

ABRF Membership Matters

March 2026



ABRF and Research!America – Partners in Advocacy

ABRF's participation in **Research!America** provides every member with the opportunity to engage in vital advocacy efforts. These efforts were critical to reverse the proposed 40% reduction for NIH funding this year and will need to continue to ensure that support for scientific research is not diminished.

Here's an excerpt from the most recent **Research!America** update, including several options for you to participate:

On the Hill: Congress continues to move forward on the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) appropriations cycle, with many offices finalizing deadlines for appropriations requests as they refine their funding priorities for next year. As a reminder, Research!America is maintaining a tracker of appropriations request deadlines for each member of Congress.

FY27 Public Witness Testimony: Several House Appropriations subcommittees are accepting written public witness testimony on FY27 funding priorities. The Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Subcommittee, which funds the National Science Foundation, is accepting submissions through May 8, at 6 p.m. ET. As a reminder, the House Labor-HHS Subcommittee, which allocates funding for NIH, CDC, AHRQ, BARDA, ARPA-H, and other key health agencies, is accepting written testimony through April 16.

The House Agriculture Subcommittee, which funds FDA, is accepting written testimony through May 1 at 5 p.m. ET. Be sure to review each panel's specific guidance and deadlines carefully, and consult Research!America's [written testimony primer](#) for tips on crafting an effective submission.

Sign-on Letters: The Friends of the VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) is seeking your organization's help in obtaining at least \$1.2 billion in funding for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program, along with \$255 million to enhance and modernize the VA's research infrastructure and capacity. They are asking your organization to [sign on to this letter](#) by March 13.

Speaking of sign-on letters, the deadline to join a [sign-on letter](#) in support of a \$200 million increase in the ARPA-H budget, in a manner that supplements, rather than supplants, other NIH funding has been extended to March 11. Organizations can sign on [here](#).

Now about FY26: We've been talking about FY27, but it appears that we can't close the book on FY26 appropriations just yet. As of this writing, we are watching to make sure the funds appropriated for federal research agencies are actually released and used as Congress intended. We're also watching discussions around "impoundment," which refers to a situation where the administration delays or declines to spend money that Congress has already approved. Stay tuned for developments; meanwhile, here is a guide from the Bipartisan Policy Center explaining budget impoundments and apportionments.

Member-only Meeting: Speaking of appropriations, if you are with an alliance member organization, please join a special Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 12, at noon ET featuring Catherine Knowles (Senate majority staff) and Emily Goff (House majority staff), both professional staff members on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees. Catherine and Emily will provide an update on the FY27 appropriations process, with a particular focus on NIH funding. If you are with a member organization, please email [Jacqueline Lagoy](#) for the Zoom link.

Defeating Alzheimer's Disease: With an estimated 7.2 million Americans facing Alzheimer's disease, the race for a cure has never been more urgent. Join us on Thursday, March 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. ET, for a breakfast briefing on Capitol Hill. The briefing will look at progress against Alzheimer's disease and explore the urgent need for innovative partnerships and policies to overcome scientific and clinical challenges. Learn more and register [here](#).

If you have any questions or suggestions for how ABRF can raise its profile in the advocacy arena, [contact us](#) to be a part of the ABRF policy efforts.