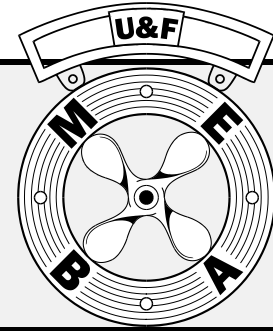


# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*MAY 2017*



President Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 into law late last week helping the Government avert a partial shutdown. Along with funding the Federal Government for the remainder of the 2017 fiscal year, it included full funding for the Maritime Security Program.

This is particularly important as it rounded out the M.E.B.A.'s 3 ½ year legislative effort to bring the MSP spending level to the sustainable amount of \$5 million per ship. The Program had been operating at \$186 million a year (\$3.1 million per ship) since Fiscal Year 2012, but thanks in large part to the efforts of M.E.B.A.'s legislative team and our industry colleagues, the annual authorization level was steadily increased to a more robust level through 2021. In FY 2016, the MSP stipend was improved from \$3.1 to \$3.5 million per ship before the current fiscal year's appropriation further expanded the funding to \$5 million per vessel. MSP is set to hold steady at the \$5 million per ship authorization level through FY 2020, In Fiscal Year 2021, the Program's authorization will enjoy another increase with the stipend rising to \$5,233,463 per vessel. Obtaining this funding in a strained budget environment was no easy task. The additional money for the program will help maintain a U.S.-flag presence in the international trades and provide necessary support for national security interests.

Without key Congressional support, this accomplishment, and others like it, would not be possible. In order to protect the jobs of the M.E.B.A. we must do everything we can as an organization and as union members to educate and influence Members of Congress. The easiest way to get involved is to begin making regular contributions to the Political Action Fund. A strong PAF will ensure that we're able to support policymakers who support the U.S. Merchant Marine.