

Industry-Supported Bill Would Repeal NIH Policy

Some strange alliances can form in the world of politics. Such was the case when U.S. Representatives Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) joined in sponsoring a bill that would repeal a U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy that makes research papers based on NIH-funded research freely available 12 months after publication. The bill would also prohibit other federal agencies from instituting similar policies.

The purpose of the Issa-Maloney bill, officially known as the Research Works Act (RWA), is “to ensure the continued publication and integrity of peer-reviewed research works by the private sector.” In a press statement supporting RWA, the Association of American Publishers hailed the bill for prohibiting the “unauthorized free public dissemination of journal articles that report on research which, to some degree, has been federally-funded but is produced and published by private sector publishers receiving no such funding.”

The ASCB has a long history of support for public access to scientific research papers. In a January 2012 statement sent to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), ASCB President Ron Vale and Public Policy Committee chair Doug Koshland said, “The ASCB believes that taxpayers are best served when all scientists, educators, physicians, and members of the public—including patients and their families—have access to publicly

funded research results. So long as significant access barriers remain, taxpayers are not fully benefiting from the work that they fund.”

The introduction of the RWA sparked international attention in the scientific community, resulting in a boycott of one publisher by almost 6,000 scientists, who refused to submit papers to or review for its journals. Media attention and the boycott played a large role in the withdrawal of support for the bill, first by the publisher and soon after by Reps. Issa and Maloney. In announcing that they would not be taking any legislative action on their bill, Issa and Maloney credited the bill for spurring “a robust, expansive debate on the topics of scientific and scholarly publishing, intellectual property protection, and public access to federally funded research.”

To read the ASCB’s statement on public access, simply scan the QR Code below, or go to www.ascb.org/files/ASCB-Comments-on-White-House-Public-Access-Proposal.pdf. ■

—Kevin M. Wilson



Obama NIH Budget Request Continues Fiscal Erosion

President Obama’s FY13 budget request calls for a \$30.7 billion budget for the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). If Congress were to approve the president’s budget for the NIH, it would mark the ninth year in a row in which the NIH budget did not keep pace with biomedical inflation. This funding level would also mean that the buying power of the NIH budget would be 20% lower than it was a decade ago, when adjusted for inflation.

The NIH budget proposal funds 672 more

research project grants (RPGs) than in FY12. In an effort to focus on funding for first-time investigators, funds for noncompeting RPGs are reduced 1% in the Obama budget. NIH Director Francis Collins also announced that grant applications by NIH-funded investigators who already receive more than \$1.5 million in NIH support will receive additional review by the advisory committees of the various institutes or centers. ■

—Kevin M. Wilson

ASCB, Others Share Concerns about Bill

The ASCB joined 89 other scientific societies, patient organizations, universities, and foundations to express its concern about the Research Works Act, a bill that would repeal a U.S. National Institutes of Health policy that makes research papers from federally funded research freely available to the public. The bill would also prohibit other federal agencies from implementing similar access policies.

The 90 organizations signed a letter that was sent to the members of the U.S. House of Representatives’ Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The letter was part of a firestorm of opposition that developed when the bill was introduced in Congress. The sponsors of the bill, U.S. Representatives Darrell Issa (R-CA) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), later announced that they would not be pursuing the legislation any further. ■

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
Budget Request by Institute/Center
FY 2013 President's Budget
(Dollars in Thousands)

Institute/Center	FY 2011 Actual ²	FY 2012 Enacted ⁴	FY 2013 President's Budget	FY 2013 +/- FY 2012
NCI.....	\$5,050,073	\$5,066,147	\$5,068,864	\$2,717
NHLBI.....	3,065,254	3,075,358	3,076,067	709
NIDCR.....	408,920	410,222	408,212	(2,010)
NIDDK.....	1,939,210	1,944,905	1,942,107	(2,798)
NINDS.....	1,619,276	1,624,429	1,624,707	278
NIAID.....	4,768,181	4,485,097	4,495,307	10,210
NIGMS.....	2,368,492	2,427,189	2,378,835	(48,354)
NICHD.....	1,315,638	1,319,825	1,320,600	775
NEL.....	699,650	701,876	693,015	(8,861)
NIEHS.....	682,582	684,755	684,030	(725)
NIA.....	1,098,631	1,102,128	1,102,650	522
NIAMS.....	533,450	535,148	535,610	462
NIDCD.....	414,458	415,778	417,297	1,519
NIMH.....	1,474,809	1,478,503	1,479,204	701
NIDA.....	1,048,776	1,052,114	1,054,001	1,887
NIAAA.....	457,516	458,972	457,104	(1,868)
NINR.....	144,138	144,597	144,153	(444)
NHGRI.....	510,637	512,263	511,370	(893)
NIBIB.....	345,175	337,954	336,896	(1,058)
NIMHD.....	276,335	276,111	279,389	3,278
NCRR.....	-	-	-	-
NCCAM.....	127,498	127,904	127,930	26
NCATS.....	553,592	574,713	639,033	64,320
FIC.....	69,318	69,539	69,758	219
NLM.....	362,456	365,043	372,651	7,608
OD.....	1,454,323	1,457,381	1,429,161	(28,220)
B&F ³	49,900	125,308	125,308	0
Type 1 Diabetes ¹	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	0
Subtotal, Labor/HHS Discretionary Budget Authority	30,688,288	30,623,259	30,623,259	\$0
Superfund (Interior).....	79,054	78,928	78,928	0
Total, Discretionary Budget Authority.....	\$30,767,342	\$30,702,187	\$30,702,187	\$0
Type 1 Diabetes.....	150,000	150,000	150,000	0
Total, Budget Authority.....	\$30,917,342	\$30,852,187	\$30,852,187	\$0
NLM Program Evaluation.....	8,200	8,200	8,200	0
Total, Program Level.....	\$30,925,542	\$30,860,387	\$30,860,387	\$0

¹ Number of grants and dollars for mandatory Type 1 Diabetes are distributed by mechanism above; therefore, Type 1 Diabetes amount is deducted to provide subtotals only for the Labor/ HHS Budget Authority.

² FY 2011 figures are shown on a comparable basis to FY 2012 and FY 2013, reflecting the NCATS reorganization in FY 2012 and the Global AIDS transfer in the amount of \$297.3 million in FY 2011, as well as the \$998 thousand transfer from IHS for the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee in FY 2011.

³ B&F appropriation only, excludes facilities dollars appropriated to NCI.

⁴ Reflects Secretary's Transfer of \$8.7 million and the termination of the Global AIDS transfer in FY 2012.