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# AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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## CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

The Senate met today but held no roll call votes. The House did not meet.

The House next week will begin consideration of the comprehensive health care bill (H.R. 3962) that House Democrats [introduced](#) yesterday. CongressDaily reports that Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) says Democratic leaders hope to vote on the bill November 5 or 6, but that work on the measure could extend into the weekend.

The House also is scheduled next week to consider a credit card reform bill (H.R. 3639) and a chemical facilities measure (H.R. 2868), and may take up a bill to create a permanent fix for physician payments under Medicare (H.R. 3961).

Senate leaders hope to finish work next week on an extension of unemployment benefits (H.R. 3548). The chamber also is likely to consider one of the remaining five FY10 appropriations bills that the Senate has yet to pass, possibly the Commerce-Justice-Science bill.

## BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

### SLOW WORK ON APPROPRIATIONS PROMPTS SECOND CONTINUING RESOLUTION *NEW*

The House and Senate yesterday gave final approval to a second continuing resolution (CR), which will sustain funding for government programs through December 18. The measure is needed because the current CR expires tomorrow. The new CR was attached to the conference report for the FY10 Interior-Environment appropriations bill (H.R. 2996), which became the fifth

FY10 appropriations bill Congress has approved of the [12](#) it needs to complete. (Already approved are the Agriculture, Energy & Water, Homeland Security, and Legislative Branch bills.)

The CR, which funds the agencies for which appropriations bills have not been adopted, supports most programs at their FY09 levels, except for veterans' medical benefits and the Census Bureau, which receive higher amounts. The package also includes an extension of the authorization for expiring highway and Small Business Administration programs through December 18.

## **HIGHER ED GROUPS URGE TAX WRITERS TO INCLUDE THREE PROVISIONS IN EXTENDER BILL *UPDATED***

Two groups of higher education associations wrote to leaders of the House and Senate tax committees on October 26 asking them to include specific provisions in any tax extender legislation enacted this year.

A group of 15 higher education associations, including AAU, sent a letter to tax committee leaders [urging](#) inclusion of both the higher education tuition deduction and the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) charitable rollover. Both provisions are set to expire at the end of the year.

Additionally, a group of 10 higher education organizations, including AAU, [asked](#) committee leaders to include in an extender package the MOBILE Cell Phone Act of 2009 (S. 144/H.R. 690), which would modernize the tax treatment of employer-provided cell phones and other similar telecommunications devices.

## **OTHER CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES**

### **GOOGLE EXECUTIVE CALLS FOR GREATER GREEN ENERGY R&D FUNDING**

At an October 28 [hearing](#) to review clean energy legislation (S. 1733), Dan Reicher, head of Google's climate change and energy initiatives, [told](#) members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee that federal R&D spending on clean energy research was woefully inadequate, citing the fact that only one out of the top five wind turbine manufacturers is American.

“To successfully confront the climate crisis—and secure the associated economic and security benefits—we must nurture the seed corn that leads to further technological breakthroughs in clean energy,” he said. “From energy efficiency and renewable energy to advanced nuclear and fossil technologies, we need to greatly accelerate US energy R&D efforts.”

## **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

### **NIH RELEASES PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ARRA SPENDING *NEW***

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) this week released a preliminary [report](#) on its FY09 spending under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The report details grants awarded and an estimate of jobs created.

## **OTHER**

### **INNOVATION TASK FORCE ANNOUNCES NEW WEBSITE *NEW***

The Task Force on American Innovation—a group of corporations, research universities, and scientific and higher education associations, in which AAU participates—has [launched](#) a new [website](#) with information on federal policies and appropriations for key federal agencies that fund research in the physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics.

The Task Force focuses its advocacy activities on research supported by the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy Office of Science, the Department of Defense, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and NASA.

### **SCHOLARLY ROUNDTABLE TO RECOMMEND POLICIES ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO RESEARCH FINDINGS *NEW***

Last June, leaders of the House Science and Technology Committee convened the Scholarly Publishing Roundtable, which they directed to develop recommendations for government policies that promote public access to the results of federally funded research.

AAU Executive Vice President John Vaughn and several AAU-university officials participate in the group, which also includes other representatives from the university, library, publishing, and research communities. Following meetings held over the summer, the group expects to submit a report to the Committee and to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy later this fall. The report will be distributed widely among key stakeholder groups and the public.

A status report on the work of the Roundtable, a list of participants, their biographies, and the Committee's charge to the group are available on the AAU [website](#).

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