



# WASHINGTON UPDATE

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## New from COSSA

### ACT NOW!

COSSA continues to work with partners throughout the science advocacy community to push back on executive actions that threaten the scientific enterprise. Included here are some opportunities for you and/or your organization to assist in these efforts.

#### Share your Story:

- **NEW:** AAAS Survey: [Assessing the Impacts of Federal Policies on the U.S. STEMM Community](#)
- **NEW:** House Science Committee Democrats: [Were you fired by President Trump?](#)

#### COSSA Action Alerts:

- [Write to Congress TODAY about the Need to Protect Government Data](#)
- [Urge Congress to Support Uninterrupted, Robust Federal Investment in Scientific Research](#)
- **NEW:** [Protect Federal Statistical Agencies](#)

Please send any additional opportunities to [ebailey@coffa.org](mailto:ebailey@coffa.org) to include in future Washington Updates.

### REGISTER NOW: Headlines Webinar on March 31

On March 31, join COSSA for our next Headlines

Webinar. We will continue to cover the latest Congressional news, President Trump's Executive actions, the federal budget, and more.



The webinar will be taking place on **March 31 at 1pm EST**. [Register here](#).

If you missed COSSA's recent webinars, you can find the recordings below:

- January: [119th Congress & Trump 2.0: What Does it Mean for Us?](#)
- February: [Understanding the Latest White House and Congressional Actions](#)

Headlines is a webinar series available to COSSA [member organizations](#). Watch for additional webinar announcements, and previous webinar recordings, on the COSSA [website](#).

## **FINAL DAYS: Register for Social Science Advocacy Day 2025**

Social Science Advocacy Day is days away! This event is a **must** for everyone invested in the fate of federal funding for social and behavioral science research and who believe this research is vital to inform sound public policy. **Now is the time to act.**



Registration for COSSA's annual [Social Science Advocacy Day](#) is open, but only for a few more days! You can register [here](#).

If you can't be with us this year, keep an eye on your inbox for ways to advocate from home.

Visit the [COSSA website](#) for the latest information on Social Science Advocacy Day.

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## **Congressional News**

### **President Signs Full-year Continuing Resolution**

On March 15, the President signed into law a [full-year continuing resolution](#) (CR) for fiscal year (FY) 2025 with only a few hours to spare before the previous CR, enacted in December, was scheduled to lapse ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). The stopgap funding measure, which passed in the Republican-controlled House in a 217-213 vote and the Republican-controlled Senate in a 54-46 vote, is considered to be a "clean" CR, meaning funding levels will be kept at the FY 2024 level, with a few changes, until the end of the fiscal year on September 30. However, given the bare-bones nature of a CR, the bill is short on details and specific directives to individual agencies. Therefore, for many accounts, agencies will have the authority to decide how to allocate the FY 2025 appropriation. Given the current political environment and the Administration's efforts to cut spending, especially to targeted areas (e.g., DEI), the full impact of the CR on social and behavioral science funding remains unclear. Further, the CR does not include language protecting science funding from potential intervention from the Administration, for which Democrats including Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) had strongly advocated. COSSA will provide additional details on the FY 2025 CR as they become available.

With the FY 2025 appropriations process finalized, Congress will be turning to FY 2026. As previously reported by COSSA, President Trump spoke before a joint session of Congress on March 4, which included a myriad of attacks on specific scientific research projects and included a call to dismantle the *CHIPS and Science Act* ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). While rumors suggest that Congress remains supportive of the *CHIPS and Science Act*, funding for scientific research is likely to remain a point of contention as

Congress begins the FY 2026 appropriations process. The President's Budget Request (PBR) for FY 2026, which is often published following the State of the Union Address and indicates presidential priorities, has yet to be released by the Trump Administration.

Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued coverage](#) on the FY 2026 appropriations process.

## House Science Committee Addresses Threats to Federally Funded Research in Hearing

On March 5, the House Science, Space, and Technology (SST) Committee's Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee held a hearing on [Assessing the Threat to U.S. Funded Research](#). Witnesses included Mr. Jeffrey Stoff, President, Center for Research Security & Integrity; Mr. John F. Sargent Jr., Retired, Specialist in Science and Technology Policy, Congressional Research Service; and Dr. Maria Zuber, E.A. Griswold Professor of Geophysics and Presidential Advisor for Science and Technology Policy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

In his opening remarks, Chairman Rich McCormick (R-GA) highlighted the importance of remaining a global leader in scientific research while protecting U.S. research from foreign competitors. While Ranking Member Emilia Sykes (D-OH) echoed the importance of research security, she emphasized the need for an open research environment and collaboration with partners both domestically and internationally. Further, she underscored the importance of protecting and maintaining the *CHIPS and Science Act* ([see previous COSSA coverage](#) and related article).

During her remarks, Congresswoman Luz Maria Rivas (D-CA) addressed the concern of funding cuts through executive actions, including the proposal to cap the National Institutes of Health (NIH) indirect costs at 15 percent, in which Dr. Maria Zuber underscored the detriment these cuts would have on scientific research at universities across the country ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). Further, Dr. Zuber emphasized that indirect and direct costs are "both the cost of doing research" regardless of the category they are placed within.

A full recording of the hearing can be found [here](#).

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## Executive Branch News

### President Trump Executive Actions

Recent Trump Administration Actions (all actions available [here](#)):

- [Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy](#) (3/14/25) ([MORE INFORMATION](#))
- [Additional Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions](#) (3/14/25)
- [Implementing the President's DOGE Cost Efficiency Initiative](#) (2/26/25) ([MORE INFORMATION](#))
- [Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's DOGE Deregulatory Initiative](#) (2/19/25) ([MORE INFORMATION](#))
- [Radical Transparency about Wasteful Spending](#) (2/18/25) ([MORE INFORMATION](#))

Find COSSA's full list of Trump's Executive Actions and more information [here](#).

### Latest from the White House

COSSA continues to follow the flurry of executive actions taken by the Trump Administration and the impact those actions are having on the social and behavioral science community. Below are some of the latest developments coming out of the White House. Past updates are available [here](#).

### Trump Eliminates Agencies

On March 14, President Trump signed an Executive Order (EO), [Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy](#), which eliminates several agencies “to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law,” including the [Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars](#) in the Smithsonian Institution and the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS), among others. The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is a federally funded, non-partisan thinktank that provides essential policy analysis and IMLS is a substantial provider of federal funding for libraries and museums, among other projects. The order determines these agencies to be “unnecessary” and comes as the Trump Administration seeks to eliminate the government “waste”. A [fact sheet](#) published by the Administration claims, “President Trump is returning power to local communities and state governments” through these recent actions.

## Federal Workforce

Two different U.S. District Judges ruled last week that federal agencies must offer to rehire probationary employees who have been terminated as part of the President’s efforts to shrink the federal workforce. The Administration is expected to appeal the decision, which creates ongoing uncertainty for thousands of federal employees. Democrats in Congress continue to [express their concern](#) over these layoffs and organizations within the scientific community are [joining](#) the legal fight.

## NIH Indirect Cost Policy

In February, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued a [notice](#) announcing plans to cap indirect cost rates for grantees at 15 percent. The NIH research community responded in force, filing lawsuits, issuing statements, and sending [letters](#) to Congress. Within days temporary restraining orders were put in place and a hearing was scheduled in Federal District Court for later in the month.

On March 5, U.S. District Judge Angel Kelly [ordered](#) a nation-wide preliminary injunction which keeps the Administration from implementing the policy change while lawsuits continue.

Changing the way NIH pays for facilities and administration (F&A) costs has long been a topic of discussion among policymakers. As such, the topic is not likely to go away, regardless of the final outcome of current lawsuits.

## Share your Experience

Several organizations are collecting information on how recent executive actions and budget uncertainty have been affecting the research community. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is collecting responses to a survey, [“Assessing the Impacts of Federal Policies on the U.S. STEMM Community.”](#)

In addition, Democrats on the House Science Committee set up a [resource](#) for federal employees who may have been laid off to confidentially share their experience. Check out the ACT NOW! section of this newsletter for other ways you can help.

## NIH Director Nominee, Dr. Bhattacharya, Voted Through HELP Committee; CDC Nomination Pulled

On March 13, the nomination of Dr. Jay Bhattacharya advanced through the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee in a 12-11 vote along party lines, overcoming the first hurdle for being confirmed as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). The next step is a confirmation vote by the full Senate, which has not yet been scheduled.

During his confirmation hearing on March 5, Bhattacharya stated an intent to refocus NIH’s research efforts on addressing chronic diseases, aligning with Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr, as well as investing in cutting edge research. HELP Committee Chair Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), [who released a white-paper on recommendations to improve the NIH last session](#), questioned Bhattacharya on

the decline of vaccination rates across the country, seeking assurance that the NIH, under his leadership, would address this issue. In his response, Bhattacharya underscored the importance of data and research but declined to consider other methods of improving declining vaccination rates. Further, when pressed by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) and Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) on the proposal to cap the National Institutes of Health (NIH) indirect costs at 15 percent, Bhattacharya confirmed he would follow the law if confirmed as NIH Director. Currently, the proposal is paused by the federal courts for violating federal law ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). A full video of the hearing can be viewed [here](#).

In other news, the Trump Administration's nomination for Director of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dave Weldon, was [pulled the morning of his first confirmation hearing](#). Rumors suggest a lack of support for the nomination played a part in this decision. It is unclear who President Trump intends to nominate in Weldon's place.

Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued coverage](#) on the new Administration.

## Resources & Opportunities

### COSSA Letters & Statements

- **NEW:** 2/25/2025: [Community Letter Urging to Finalize FY 2025 Appropriations with Strong NIH Funding](#)
- 3/4/2025: [Friends of AHRQ Letter to Congress on FY 2026 Funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#)
- **NEW:** 3/10/2025: [Community Letter Urging Congress to Protect and Secure Postsecondary Data, Research, and Student Data Privacy](#)
- **NEW:** 3/13/2025: [CNSF Letter on FY 2026 Funding for the National Science Foundation](#)

### Nomination Opportunities

- [2025 Eric and Wendy Schmidt Awards for Excellence in Science Communications](#) (March 31, 2025)

### Funding Opportunities

- NSF: [Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity \(GRANTED\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)

### Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- NSF: [Request for Comment for partnership for research and education in materials](#) (Closes: March 24, 2025)
- NIH: [NIH Public Access Compliance Monitoring Survey](#) (Ongoing)

### Notices, Resources, & Reports

- **NEW:** [Science & Technology: GAO's Support for Congress](#)
- **NEW:** NPA: [Report on Impact of Recent Executive Branch Policies](#)
- [Vision for American Science & Technology: Unleashing American Potential](#)

### Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- **NEW:** Blue Marble Space Institute: [Young Scientist Program](#) (Closes: April 10, 2025)
- AERA: [Executive Director](#) (Open until Filled)
- [Program Director for the Social Psychology Program](#) within the SBE Directorate (Open until Filled)

- [Program Director for the Human Networks and Data Science \(HNDS\) Program](#) in the BCS Division within the SBE Directorate (Open until Filled)
- APSA: [Pracademic Fellowship](#) (Open until Filled)

## Upcoming Events

- **NEW:** NASEM: [Women's Health Research Funding at NIH: Gaps and Opportunities](#), March 20, 2025, Virtual
- COSSA: [Social Science Advocacy Day 2024](#), March 24-25, 2025, Washington, DC
- **NEW:** AAG: [2025 Annual Meeting](#), March 24-28, 2025, Detroit, MI
- March Headlines Webinar: [Latest Policy Updates from COSSA](#), March 31, 2025, Virtual
- MPSA: [82nd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference](#), April 3-6, 2025, Virtual and Chicago, IL
- **NEW:** APSA: [2025 Virtual Research Meeting](#), April 10-11, 2025, Virtual
- **NEW:** PAA: [2025 Annual Meeting](#), April 10-13, 2025, Washington, DC
- **NEW:** AERA: [2025 Annual Meeting](#), April 23-27, 2025, Denver, CO
- **NEW:** SRCD: [SRCD 2025 Biennial Meeting](#), May 1-3, 2025, Minneapolis, MN

A list of COSSA members' annual meetings and other events can be found on the COSSA [events page](#). COSSA members who have an upcoming event they would like to see listed in the Events Calendar and on our website should send an email to [ebailey@coossa.org](mailto:ebailey@coossa.org).

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## COSSA Members

### Governing Associations

American Association for Public Opinion Research  
 American Economic Association  
 American Educational Research Association  
 American Political Science Association  
 American Society of Criminology  
 American Sociological Association  
 American Statistical Association  
 Law and Society Association  
 Midwest Political Science Association  
 National Communication Association  
 Population Association of America  
 Society for Personality and Social Psychology  
 Society for Research in Child Development

### Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
 African Studies Association  
 American Anthropological Association  
 American Association of Geographers  
 American Council of Learned Societies  
 American Evaluation Association  
 American Historical Association  
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
 Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
 Association of American Law Schools  
 Association of Research Libraries  
 Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences

### Colleges and Universities

Boston University  
 Brown University  
 California State University, San Bernardino  
 College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell University  
 Duke University  
 George Mason University  
 Georgetown University  
 Harvard University  
 Indiana University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Michigan State University  
 North Carolina State University  
 Northwestern University  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Princeton University  
 Stanford University  
 University of Arizona  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 University of California, Irvine  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 University of California, Riverside  
 University of California, Santa Barbara  
 University of Colorado, Boulder  
 University of Georgia  
 University of Illinois  
 University of Maryland  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Division for Research of the Council for  
Exceptional Children  
Economic History Association  
Linguistic Society of America  
Midwest Sociological Society  
National Council on Family Relations  
Rural Sociological Society  
Social Science History Association  
Society for Prevention Research  
Society for Social Work and Research  
Society for the Psychological Study of  
Social Issues  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southwestern Social Science Association

### Affiliates

SAGE Publishing

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Texas, Austin  
University of Virginia  
University of Wisconsin, Madison  
Virginia Tech  
Yale University

### Centers and Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social  
Science  
Center for Advanced Study in the  
Behavioral Sciences  
Child Trends  
Institute for Social Research, University of  
Michigan  
Institute for Social Science Research,  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
NORC at the University of Chicago  
RTI International  
Social Science Research Council

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### About COSSA

*The Consortium of Social Science  
Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit  
advocacy organization working to promote  
sustainable federal funding for and  
widespread use of social and behavioral  
science research and federal policies that  
positively impact the conduct of research.  
COSSA serves as a united voice for a  
broad, diverse network of organizations,  
institutions, communities, and stakeholders  
who care about a successful and vibrant  
social science research enterprise. The  
COSSA membership includes professional  
and disciplinary associations, scientific  
societies, research centers and institutes,  
and U.S. colleges and universities.*

### Our Team

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