



WASHINGTON UPDATE

June 10, 2025 | Volume 44 Issue 12

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NEW FROM COSSA

- ACT NOW!

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS

- Congress Begins FY 26 Appropriations; Reconciliation Remains Uncertain
- House and Senate Hold Policy and Budget Hearings on the Dept. of Education
- House Science Committee Democrats Want to Hear from Pls

EXECUTIVE BRANCH NEWS

- President Trump Executive Actions
- Latest from the White House (June 10)
- Trump Science Advisor Outlines Science Vision
- Dr. Amber Northern Tasked with Reforming IES

SCIENCE COMMUNITY NEWS

- NASEM Hosts Second Annual State of the Science Address

RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

- COSSA Letters & Statements
- Nomination Opportunities
- Funding Opportunities
- Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers
- Notices, Resources, & Reports
- Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities
- Upcoming Events

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.

Read: Research!America: [America Speaks Poll Data Summary](#)

Share:

- COSSA: [Share Your Story](#)
- AAAS Survey: [Assessing the Impacts of Federal Policies on the U.S. STEMM Community](#)
- House Science Committee Democrats: [Were you fired by President Trump?](#)
- AAPOR: [#DataMatters Storytelling Campaign](#)
- **NEW:** NPSC: [Seeking testimonials for the Decade of the Child initiative](#)

Act:

- NASEM: SEAN: [Seeking input on how science might help them address pressing social issues](#)
- [Science Homecoming](#): Support science across the country by writing opinion pieces in local papers!
- HHS: [Request for Information on Deregulatory Plan to Lower Costs and Empower Providers](#)
- **NEW:** COSSA Action Alert: [Reject Trump Administration's FY 2026 Budget Cuts!](#)
- COSSA Action Alert: [Save NCES and Education Data!](#)

- COSSA Action Alert: [Stop the Dismantling of the Department of Education](#)
- COSSA Action Alert: [Write to Congress TODAY about the Need to Protect Government Data](#)
- COSSA Action Alert: [Protect Federal Statistical Agencies](#)

Helpful Resources:

- [Grant Watch](#): Website for tracking terminated federal grants
 - [National Science Foundation](#)
 - [National Institutes of Health](#)
- [NSF Updates on Priorities and FAQs](#)
- [HHS Terminated Grants](#) (managed by HHS)
- [Science Policy Data Dashboards](#) (American Physical Society)
- [Impact of NIH Grant Terminations](#) (AAMC)
- [Social Science Space Tracker](#)

Please send any additional opportunities to ebailey@cossa.org to include in future Washington Updates.

Congressional News

Congress Begins FY 26 Appropriations; Reconciliation Remains Uncertain

Following a brief recess for Memorial Day, Congress has returned ready to tackle both budget reconciliation and fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations. As [previously reported by COSSA](#), the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (H.R.1) passed through the House in a 215-214 vote in late May, sending the tax policy package to the Senate. Many members of the Senate have since indicated that the bill would likely see many changes before passing their chamber, and, more recently, House Republicans, including Rep. Marjorie Taylor Green (R-GA), have come out against the bill, expressing regret for having voted for it. Despite Speaker Mike Johnson's (R-LA) self-imposed deadline of July 4, it is unclear whether the two chambers will be able to agree on a final reconciliation package anytime soon.

In other news, Congress is moving forward with the FY 2026 appropriations process. As previously reported, both chambers have been holding budget hearings with several departments, including the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). On May 30, the Trump Administration began releasing the agencies' budget requests and the following week, the House began releasing their budget bills, including the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill, the Homeland Security bill, and the Defense bill. The House bills largely support the President's request and, through various bills, has proposed codifying several of the Trump Administration's Executive Orders (EO), including the EO restricting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). The science-related funding bills are [scheduled](#) for consideration in the House starting early July.

Stay tuned to [COSSA's continued coverage](#) of Congressional activities.

House and Senate Hold Policy and Budget Hearings on the Dept. of Education

With the fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations process ramping up, Congress has been holding hearings on budget and policy priorities for various departments and agencies, including the Department of Education. On June 3, the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations subcommittee invited Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to defend the department's FY 2026 budget request. The following day, the House Education and Workforce Committee held a hearing "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Education," with Secretary

McMahon again testifying before the committee.

The Senate LHHS budget hearing focused on the detailed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 [budget request](#) recently released by the Department, which proposed significant cuts to the Institute for Education Sciences (IES) and other dedicated grant programs (see related article). Several Republican committee members, including Chair Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) praised Secretary McMahon and the proposed cuts for “reducing regulatory burden” and returning education back to states and parents, though they expressed concern over cuts to some programs. Several committee Democrats, including Ranking Member Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) expressed concern that the Department’s restructuring of grant programs, introduction of a block grant to states, and slashing of staff essentially amounted to an unauthorized closure of the department. In her opening statement, Senator Baldwin emphasized the destructive impacts of the half-a-billion-dollar cuts to education research and statistics within the department. A recording of the Senate hearing can be found [here](#).

The House Education and Workforce Committee focused on many of the same issues as the Senate budget hearing, though there was more direct mention of the harm the IES faces in the proposed budget. In his opening statement, Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) called attention to how the closure of the IES would negatively affect efforts to improve students’ academic outcomes through evidence-based measures and impede congressional efforts to allocate funds to programs with proven success. Further, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) questioned Secretary McMahon about the almost 90% cut to IES staff and emphasized that the Institute could not properly operate with so little capacity, thus halting research and data collection efforts. A recording of the House hearing can be found [here](#).

During the House hearing, Secretary McMahon provided little detail about how IES might continue to perform its fundamental duties; in response to a question from Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA) about the Department’s cancelation of the Evaluation of Career and Technical Education, Secretary McMahon claimed that the department would continue to collect necessary data, though some changes were being made in the educational data they planned on collecting. She did not expand on what these changes would be.

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

This article was contributed by COSSA Intern Eva Lettiere.

House Science Committee Democrats Want to Hear from Pls

The Democratic staff of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee have released a [survey](#) to collect information on the impacts that grant cancellations by the Trump Administration are having on the scientific community. Researchers who have had their research grants terminated or otherwise affected since January 20 are encouraged to respond to the [survey](#).

Executive Branch News

President Trump Executive Actions

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

- [Enhancing National Security by Addressing Risks at Harvard University](#) (6/4/25)
- [Restricting the Entry of Foreign Nationals to Protect the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats](#) (6/4/25)
- [Restoring Gold Standard Science](#) (5/23/25) (**MORE INFORMATION**)
- [Increasing Efficiency at the Office of the Federal Register](#) (5/9/25)

Find COSSA's full list of Trump's Executive Actions and more information [here](#) or on the [Social Science Space Tracker](#).

Latest from the White House (June 10)

President's Budget for Next Year would Decimate Federal Science Funding

On May 30, the Trump Administration began releasing additional details of its [budget request](#) for fiscal year (FY) 2026, which begins on October 1. *[Note: The FY 2026 budget request is different from the "One Big Beautiful Bill" that is working its way through Congress (see COSSA's [coverage](#) for clarification)].* While the entire budget is not yet available for certain federal agencies, the details that are available include massive cuts to agency budgets and major structural reorganizations. As always, COSSA is producing an in-depth analysis of the President's FY 2026 budget request. Until then, a few details are provided below.

So far, the President's budget request includes:

- A [56% cut](#) to the National Science Foundation (NSF), including a dismantling of NSF's STEM education training and research programs.
- A more than [40% cut](#) to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as a consolidation of NIH's 27 institutes and centers into 8, without consultation with Congress or the research community.
- A [67% cut](#) to the Institute of Education Sciences within the Department of Education.
- A [zeroing out](#) of the Department of Education's International Education and Foreign Language Studies programs, known as Title VI and Fulbright-Hays.
- An [overhaul](#) of the Department of Health and Human Services, including the consolidation of several agencies and devastating funding cuts across agencies.

As you may know, the President typically sends the Administration's budget request to Congress in February, although it is not unusual for those deadlines to slip, especially during transition years. However, even though major sections of the President's budget have yet to be sent to Congress, lawmakers on Capitol Hill have begun [marking up](#) their FY 2026 appropriations bills. Consideration of the science-focused funding bills is scheduled in the House for early July. The Senate is expected to start on its bills in the coming weeks.

It is important to note that the President's budget request is largely a policy document outlining the priorities and goals of the Administration. The authority over the annual appropriation of federal funds lies with Congress. Still, the funding levels and policy goals included in the President's FY 2026 budget, if enacted, would have devastating consequences for the U.S. research enterprise.

Congress must hear from its constituents TODAY – [contact](#) your elected officials and tell them to reject the President's FY 2026 budget and protect funding for federal science and education agencies.

COSSA Comments on Proposed Rule to Reclassify Federal Employees

In April, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) released a proposed rule for public comment on [Improving Performance, Accountability, and Responsiveness in the Civil Service](#). OPM is proposing to create a new federal employee classification, "Schedule Policy/Career," that would make it easier to terminate certain career civil servants if they are found to "engage in misconduct, perform poorly, or *undermine the democratic process by intentionally subverting Presidential directives* (emphasis added)." The draft policy builds on the so-called "[Schedule F](#)" directive issued by President Trump at the end of his first term and would apply to non-political federal employees whose positions are "policy-influencing."

COSSA submitted [comment](#) on the proposal outlining the dangers of creating a new Schedule Policy/Career classification, including losing the ability to attract and retain scientific talent needed in the federal workforce, the loss of institutional knowledge and diversity of thought, politicization of the federal scientific enterprise, and risks of further damaging the public's trust in federal science and data. All submitted comments are available to the public [here](#).

Trump Science Advisor Outlines Science Vision

On May 19, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) hosted a conversation with Michael Kratsios, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). A recording is available [here](#). A discussion with NAS President Marcia McNutt followed Kratsios' remarks.

Kratsios expressed strong opinions about the current state of the U.S. scientific enterprise, stating, "To empower America's researchers to achieve groundbreaking discoveries and to reinvigorate our national science enterprise, we must scrutinize our existing approach and recommit ourselves to best practices." He contended that despite "soaring" biomedical research budgets in recent years, "scientific progress has stalled," and that "more money has not meant more scientific discovery."

He also had strong words for DEI activities, stating, "DEI initiatives... degrade our scientific enterprise" and that "DEI represents an existential threat to the real diversity of thought that forms the foundation of the scientific community." He justified the termination of thousands of federal grants by saying, "Spending more money on the wrong things is far worse than spending less money on the right things." He expressed a similar sentiment when discussing increases in administrative burden.

Kratsios' solution to the challenges confronting the scientific enterprise is to recommit to Gold Standard Science (see [previous coverage](#)), which is science that is reproducible, transparent, interdisciplinary, and unbiased.

A recording of the event is available on the National Academies [website](#) and a transcript of Kratsios' speech is available on the White House [website](#).

Dr. Amber Northern Tasked with Reforming IES

On May 30, the Department of Education welcomed Dr. Amber Northern as Senior Advisor, [announcing](#) that she will be tasked with reforming the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). In the department's announcement, Secretary of Education Linda McMahon was quoted:

"As we return education to the states, it's essential that educators have access to accurate data to inform their work and develop best practices. Dr. Northern's deep expertise in education statistics and years of experience in the classroom will be an asset as we re-envision the work of IES."

Northern serves as Senior Vice President for Research at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute and holds a Ph.D. in education policy and evaluation from the University of Virginia.

Science Community News

NASEM Hosts Second Annual State of the Science Address

On June 3, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) hosted the [State of the Science Address](#), an annual discussion on the status of science, technology, engineering, and medicine (STEM) in the U.S. ([see previous COSSA coverage](#)). During her opening remarks, President of the National Academy of Sciences, Marcia McNutt, discussed the decline of the STEM workforce and interest in research and development (R&D) in the U.S., comparing the U.S. to global competitors, such as China. She briefly discussed the significant budget cuts and grant cancellations proposed by the Trump Administration, and the detrimental impacts they would have on the U.S. scientific research enterprise. To this end, McNutt stated, "America can't be great without great science."

McNutt framed her presentation using [Rising Above the Gathering Storm](#), a 2007 NASEM report that analyzed the U.S. scientific research enterprise and hypothesized what the U.S. would look like without sufficient investment in science. She highlighted the various reasons outlined in the report for a decline in U.S. global scientific leadership in a “Pessimistic Case,” including increased opportunities abroad, a lack of business incentives, and excessive regulations, and warned that the U.S. is on the verge of realizing this hypothesis. Further, McNutt spoke to the Trump Administration’s efforts to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse, raising concerns that they will “undermine attempts to reduce regulatory burden” for scientific researchers.

Finally, McNutt offered potential solutions to address the decline in science, calling for the U.S. to: build on a culture of innovation; create a national research strategy; improve science education; foster international collaboration; and cut red tape. A recording of the address can be found [here](#) as well as meeting materials, including the [State of the Science Program](#).

Resources & Opportunities

COSSA Letters & Statements

- **NEW:** 6/5/2025: [Community Letter in support of the National Institutes of Health](#)

Nomination Opportunities

- AAAS: [2026 Awards & Prizes](#) (Closes: June 30, 2025)

Funding Opportunities

- NIH: [Ethical, Legal and Social Implications \(ELSI\) Small Research Grant \(R03 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: November 17, 2026)
- NIH: [Ethical, Legal and Social Implications \(ELSI\) Research \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: November 19, 2026)
- NIH: [Ethical, Legal and Social Implications \(ELSI\) Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#) (Closes: November 19, 2026)
- NSF: [Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity \(GRANTED\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)
- NSF: [The Research on Research Security Program \(RoRS\)](#) (Rolling Deadline)

Requests for Comment & Calls for Papers

- HHS: [Request for Information on Deregulatory Plan to Lower Costs and Empower Providers](#) (Closes: July 12, 2025)
- NASEM: [Committee on Improving the Regulatory Efficiency and Reducing Administrative Workload to Strengthen Competitiveness and Productivity of U.S. Research](#) (Ongoing)

Notices, Resources, & Reports

- NIH OBSSR Blog: [Ethics and Behavioral and Social Sciences Research](#)
- **NEW:** NASEM: [Understanding and Addressing Misinformation About Science Final Report](#)
- AIP Survey: [Impacts of Restrictions on Federal Grant Funding in Physics and Astronomy Graduate Programs](#)

Open Positions, Fellowships, & Professional Development Opportunities

- American Association of Cancer Research: [Regulatory Science and Policy Director](#) (Open until Filled)
- APSA: [Pracademic Fellowship](#) (Open until Filled)

- Columbus Technologies: [NIH Scientific Program Analyst](#) (Open until Filled)

Upcoming Events

- **NEW:** [2025 Joint Statistical Meetings](#), August 2-7, 2025, Nashville, TN
- **NEW:** ASA: [120th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association](#), August 8-12, 2025, Chicago, IL

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@cosssa.org.

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
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 American Historical Association
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 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

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Southern Political Science Association
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NORC at the University of Chicago
RTI International
Social Science Research Council

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

Executive Director

Wendy A. Naus

Director of Public Affairs

Elyse Bailey

Government Relations Associate

Kenzie Shelstad

Summer Term Intern

Eva Lettiere

ISSN 0749-4394



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Consortium of Social Science Associations | 1436 Duke Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 US

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