL\)](#)
- **Mar. 25:** [A Saudi Arabia-led coalition of Arab states begins a military intervention in Yemen to prop up the Yemeni government in the face of the Houthi rebel offensive](#)
- **May 23:** Irish voters elect to legalize same-sex marriage, becoming the first country to recognize queer unions by popular referendum
- **Jun. 30:** Cuba becomes the first country to eradicate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis
- **Jul. 1:** [Greece becomes the first advanced economy to miss a payment to the International Monetary Fund in the IMF's 71-year history](#)
- **Jul. 14:** [Iran agrees to long-term limits to its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief](#)
- **Jul. 20:** [Cuba and the United States reestablish full diplomatic relations after nearly 55 years of mutual hostility](#)
- **Jul. 24:** [Turkey initiates a series of airstrikes against ISIL and Kurdish separatist PKK targets in northern Syria](#)
- **Sep. 24:** A stampede during the annual Hajj in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, leads to the death of over 2,000 pilgrims, injuring nearly 1,000 others
- **Oct. 3:** A U.S. airstrike on a Médecins sans Frontières hospital in Afghanistan kills 20 aid workers and civilians
- **Oct. 10:** A suicide bomb kills over 100 people at a peace rally outside the main train terminal in Ankara, Turkey
- **Oct. 31:** [Metrojet Flight 9268, en route to St. Petersburg, Russia from Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, crashes in the Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 aboard; Russian investigators conclude that the jet was downed by a bomb and an ISIL-allied organization based in Sinai claims responsibility](#)
- **Nov. 13:** [ISIL claims responsibility for a coordinated series of terrorist attacks in Paris in which gunmen and suicide bombers targeted a nightclub, a football stadium, and other locations, killing 130 and injuring 368](#)

2016 Events

- **Jan. 10:** British pop legend David Bowie dies
- **Jan. 12:** Ten people are killed in a bombing near the Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Blue Mosque) in Istanbul

- **Jan. 16:** [The International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\) announces that Iran has adequately dismantled its nuclear weapons program, allowing for the immediate lifting of UN sanctions](#)
- **Feb. 12:** Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill sign an Ecumenical Declaration in the first meeting between leaders of the Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox Churches since their schism in 1054
- **Feb. 13:** [U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia dies](#)
- **Apr. 2:** Clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani military in the breakaway Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh kill at least 193, becoming the most egregious breach of the 1994 cease fire between the two countries
- **Apr. 20:** American pop icon Prince dies
- **Jun. 23:** [Voters in the United Kingdom vote in a referendum to leave the European Union, in a move commonly referred to as “Brexit”](#)
- **Jun. 28:** Gunmen and suicide bombers execute an attack at Istanbul’s Atatürk International Airport, killing 45 and injuring over 200. ISIL militants claim responsibility for the attack
- **Aug. 31:** [The Brazilian Senate votes to impeach President Dilma Rousseff, removing her from office. Vice President Michel Temer assumes the presidency for the remainder of her term](#)
- **Sep. 9:** [The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea \(North Korea\) conducts its fifth and most powerful nuclear test to global condemnation](#)
- **Oct. 13:** [Bhumibol Adulyadej, the long-reigning and beloved King of Thailand, dies](#)
- **Nov. 24:** [The Colombian government signs an historic peace deal with the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia \(FARC\), ending 50 years of guerilla war](#)
- **Nov. 25:** [Cuban revolutionary and President Fidel Castro dies](#)
- **Dec. 10:** The Kurdish separatist Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAK) detonate two bombs targeting Turkish police forces outside Istanbul’s Beşiktaş stadium, killing 48 and injuring 166
- **Dec. 19:** An off-duty Turkish police officer assassinates Andrei Karlov, the Russian ambassador to Turkey, at an art exhibition in Ankara in protest over Russian involvement in the Syrian Civil War
- **Dec. 23:** [The United Nations Security Council adopts Resolution 2334, condemning “Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories occupied since 1967” after the outgoing Obama administration reverses the historical U.S. policy of blocking similar resolutions](#)

Sources:

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Committee on Financial Services. House. [Preventing Cultural Genocide: Countering the Plunder and Sale of Priceless Cultural Antiquities by ISIS](#). GPO, Apr. 19, 2016. 114th Congress, 2nd Session. Committee on Foreign Affairs Serial No. 114-32 (Y4.F76/1:114-32). ProQuest Congressional. HRG-2016-HFS-0019

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Committee on Foreign Affairs. House. [The Evolution of Terrorist Propaganda: The Paris Attack and Social Media](#). GPO, Jan. 27, 2015. 114th Congress, 1st Session, Committee on Foreign Affairs Serial No. 114-1 (Y4.F76/1:114-1) ProQuest Congressional. HRG-2015-FOA-0001

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Committee on Foreign Relations. Senate. [Understanding the Impact of U.S. Policy Changes on Human Rights and Democracy in Cuba and U.S. Cuban Relations - The Way Forward](#). GPO. Feb. 3, May 20, 2015. 114th Congress, 1st Session. S. Hrg. 114-70 (Y4.F76/2:S.HRG.114-70) ProQuest Congressional. HRG-2015-FOR-0004

Committee on Homeland Security. House. [Examining TSA's Global Efforts To Protect the Homeland from Aviation Threats and Enhance Security at Last-Point-of-Departure Airports](#). GPO. Dec. 8, 2015. 114th Congress, 1st Session. Committee on Homeland Security Serial No. 114-47 (Y4.F76/1:114-47) ProQuest Congressional. HRG-2015-HSC-0053

Jackson, James K., Shayerah Ilias Akhtar and Derek E. Mix. [Economic Implications of a United Kingdom Exit from the European Union](#). Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division (CRS). July 14, 2016. 114th Congress, 2nd Session. R44559. ProQuest Congressional. CRS-2016-FDT-0472

Katzman, Kenneth and Paul K. Kerr. [Iran: Efforts to Achieve a Nuclear Accord](#). Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division (CRS); American Law Division (CRS). July 17, 2015. 114th Congress, 1st Session, R43333. ProQuest Congressional. CRS-2015-FDT-0492

Meyer, Peter J. [Brazil in Crisis](#). CRS Insight. Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division (CRS). Sept. 14, 2016. 114th Congress, 2nd Session. IN10471. ProQuest Congressional. CRS-2016-FDT-0597

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, Committee on Foreign Affairs. House, [The U.S. Response to North Korea's Nuclear Provocations](#). GPO, Jan.13, 2016. 114th Congress, 2nd Session, Committee on Foreign Affairs Serial No. 114-48 (Y4.F76/1:114-148). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-2016-FOA-0011

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; Committee on Foreign Affairs. House, [The Paris Attacks: A Strategic Shift by ISIS?](#) GPO, Dec. 2, 2015. 114th Congress, 1st Session, Committee on Foreign Affairs Serial No. 114-122 (Y4.F76/1:114-122). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-2015-FOA-0124

Sullivan, Mark P., [Fidel Castro's Death: Implications for Cuba and U.S. Policy, CRS Insight](#). Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division (CRS). Dec. 2, 2016. 114th Congress, 2nd Session, IN10616. ProQuest Congressional. CRS-2016-FDT-0737

Major Acts

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015. Enhanced authorities for law enforcement to eradicate human trafficking activities and provides for increased measures to assist victims of human trafficking through the litigation process. Approved Mar. 29, 2015. ([129 Stat. 227, PL114-22](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Uniting and Strengthening America by Fulfilling Rights and Ensuring Effective Discipline Over Monitoring (USA FREEDOM) Act of 2015.

Restored and modified certain expired provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act and imposed new limits on the bulk collection of telecommunications metadata. Approved June 2, 2015 ([129 Stat. 268, PL114-23](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. Authorized spending for government programs through Fiscal Year 2017. Reduced the amount of increases in premiums for Medicare Part B plans. Significantly alters the Social Security claims and benefits processes in order to ensure equal access and deter exploitation from high-income beneficiaries. Approved Nov. 2, 2015. ([129 Stat. 584, PL114-74](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act. Allows for engagement in commercial space industry and extends indemnification protections for such commercial travel. Establishes regulatory measures for the safety and protection of space flight participants. Approved Nov. 25, 2015. ([129 Stat. 704, PL114-90](#))

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act. Authorizes federal spending for surface transportation, including motor vehicle safety, public transportation, railroads, and highway programs, infrastructure, and development through Fiscal Year 2019. Approved Dec. 4, 2015. ([129 Stat. 1312, PL114-94](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Every Student Succeeds Act. Repealed the No Child Left Behind Act, modified standardized testing requirements so that authority on standards is in the hands of the states, and reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to continue public education programs. Approved Dec. 10, 2015. ([129 Stat. 1802, PL114-95](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015. Authorized the streamlining and updating of U.S. Customs and Border Protection processes to encourage competitive and fair-trade practices. Approved Feb. 24, 2015. ([130 Stat. 122, PL114-125](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act. Amended the Toxic Substances Control Act, imposing new processes for the regulation of existing and emerging chemicals. Approved June 22, 2015. ([133 Stat. 448, PL114-182](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

PIPES Act of 2016. Enhanced authorities for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and strengthened provisions centered on the transportation of hazardous materials in order to ensure the safety and health of citizens and the environment. Approved June 22, 2016. ([133 Stat. 514, PL114-183](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016. Granted the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services broad authority to award grants and initiate other measures to combat the

worsening opioid addiction epidemic. Approved July 22, 2016. ([133 Stat. 695, PL114-198](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Bioengineered Food Disclosure. Established national labeling standards for genetically modified food products to ensure the safety of consumers. Approved June 29, 2016. ([133 Stat. 834, PL114-216](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. Amended the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act to narrow the scope of the doctrine of sovereign immunity in regards to civil claims arising from acts of international terrorism. The practical effect of the law was to permit the continuation of a civil lawsuit brought by families of victims of the September 11 attacks against the government of Saudi Arabia. Approved by the Congress Sept. 9, 2016, Vetoed by the President Sept. 23, 2016, Veto overridden Sept. 28, 2016 ([133 Stat. 852, PL114-222](#))

21st Century Cures Act. Authorized funding for the National Institutes of Health, including funding for opioid addiction and abuse assistance, medical and biomedical research, and development in new drugs and medical devices. Modified the Federal Drug Administration drug approval process. Approved Dec. 13, 2016. ([133 Stat. 1033, PL114-255](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016. Provided for improvements in benefits, disability compensation and health care, education, training, and rehabilitation, and information services and systems for veterans. Approved Dec. 16, 2016. ([130 Stat. 1536, PL114-315](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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