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August 15, 2025

Dear PAA colleague,

As you may know, members of Congress are not expected to return to Washington DC until after the Labor Day holiday. For the next several weeks, they are in their home districts and states attending community events and, in some cases, sponsoring town halls or other events to engage with their constituents.

On July 29, PAA/APC Government Affairs Director Mary Jo Mitchell presented an update about recent federal legislative and administrative actions, especially regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process. She also provided some tips on the best ways to engage with your U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators when they are in their home districts and states. The slides and a recording of the event are available [here](#).

If you have an opportunity to speak to your U.S. Representatives and/or U.S. Senators, we encourage you to consider sharing any of these views:

- **ASK--Support continued strong funding for federal scientific research agencies in Fiscal Year 2026, especially the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, when Congress returns in September to complete work on the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process.**
  - [PAA is pleased](#) that the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected the Trump Administration's proposed cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and instead recommended that NIH receive \$48.7 billion, a \$400 million increase, in their version of the FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill.
  - PAA is also pleased that both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees rejected the Administration's proposed drastic 40% funding cut to the National Science Foundation in Fiscal Year 2026.
- **ASK--Scrutinize NIH and other agency restructuring proposals and ensure there is input from relevant authorizing committees and affected stakeholders before acting.**
  - PAA is pleased that the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected the Trump Administration's proposal to reduce the number of NIH Institutes and Centers from 27 to 8 and affirmed the need for Congress to follow appropriate proper legal and administrative processes before considering any potential organizational changes to the NIH.
  - More information and talking points about the state of NIH funding is [available in this document](#) prepared by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research coalition.

- **ASK--Ensure appropriated FY 2025 funds are spent and oppose efforts by the Administration to terminate previously approved funding.**
  - PAA has produced two fact sheets you can share, illustrating the impact grant terminations have had on our field:
    - [Impact of NIH grant terminations](#)
    - [Stories Behind the Statistics: Impact of NIH Grant Terminations on Population Scientists](#)
- **ASK--Protect and Strengthen Ability of Federal Statistical Agencies to Fulfill Their Missions**
  - Federal Statistical agencies, such as the U.S. Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), need robust funding to meet their mandates of producing objective, timely, accurate data.
  - PAA supports funding levels proposed for NCHS and BLS in the FY 2026 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.
  - PAA urges Congress to provide no less than the amount that the President requested for the Census Bureau in FY 2026 (\$1.676 billion) and to reject calls for a “new” census that would exclude undocumented immigrants. Efforts should remain focused on 2030 Census preparations. You can [share PAA’s statement](#) regarding the President’s call for a new census.

More details about how to engage with elected officials in their districts and states are available in the [Coalition for Health Funding District Tool Kit](#). Mary Jo is also available to answer your questions at [maryjo@popassoc.org](mailto:maryjo@popassoc.org).

Thank you for considering this opportunity to interact with your U.S. elected officials and amplify PAA’s current funding and policy priorities.

Sincerely,



William H. Dow  
Chair, PAA/APC Government and Public Affairs Committee