



*2024 End of Year
Legislation
Impacting Research,
Education, and
Academic Medicine*

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Congress Wraps Up Lame Duck Session

- Congress passed major legislation in the final week of the 118th Congress.

Continuing Resolution

- Extends government funding at mostly FY 2024 funding levels through March 14
- \$100 billion emergency disaster relief to address recent natural disasters
- One-year farm bill extension, including \$10 billion in disaster aid for farmers
- Extension of certain healthcare programs and policies

National Defense Authorization Act

- Annual defense policy bill with \$884 billion authorized for defense programs
- Flat funding for major research and development programs (\$144 billion) with highest priorities in Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology, and cyber-defense
- New research security provisions for DOD grants to higher education and DOE national lab foreign visitor access and vetting
- \$500 million for Regional Tech Hubs through spectrum sales

Water Resource Development Act

- Passed every 2 years to authorize water infrastructure projects
- Includes reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) with support for distressed communities, university centers, and programming like the Good Jobs Challenge

Key Elements of Continuing Resolution of Most Relevance to Research, Education, and Academic Medicine

Government Funding

- The CR extends government funding at mostly FY 2024 funding levels through March 14
- The package also includes \$100 billion in disaster aid
- Congress still has to negotiate a budget agreement on overall discretionary funding before passing FY 2025 appropriations bills
- Overall discretionary spending is likely to be more constrained as a Republican majority focuses on extending or expanding tax cuts, which needs payfors, and needs to raise or suspend the debt ceiling

Farm Bill

- One year extension of the Farm Bill until Sept. 30, 2025.
- \$21 billion in disaster relief and \$10 billion in economic assistance for farmers and ranchers
- Does not provide bridge funding for “orphan programs” including the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), Scholarships for 1890s, or Urban, Indoor and Emerging Ag Research.
- Does not baseline funds from *Inflation Reduction Act* into the Farm Bill

Health Extenders

- The CR extends telehealth reimbursement flexibilities through March 2025
- An anticipated cut to disproportionate share (DSH) hospitals is delayed until March 2025
- The CR provides \$1 billion for community health centers, \$85 million for the National Health Service Corps, and \$43 million for the Teaching Health Center GME program through March 2025
- The CR extends Medicare add-on payments for low-volume hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals through March 2025

Major Legislation Not Included but Likely to be Addressed in 119th Congress

- **National Quantum Initiative Reauthorization Act:** Would renew and expand federal quantum science, technology, and workforce development programs across federal agencies for another five years.
- **Artificial Intelligence package:** Congress advanced dozens of AI bills over the last year, including for innovation, computing and data infrastructure, and applications in science, energy, and national security, but there was no consensus on a final package and future actions is now in the hands of the Trump Administration and a Republican-led Congress.
- **Restrictions on Chinese Investments:** Congress was to advance provisions from the *Comprehensive Outbound Investment National Security Act* which would give the President discretion over whether to enforce sanctions and prohibitions on U.S. investments in certain Chinese technologies, like semiconductor fabrication equipment, quantum computing, and AI software.
- **Higher Education and Workforce Development:** Congress is likely to revisit the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*, which has not been reauthorized since 2014, as well legislation that would expand the Pell Grant program to support short-term training programs and address college costs through accountability measures.
- **Farm Bill:** The Farm Bill is extended, again, for one year and will need to be passed or extended again by the end of 2025. The final CR does not provide bridge funding for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, the Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Ag program, or increase funding for and make permanent the 1890s Scholarships Program, all of which were proposed in the earliest version of the legislation.
- **Healthcare:** Final CR took out policies related to Pharmacy Benefit Managers and major reauthorizations for the *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Act* that supports education and promotes the use of mental health and substance use services by health care providers; the *Pandemic All-Hazards Preparedness and Response Act*; and the *Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act*.
- **Telecommunications:** Final CR did not include reauthorization of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration nor the creation of a 6G task force.
- **Energy permitting:** The Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 would have accelerated and streamlined the energy infrastructure permitting process, especially the build-out of interregional transmission lines for renewable energy.

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