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# AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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## CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

The House and Senate were out of session today; both chambers will reconvene on Monday, June 15.

The Senate next week will continue consideration of a bill (H.R. 1256) to regulate tobacco products and will consider the conference agreement on the FY09 war funding supplemental appropriations bill (H.R. 2346) if an agreement is reached.

Along with approving an expected conference agreement on the FY09 war supplemental, the House next week plans to consider legislation to authorize additional funding for State Department diplomatic programs (H.R. 2410) and to bolster aid to Pakistan (H.R. 1886).

Looking ahead, *CongressDaily* reports that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) hopes the Senate can pass at least two FY10 appropriations bill this month: Legislative Branch and Homeland Security. His goal for July is to begin work on healthcare legislation and to approve a defense authorization bill. He also is considering whether to schedule a vote on Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor before the August recess.

*CongressDaily* also reports that House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) expects Congress to restart discussions on comprehensive immigration reform this fall, although a bill is not likely to emerge quickly. He said there was agreement that such legislation would start in the Senate because of the difficulties it had faced there previously. The publication notes that Senator Reid has said immigration reform is his third major priority after healthcare and energy legislation.

## **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS**

### **CONGRESS MOVES AHEAD ON FY10 APPROPRIATIONS *NEW***

The FY10 appropriations process picked up speed this week with subcommittee approval of the first of the 12 House FY10 funding bills—Commerce-Justice-Science—which was marked up on June 4. (Details are discussed below.) The full House Appropriations Committee is tentatively scheduled to consider its subcommittee funding allocations (“302(b)s”) on June 9, along with the Commerce-Justice-Science bill. Also expected next week is House subcommittee markup of Legislative Branch on June 9, Interior on June 10, and Agriculture on June 11. Subcommittee markup of Energy and Water may take place on Monday, June 15. Subcommittee markups for Labor-HHS-Education and Defense have not been announced. Reported markup dates are subject to change.

Senate appropriations subcommittees continue to hold hearings, but no schedule has been announced for markups. As discussed above, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) said yesterday that he wants the Senate to approve the Legislative Branch and Homeland Security funding bills before the July Fourth recess. More funding bills would be taken up during the five-week July work period.

### **HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES FY10 FUNDING BILL FOR NSF, NASA *NEW***

The House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Subcommittee approved by voice vote its \$64.4 billion FY10 funding bill on June 4, working with slightly less than the President’s FY10 request for programs in the bill, but nearly \$7 billion above the FY09 level.

The press [release](#) and summary [table](#) from the markup are available on the Committee website.

National Science Foundation (NSF): The measure includes \$6.9 billion for NSF. This is an increase of about \$459 million, or seven percent, above the FY09 level but \$108 million below the President’s FY10 request.

Within the NSF portfolio, the bill includes \$5.64 billion for Research and Related Activities, an increase of nine percent over FY09; \$863 million for Education and Human Resources, a two-percent increase over FY09; and \$114 million for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction, a cut of 25 percent from FY09.

To provide some context, NSF received \$3 billion in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to be spent over FY09 and FY10. From that funding, \$2.5 billion was allocated to Research and Related Activities; \$100 million to Education and Human Resources; \$400 million to Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction; and \$2 million to the Office of Inspector General. These amounts are not reflected in the FY09 figures cited above.

NASA: The bill provides \$18.2 billion for NASA. This is \$421 million above FY09 funding but \$483 million below the President’s FY10 request.

Within the NASA portfolio, the bill includes \$4.49 billion for the Science Mission Directorate, which is \$7 million below FY09 funding and about \$19 million below the request; \$501 million for the Aeronautics Mission Directorate, which is \$1 million above FY09 and \$6 million below the request; and \$175 million for Education, which is about \$5 million above FY09 funding and \$49 million above the request.

The bill also includes \$3.29 billion for the Exploration Mission Directorate, which is \$212 million below the FY09 level and \$67 million below the request; \$6.1 billion for Space Operations, which is about \$333 million below FY09 funding and about \$78 million below the request; and \$3.1 billion for Cross-Agency Support Programs, about \$142 million below the FY09 level and \$237 million below the FY10 request.

NASA received \$1 billion in ARRA funds, to be spent over FY09 and FY10. From that funding, \$400 million was allocated to the Science Mission Directorate in order to support Earth Science missions and climate change research; \$150 million to the Aeronautics Mission Directorate; \$400 million to the Exploration Mission Directorate; and \$50 million to Cross-Agency Support.

As noted above, the bill is tentatively scheduled for full committee markup on Tuesday, June 9.

### **SENATORS URGE ADDED FUNDING FOR DOE OFFICE OF SCIENCE *NEW***

A bipartisan group of 42 U.S. Senators sent a letter to Senate appropriators on May 26 urging them to provide the Department of Energy Office of Science with at least the President's request of \$4.9 billion in FY10.

The [letter](#), led by Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN), reminded leaders of the Senate Energy and Water Development Subcommittee that the Office of Science "is the main federal sponsor of basic research aimed at achieving the scientific breakthroughs necessary to meet our nation's growing needs for clean, abundant energy," and that "the Office of Science is our nation's largest supporter of basic physical sciences research."

Members of the CFR are thanked for their efforts to encourage Senators to sign the letter.

## **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

### **PRESIDENT NOMINATES JIM LEACH TO HEAD NEH; AAU EXPRESSES SUPPORT**

President Obama on June 3 nominated former Iowa Representative Jim Leach to serve as chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). In a press [release](#) issued by the White House, the President said:

"I am confident that with Jim as its head, the National Endowment for the Humanities will continue on its vital mission of supporting the humanities and giving the American public access to the rich resources of our culture. Jim is a valued and dedicated public servant and I look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead."

AAU President Robert Berdahl issued a [statement](#) later that afternoon in support of the nomination which said, in part:

"Jim Leach has demonstrated in word and deed that he appreciates the importance of federal support for the humanities and the role that the humanities play in Americans' understanding of our history and our culture in a constantly changing global context... I am confident that with Jim Leach at its helm, NEH will deepen its support for the humanities on university campuses, and its enrichment of American life."

## **AAU ENDORSES ESHOO-INSLEE-BARTON BIOSIMILARS BILL *NEW***

AAU on June 3 sent a [letter](#) to Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Jay Inslee (D-WA), and Joe Barton (R-TX) endorsing their “Pathways for Biosimilars Act” (H.R. 1548).

H.R. 1548 would create a regulatory pathway for FDA approval of “biosimilars” or “follow-on biologics,” which are similar versions of complex biotechnology drugs—called biologics—that have been developed by an innovator company. AAU believes that the bill effectively balances the objectives of providing access to safe, effective, and affordable biologic treatments while continuing to promote innovative research and development leading to future discoveries and treatments.

H.R. 1548 includes two sets of provisions important to universities: 1) a 12-year period of data exclusivity to provide sufficient economic incentive to commit the substantial financial investments necessary for development, and 2) procedures by which third-party patent owners—including universities—could defend their patents in patent dispute resolutions between biosimilar licensees and innovator companies.

AAU has asked its members to encourage House Members to cosponsor the legislation.

Questions about this request should be directed to John Vaughn or Pat White of the AAU staff at [john\\_vaughn@aau.edu](mailto:john_vaughn@aau.edu) or [pat\\_white@aau.edu](mailto:pat_white@aau.edu), or 202-408-7500.

## **OTHER**

### **INNOVATION TASK FORCE HONORS SPEAKER PELOSI AND TASK FORCE FOUNDER CRAIG BARRETT *UPDATED***

The Task Force on American Innovation, a group in which AAU participates, held a Capitol Hill event on June 2 to thank House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and newly retired Intel CEO Craig Barrett for their efforts to increase federal funding for basic research.

The Task Force presented Speaker Pelosi with its first-ever “Legislator of the Year” award and honored Dr. Barrett for his commitment to enhanced federal research funding and his leadership in founding the Task Force. President Robert Berdahl attended the event on behalf of AAU. The event was noted by a number of media outlets. Video of the event is available on [YouTube](#) the [TechAmerica](#) website.

The Speaker [thanked](#) Dr. Barrett for her award and recognized two other “champions of innovation and science funding in the Congress,” Science Committee Chair Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), both of whom were present. She added, “We deeply appreciate the Task Force’s support for substantial new investments in science, which are critical to spurring innovation and new jobs. Wherever I go, I tell people that if you want to know the agenda for this Congress, think of four words: science, science, science, science.”

The Task Force on American Innovation, formerly known as the Task Force on the Future of American Innovation, is a [coalition](#) of businesses, trade associations, scientific societies, and higher education that was founded in 2004 to advocate for greater federal investments for basic research in the physical sciences and engineering.

**TASK FORCE BROCHURE HIGHLIGHTS BASIC RESEARCH  
AT DOE, DOD, NSF, AND NIST**

Also at the June 2 Capitol Hill event, the Task Force on American Innovation released an eight-page, full-color brochure on the importance of federal funding of basic research in the physical sciences and engineering research at four federal agencies.

The handout, which can be downloaded from the AAU [website](#), focuses on the Department of Energy Office of Science, Department of Defense, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and National Science Foundation.

Several items in the handout were researched and prepared by AAU staff and interns, including the two graphics on development of the [laser](#) and support for [U.S. troops](#) in combat.

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