The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

Dear Academy Executive Board,

Legislative Update: Budget Process and NIH Funding Outlook

This week has been a whirlwind of activity, and there's a lot to unpack. Here's a high-level summary of where things stand:

- **Legislative Calendar Constraints:** There are only a few legislative working days left to pass a federal budget before the new fiscal year begins on **October 1**. The **House is already on summer recess** and won't return until early September. The **Senate has also recessed until September**.
- **Budget Process Status:**
    - The **Senate completed its appropriations markup** this week, which included support for NIH funding—a positive signal for the research community.
    - The **House still needs to complete its markup** when it reconvenes in September.
    - After both chambers pass their versions, they will go to **conference** to reconcile any differences.
    - If a budget is not passed by the deadline, two paths remain: a **Continuing Resolution (CR)** or a **government shutdown**.
    - Of the last two above, a CR would at least maintain NIH funding at FY25 levels.
- **The Academy's Advocacy Efforts:**
    - We have been actively engaged on Capitol Hill and in ongoing dialogue with the **NIH**, working closely with our coalition partners to ensure policymakers fully understand:
        - The impact of **research cuts**.
        - Challenges caused by **delayed or inconsistent funding distribution**.

        - Ongoing **policy uncertainty** and **staffing disruptions at NIH**.
        - **Inconsistent communication** between program officers and researchers, from HHS and NIH and the Administration.
- **Reception on the Hill:**
    - Meetings with Congressional offices have generally been **positive and receptive** to continued NIH support.
    - Members of Congress consistently stress the importance of **constituent engagement**—particularly in **"red" states**. They need to hear directly from voters in their districts about the importance of NIH funding.
- **What's Next:**
    - While uncertainty remains—especially around the House markup and the eventual conference negotiations—we are cautiously optimistic. The Senate's actions this week provide a **ray of hope**.
    - We will continue to monitor developments and advocate for strong, sustained NIH funding.

If any part of this update is unclear or you have further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. The Academy remains committed to keeping you informed and helping you navigate this complex and often unpredictable process.

Senate Labor-HHS Markup

Thursday, the Senate Appropriations Committee met to mark up the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill (Labor-HHS) for FY2026. This is the annual bill that funds the NIH. You will recall that the FY2026 President's budget request proposed an $18 billion cut to NIH and an over $500 million cut to **Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health** (ARPA-H).

The Senate's Labor-HHS bill proposes a small increase for NIH and includes legislative language that is a direct response to the Administration's actions against the agency.

What is in the bill that impacts the NIH and the research community?

- A **$400 million increase is allocated to the NIH**. This includes $301,000,000 for the NIH's base budget, $226,000,000 for 21st Century Cures programs, and a $1.4 billion evaluation transfer for a total of $48.7 billion for FY2026.
- Additionally, this Labor-HHS bill continues funding for the **NIH IDeA program**, which supports states that have a history of lower funding levels.
- Maintains funding for ARPA-H at the FY2025 total of $1.5 billion.
- The Committee proposed flat funding for the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) at $440,627,000.
- Adopted an amendment that would prohibit the use of funds from this bill to increase the proportion of **multi-year NIH grants**.
- The bill maintains **current law governing facilities and administrative costs**.
- Notably, it **does not** adopt the administration's proposal to restructure the Department.
- The Committee directs the HHS Secretary to provide the Senate Health, Labor, Pensions, and Education (HELP) Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee with a 180-day written notice of any determination to restructure or reorganize the functions of NIH Institutes and Centers. The bill highlights that neither committee has received any such notice.

For additional details: To view the Academy's Senate Labor-HHS Markup Memo, click here.

What do all of these budget terms mean and which ones apply to NIH?

We have created an FAQ addressing many questions I receive about the legislative landscape. You can view the Academy Legislative FAQ here.

Trump Administration Scraps Effort to Pause Health-Research Funding

On Tuesday, The Wall Street Journal reported that a new pause in NIH funds had occurred due to a footnote in a funding document from the Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought's office. This footnote halted approximately $15 billion in NIH funding, according to Senator Patty Murray's office, and limited the remainder of the FY25 funding to only staff salaries and expenses, implying that the money could not be used for new grants or some grants that are up for renewal. Five hours later, after the Wall Street Journal reported on the footnote, the OMB reversed its decision. Prior to the reversal, Senator Murray said, "This outrageous decision to prevent NIH from spending the funding that Congress has explicitly provided for medical research must immediately be reversed – life-changing cures and patients' prognoses hang in the balance." To read the complete article by the Wall Street Journal, click here.

Of note: OMB had stated "*This money was undergoing a programmatic review while we were waiting for more information from NIH and is being released*."

However: the OMB is required by law to apportion funds within 30 days of enactment, per 31 USC 1513: Officials controlling apportionments. Enactment was March 15, 2025, so OMB has had months to do a 'programmatic review.' It is important for us as advocates to consistently relay these points/reminders to policy makers.

NIH Releases Request for Information on Maximizing Research Funds by Limiting Allowable Publication Costs

To maximize the value of NIH research grants, grantees should aim to utilize as much of their funds as possible for research activities. With this in mind, NIH has released a request for information (RFI) regarding policy options to maximize research funds by limiting allowable publication costs (APCs).

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the policy options described in the RFI. Comments must be submitted electronically to https://osp.od.nih.gov/comment-form-maximizing-research-funds-by-limiting-

allowable-publishing-costs. Responses will be accepted through **September 15, 2025**.

Context on this issue can be found in a statement previously issued by NIH Director, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya. Also, for additional information, please see the latest *Under the Poliscope* blog from Dr. Lyric Jorgenson.

Letter to Congress from NCI National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN)

This letter highlights the excellence of both the NCI and NCTN and explains that federal support extends beyond research, improving patient outcomes, answering clinical questions, and supporting local economies. To read the full letter, click here.

Odds of winning NIH grants plummet as new funding policy and spending delays bite

The Senate Committee on Appropriations is scheduled to release its proposal for NIH's 2026 budget later this week. The committee could include language that would prohibit the multiyear funding plan or extend the timeline for the transition. To read the full article discussing the new NIH funding policy, click here.

August Recess: A Guide to District Meetings with a Member of Congress

As we kick off August, members of Congress return to their home districts for a district work period, also known as "August Recess." This is an excellent opportunity to meet with your Representatives and Senators and advocate for federal investment in medical research. The Academy has compiled a document that includes best practices for advocacy, scheduling meetings, and preparing for conversations with your member, among other valuable tips and advice. For the full document, click here.

If you are interested in a virtual meeting with your Member of Congress/ their legislative staff, let us know. We can facilitate that meeting on your behalf, have a

quick virtual chat walking through that process with you and even be on the call with you during these meetings to assist.

The Academy continues to facilitate Congressional meetings for members of the Council of Early Career Investigators in Imaging (CECI^2).

We extend our gratitude to Kathleen Capaccione, MD, PhD, for her continued advocacy:

Kathleen Capaccione, MD, PhD, an assistant professor of radiology at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, had the opportunity to meet with Amanda Guiliano, the Legislative Director for the Office of Representative Nellie Pou (D-NJ), to discuss the impacts of NIH funding cuts for early career investigators. Dr. Capaccione shared her experience with grant terminations and explained the potential consequences of funding loss, such as hindered drug development and an altered career path. Ms. Guiliano provided thoughtful responses and emphasized that Representative Pou was taking steps to protect dollars to NIH, including indirect costs.

MEDIA

"Where Congress is Splitting from Trump on Science Funding"

"Senate GOP Quietly Urges House to Shift Approach on Shutdown Talk"

"Employees' protests against Trump science policies spread to NSF"

"NIH is shrinking the number of research projects it funds due to a new Trump policy"

"A cut to Medicare that could affect millions is buried in Trump's tax law"

"A Quiet Policy Shift That Could Devastate American Science"

"NIH spending battle's ripple effect"

"Trump Administration Asks Supreme Court to Allow NIH to Cut DEI Related Grants"

*Thank you for your interest in these Academy updates. If you are not already part of a supporting Member department/society/company, please consider supporting

our extensive advocacy efforts on behalf of this community through Membership. Please view this brief clip about The Value of the Academy, and view our supportive membership here. For additional membership details, we welcome you to connect with Josie Wilkinson Miller at jwilkinson@acadrad.org.

Warmest regards,

Renee