The ACADEMY for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research

Advancing Innovation in Imaging Science

January 16, 2026

Academy Policy & Legislative Update

Dear Academy Friends,

Today is known as Quitters Day—the point in January when most people abandon their New Year's resolutions. Yet in Washington, DC, something unexpected is happening: Congress appears to be keeping its own. After a bruising 43-day shutdown and an extended holiday recess, lawmakers have returned to Capitol Hill with renewed focus and determination to move the annual appropriations bills forward. Before we dive into the latest congressional activity, be sure to mark your calendar for the upcoming Academy events below.

Read the Academy's End of Year Summary Newsletter! Click here to view.

Upcoming Workshop! ***The Stories Behind the Science: Best Practices for Communicating Medical Imaging Research to Policymakers***

- Led by Elizabeth O'Hare, PhD, Director of Government Relations at the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA).
- This webinar will examine how to best translate advances in biomedical research into compelling, relatable narratives that demonstrate the real-world impact of federal investment in scientific research.
- ***Important Note:*** **This workshop is required for participants in the Future of Health: Medical Imaging Research Hill Day**. However, it will also be valuable to anyone who is interested in learning strategies for communicating the importance of scientific progress, momentum, and impact. So, we are disseminating this virtual opportunity broadly.
- View an informational flyer here.
- Register for the workshop here.

SAVE THE DATE: The Academy is excited to share that we are leading a collaboration among the following imaging societies for a single, collective day of advocacy in Washington, DC, this spring!

Click here to view the save the date with more event details.

Click here to view the Academy 2026 Spring Events & Meetings website.

****If you are participating in these events and wish to access the private webpage with materials like registration links, Zoom links, and planning session summaries, please respond directly to this email and we will send you the link with a password.*

Appropriations Update

- Congress is making progress on the remaining 9 spending bills for FY2026.
- However, Members will be in their districts next week. When they return to Washington, they will have five days to complete all remaining appropriations bills before the January 30 deadline.
- Still in negotiations, the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill that funds NIH.

Multi-Year Funding (MYF)

- MYF grant awards are a sticking point in the ongoing negotiations to finalize the FY2026 Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations bill.
- The Senate included language in their bill that limits the number of multi-year awards to no more than NIH made in FY24.
- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is threatening a veto on the bill if the Senate language is adopted.
- OMB wants to use this tool to slow spending at the NIH.
- At the time this report was written, the negotiations were still ongoing. **If you live in AL or OK, the Academy urges you to contact the office of Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)**

or Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK). Click here for information on who to contact and how to contact them in their respective offices.

- To read more, click here.

Facility and Administrative (F&A) cost

On Sunday evening, the House and Senate released a bipartisan package (or minibus) of final FY2026 spending bills for Financial Services-General Government and State, Foreign Operations bills.

In a turn of good news, the Financial Services bill contains language on Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs. The bill expresses support for the Financial Accountability in Research (FAIR) model advanced by the Joint Associations Group on Indirect Costs (JAG). MOST IMPORTANTLY, it states, "The agreement further directs OMB to not finalize or implement any policy, guidance, or rule, or publish a notice of proposed rulemaking, that would alter the manner in which negotiated indirect cost rates have been implemented and applied under the Uniform Grant Guidance (UG), as that guidance was in effect during fiscal year 2024.

The Academy recognizes that multiple courts have also blocked the administration's attempts to cap F&A but this is an encouraging development.

You can find the explanatory language of the bill's F&A language here, on pages 20 and 21.

NIH Leadership Changes

15 of the NIH's 27 institutes and centers are now under interim leadership:

Gary Gibbons, M.D., is retiring as National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) director, adding to the extensive churn at the top of the NIH. This retirement falls on the heels of Walter Koroshetz's, Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), departure at the end of December.

For now, David Goff, MD, PhD, will serve as the Acting NHLBI Director while a search is conducted.

Advocacy Works!

Earlier this week, almost $2 billion in cuts were made to mental health and addiction grants. However, shortly after the cuts were implemented, the Trump administration quickly backtracked, restoring the previously cut funds. This move resulted in immediate backlash from both sides of the aisle and public health advocates. Significant layoffs and infrastructure loss would result from these cuts. Congresswoman DeLauro explained that these grant cancellations would impede services that American families depend on to live.

The grants were quickly restored, likely due to condemnation received from a variety of communities. Republicans, Democrats, local officials, care providers, and advocacy groups

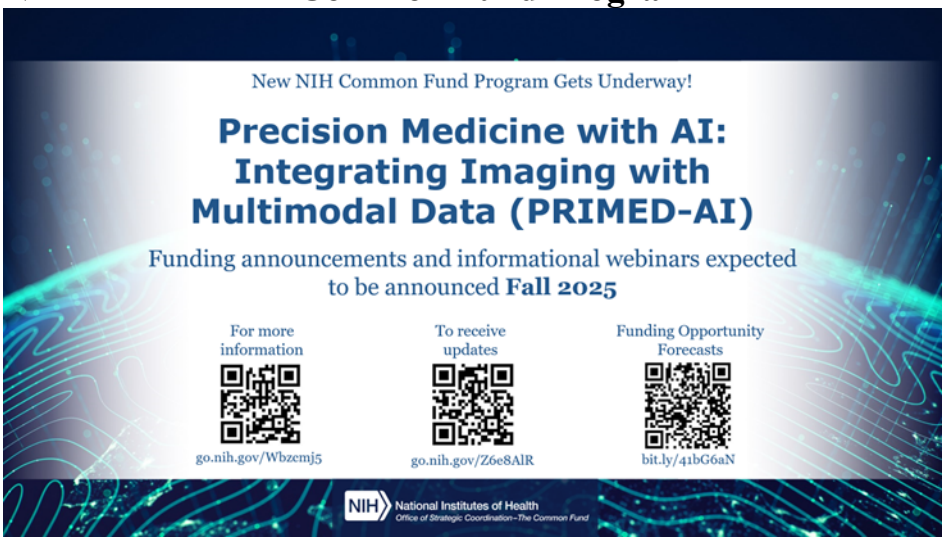
expressed their shared alarm at the sudden cuts to funding. DeLauro cited this national outrage as the reason the grants were reinstated. Lawmakers were quick to begin lobbying to restore the grants, and one hundred House members came together to craft a letter in support of restoring funding, addressed to Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The quick restoration of this funding is a testament to the power of advocacy. In a moment of chaos, there was unification and action for a shared goal. While the initial cuts are certainly alarming, the successful restoration of mental health and addiction funding is an outcome made possible by strong advocacy.

Articles for more information:

- HHS abruptly cancels then restores mental health, addiction grants, officials say
- 24 hours of chaos as mental health grants are slashed then restored
- HHS Reverses Decision to Cut $2 Billion for Mental Health and Addiction Services

NIH PRIMED-AI Common Fund Program



All five NIH PRIMED-AI NOFOs continue to advance steadily toward publication and are now in OER policy review. Once the NOFOs are issued, the Academy will schedule virtual sessions with NIH Co-Chairs and staff to provide additional briefings for the community. We are now hearing early summer.

MEDIA

**If you come across an article that you would like for us to include in our weekly policy emails, please send them to us, in case we miss any.*

"Draft bill would renew small-business research program"

"The NIH has lost its scientific integrity. So we left."

"A Quiet Policy Shift That Could Devastate American Science"

"Health care appropriators split over NIH grant funding plan"

Academy Membership Programming Survey
We've put together a survey to gauge the interests of our membership so we can provide programming opportunities that you want to participate in. Please complete this survey and leave all feedback you may have. Thank you!

Academy "Funding, Facts, and Follow Up" Emails. Monthly updates and funding opportunities: Click here to access an archive of the emails we send out, including our most recent.

Thank you for following these Academy updates! If your department, society, or company isn't yet a supporting Member, now is a great time to join. Your support powers our advocacy efforts and helps advance the interests of our entire community. Discover The Value of the Academy in this short clip and explore our membership [here]. For personalized guidance or questions, connect with Olivia Nelson at onelson@acadrad.org —we'd love to hear from you!