Government and Public Affairs Update
July 29, 2025
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Presentation Outline

- Update on political landscape and leadership

- Fiscal Year 2025 and FY 2026 appropriations

- PAA action on specific policy Issues

- PAA Outreach Activities

- Tips for Getting Involved

2024 Elections Outcome: Implications for Congress and Administration

Congressional
Balance of Power

U.S. Senate

- 53-47
- New Republican majority in 119th Congress

U.S. House of Representatives

- 219-212
- Four current vacancies
- Republican majority
- Extremely narrow margin
- Only 3 party-line votes can be lost on the floor

PAA and APC Welcome Letter to 119th Congress

2024 Elections and Outlook: Congress
Key Committee Leadership

U.S. Senate

- **Appropriations**

  - Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)

  - Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)

- **Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions**

  - Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

  - Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-VT)

- **Commerce, Science, Transportation**

  - Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

  - Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)

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2024 Elections and Outlook: Congress
Key Committee Leadership

U.S. House of Representatives

- **Appropriations**
  - Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
  - Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

- **Energy and Commerce**
  - Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY)
  - Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

- **Science**
  - Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX)
  - Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)

Trump Administration:
Notable Appointments to Date

- **Office of Management and Budget**
    - Russell Vought, Director
    - Mark Calabria, U.S. Chief Statistician

- **Office of Science and Technology Policy**
    - Michael Kratsios, Director

- **Department of Health and Human Services**
    - Jay Bhattacharya, NIH Director
    - Susan Monarez, CDC Director (awaiting Senate confirmation)
    - Allison Cernich, NICHD Acting Director

- **Department of Commerce**
    - Howard Lutnick, Commerce Secretary

- **Department of Education**
    - Matthew Soldner, Acting Commissioner, NCES

- **National Science Foundation**
    - Brian Stone, Acting Director

Trump Administration:
Notable Departures to Date

Reassigned

- Diane Bianchi, Director, NICHD

- Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, NIMHD

- Amy Kelley, NIA Deputy Director

- Directors of NIAID and NINR

- Peggy Carr, NCES

Resigned or Retired

- Rob Santos, Census Bureau

- Sethuraman "Panch" Panchanathan, NSF

Running list of eliminated offices and personnel at HHS

U.S. Census Bureau data faces danger of brain drain : NPR

NSF director resigns amid 55% budget cut, mass layoffs from Trump admin - Ars Technica

Census has long struggled with staffing shortages. Employees say Trump is making it worse

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Trump Administration:
Notable Executive Orders

COSSA Executive Order Tracker

- **Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity** (1/21/24)

- **Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing** (1/20/25)

- **Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Trust to the Federal Government** (1/20/25)

- **Establishing and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency"** (1/20/25)

- **Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions** (1/20/25) – Rescinds dozens of Biden Administration Executive Orders

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Trump Administration:
Adverse Effects on Public Engagement

Terminated

- All three Census Bureau advisory committees
- All BLS and BEA advisory committees

Public Comments Halted

- February 25, HHS withdraws longstanding "Richardson Waiver" requiring notice and comments on proposed policies.

PAA signed letter to Administration urging restoration of census advisory committees

Mary Jo interviewed regarding Census advisory committees: Federal News Network and quoted in NYT.

Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations

Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations

- H.R. 1968, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act of 2025 became law March 15, 2025.

- Essentially flat funds all agencies through September 30, 2025.

- No report language accompanied bill.

- Enacted recissions bill which cut $9 billion from approved FY 2025 funds
  - Will there be more recissions bills?

- Support for releasing appropriated funds
  - 14 Senate Republicans sent letter to OMB re. release of FY 2025 NIH funding.

Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Appropriations

Agencies	Final FY 2025	FY 2026 President's Request	FY 2026 House	FY 2026 Senate	FY 2026 PAA Endorsed Level
AHRQ	$369 million	$240 million*	N/A	N/A	$500 million
BLS	$698 million	$648 million	N/A	N/A	$770 million
Census Bureau	$1.38 billion	$1.676 billion	$1.676 billion	$1.520 billion	$2.0 billion
IES	$793.1 million	$261.3 million	N/A	N/A	$900 million
NCHS	$187.4 million	$175 million*	N/A	N/A	$220 million
NIH	$47.1 billion	$27.9 billion	N/A	N/A	$51.3 billion
NSF	$9.06 billion	$3.903 billion	$7.0 billion	$9.0 billion	$9.9 billion

Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations

President's FY 2026 Budget Proposes Significant Agency Restructuring:

- Reduces number of NIH Institutes and Centers from 27 to 8.

- Combines NICHD with National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to create a National Institute for Child and Women's Health, Sensory Disorders, and Communication.

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and National Center for Health Statistics moved into new HHS Office of Strategy

- Reorganizes BLS, BEA, and Census Bureau at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.

PAA not opposed to agency restructuring proposals. However, these proposals should occur with input from Congress and stakeholders and as part of comprehensive authorizing legislation.

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Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations

To communicate FY 2026 priorities PAA has:

- Signed letters endorsing funding for all priority agencies as well as letters supporting funding for USAID, gun violence prevention research at NIH and CDC, AHRQ Health Extension Service Program, 2026 Census Test, Alzheimer's disease related research, and economic statistics activities supported by Census, BLS, and BEA.

- Signed letters or statements opposing elimination of National Survey on Drug Use and Health, cut in NIH F&A rate, funding cuts at NIH, NICHD, NIA and NINDS, NICHD reorganization, elimination of SSA Retirement and Disability Research Centers, and reductions in staffing across HHS.

- Submitted testimony to House and Senate Appropriations Committees

- Promoted funding priorities on 2025 PAA Advocacy Day.

Fiscal Year 2026 NIH Population Research Proposed Appropriations Report Language

- Drafted and submitted to congressional champions proposed report regarding population research programs at NIA and NICHD.

- Urges sustained support for large data collection activities.

- [Similar to language included in FY 2025 House and Senate LHHS reports](#).

- Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6) and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY-20) signed "Dear Colleague" letter in support of NIA and NICHD population report language.

NIH
National Institutes
of Health

Government and Public Affairs Update: Addressing Disappearing Data, Award Terminations and Elimination of SSA Retirement & Disability Research Consortium

Resolution: Urge Federal Support for Population Sciences

We urge Congress and the Administration to:

Support robust funding for the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, U.S. Census Bureau and all federal statistical agencies.

Restore funding for rescinded federal research grants and contracts and respect agencies' rigorous vetting and peer-review processes.

Protect the integrity of federal data by restoring missing data and data products and taking steps to prevent future removal of taxpayer- funded data products, documentation, and websites.

Reconstitute terminated federal agency advisory committees.

Reestablish the public's ability to comment on proposed federal policies, rules, agency reorganization proposals, and regulations.

Strengthen federal scientific and statistical agencies' workforces and restore agency staffing levels.

Reinstate federal agencies that were terminated without appropriate congressional input and oversight.

Adopted, March 19, 2025

Disappearing Federal Data and Websites

In response to January 2025 removal of Federal data, data products, and websites, PAA took following actions:

- **Spearheaded letter to Congress** signed by 230 national, state, and local organizations and 2,600 individuals representing data users, nationwide urging the restoration of taxpayer financed data removed from federal agency websites.

- **Issued PAA action alert** that generated 455 messages to members of Congress.

- **Issued press release and provided and/or arranged background interviews** to reporters at Politico, New York Times, Associated Press, and National Public Radio.

- **Sponsored two briefings at request of GAO** on disappearing federal data.

- **Responded to congressional inquiries** from oversight and funding committee staff in House and Senate.

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Award Terminations

- Established portal for members to submit award terminations.

- Shared examples of canceled awards with congressional staff.

- Arranged interviews for members as requested by congressional staff.

- Joined almost 50 other leading science organizations in signing open letter that was published in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

- Developed briefs:
  - Impact of NIH Grant Terminations
  - Stories Behind the Statistics: Impact of NIH Grant Terminations

Termination of SSA Retirement and Disability Research Consortium

In response to February 25 decision issued by the Social Security Administration to terminate the Retirement and Disability Research Consortium (RDRC) cooperative agreements, PAA:

- Organized letter to Congress and Administration that was signed by almost 20 national, state, and local organizations and over 400 individuals nationwide, urging the restoration of the RDRC program.

- **Issued action alert** that generated over **50 messages** to Congress.

- **Organized meetings** for Bill Beach, former BLS Commissioner, and Wendell Primus, Former Senior Advisor to Speaker Pelosi, with staff on House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees.

- Included as a top PAA FY 2026 appropriations priority.

Some Good News: Outreach Works!

- **Restored data sites**

- **Reinstated grant awards**

- **Increased amount for nondefense funding in FY 2025 House appropriations allocations**

- **Increased proposed funding for NSF in FY 2026 Senate and House marks**

- **Increased funding for Census Bureau in President's FY 2026 budget request.**

- **Supportive language re ACS and 2026 Census Test and advisory committees in Senate FY 2026 CJS appropriations report**

- **14 Republican Senators sent OMB Director letter urging release of FY 2025 NIH funding.**

- **Restoration of hate crimes question in National Crimes Victimization Survey.**

- **"Improving Population Health" one of NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya top priorities**

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Government and Public Affairs Update: Congresssional News and Engagement

Congressional Engagements

PAA Advocacy Day
April 2025

PAA Briefings for Policymakers and Members

Government Accountability Office

- **June 26 In-Person Briefing, "Disappearing Federal Data 2.0"**

- **November Virtual Briefing, "Declining Response Rates in Federal Surveys"**

Congress

- **In-Person Briefing, October 8, 2025, on U.S. Fertility Trends**

Upcoming webinars

- **2030 Census**

- **Immigration and Population Aging implications**

PAA Participation in Coalition Outreach

- **Rally for Medical Research**

- **Rally on the Road**

- **Cures Not Cuts Campaign**

- **Medical Research Week Resolution and Activities**

- **Future of U.S. Statistical System**

Your Turn: How Can You Help?

Respond To and Share PAA Action Alerts

- **Active alert on FY 2026**

Meet your member—Congress is "home in August"

Highlights from Coalition for Health Funding District Toolkit

- Monitor your lawmaker's website and social media accounts, sign up for email alerts, or periodically call your Member's district office for event updates.

- At town halls, limit yourself to ONE question or comment.

- When meeting, tell your story, keep it short and simple, and invite questions!

- Do your homework to learn lawmakers' policy priorities and committee assignments

- Use talking points and materials from PAA!

Your Turn: How Can You Help?

Current PAA Topline Talking Points for Members of Congress

- Support PAA's funding priorities in Fiscal Year 2026.

- Ensure appropriated FY 2025 funds are spent.

- Scrutinize agency restructuring proposals and ensure there is input from relevant authorizing committees and affected stakeholders.

- Protect and Strengthen Access To and Collection of Federal Data.

Use PAA materials and contact Mary Jo and/or your employer's government relations office for guidance!

Government and Public Affairs Update

Thank you!