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## Obama renews call to limit federal contractor pay

April 16, 2013 | By Zach Rausnitz

The Obama administration called for a stricter cap on contractor employee pay in the fiscal 2014 [budget proposal](#) it submitted to Congress April 10.

Contractor employees should make no more than the vice president, who is currently paid \$230,700 per year, the administration says. President Obama called for a reduced cap in 2011 when the current limit, based on private sector executive pay, reached \$763,000.

The administration's proposal noted that, in late 2012, the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act included an amendment to cap defense contractor salaries at the vice president's salary. Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.V.), who sponsored the amendment, [argued](#) in December that the change was fair considering the defense secretary makes \$199,000 a year and the commander-in-chief makes \$400,000 annually.

The president's proposal would include civilian contractors. It would also allow some unspecified exceptions to the cap. Manchin said his amendment would allow exceptions for scientists, engineers and "other specialists."

The Project on Government Oversight, a watchdog group that has also called for a lower cap, wrote in a [blog post](#) that the cap does not actually limit how much contractors can pay their employees, just how much the government will repay contractors.

For more:

- [download](#) the section of the Obama administration's budget that includes the contractor pay proposal (.pdf)
- [go to](#) the Project on Government Oversight blog post

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