

FABBS 2025 Advocacy Outlook

Juliane Baron
Executive Director

**Federation of Associations in
Behavioral & Brain Sciences**



January 30, 2025

Presentation Outline

What We Know on Day 9

Federal Agencies

119th Congress

What Can We Do?

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Directive




EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

January 27, 2025

M-25-13

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Matthew J. Vaeth, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget 

SUBJECT: Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and Other Financial Assistance Programs

The American people elected Donald J. Trump to be President of the United States and gave him a mandate to increase the impact of every federal taxpayer dollar. In Fiscal Year 2024, of the nearly \$10 trillion that the Federal Government spent, more than \$3 trillion was Federal financial assistance, such as grants and loans. Career and political appointees in the Executive Branch have a duty to align Federal spending and action with the will of the American people as expressed through Presidential priorities. Financial assistance should be dedicated to advancing Administration priorities, focusing taxpayer dollars to advance a stronger and safer America, eliminating the financial burden of inflation for citizens, unleashing American energy and manufacturing, ending “wokeness” and the weaponization of government, promoting efficiency in government, and Making America Healthy Again. The use of Federal resources to advance Marxist equity, transgenderism, and green new deal social engineering policies is a waste of taxpayer dollars that does not improve the day-to-day lives of those we serve.

This memorandum requires Federal agencies to identify and review all Federal financial assistance¹ programs and supporting activities consistent with the President’s policies and requirements.² For example, during the initial days of his Administration, President Donald J. Trump issued a series of executive orders to protect the American people and safeguard valuable taxpayer resources, including *Protecting the American People Against Invasion* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Unleashing American Energy* (Jan. 20, 2025), *Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing* (Jan. 20,

¹ 2 CFR 200.1 defines Federal financial assistance to mean “[a]ssistance that recipients or subrecipients receive or administer” in various forms, but this term does not include assistance provided directly to individuals. For the purposes of this memorandum, Federal financial assistance includes: (i) all forms of assistance listed in paragraphs (1) and (2) of the definition of this term at 2 CFR 200.1; and (ii) assistance received or administered by recipients or subrecipients of any type except for assistance received directly by individuals.

² Nothing in this memo should be construed to impact Medicare or Social Security benefits.

2025), *Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government* (Jan. 20, 2025), and *Enforcing the Hyde Amendment* (Jan. 24, 2025). These executive orders ensure that Federal funds are used to support hardworking American families.

To implement these orders, each agency must complete a comprehensive analysis of all of their Federal financial assistance programs to identify programs, projects, and activities that may be implicated by any of the President’s executive orders. In the interim, to the extent permissible under applicable law, Federal agencies **must temporarily pause** all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance, and other relevant agency activities that may be implicated by the executive orders, including, but not limited to, financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal.

This temporary pause will provide the Administration time to review agency programs and determine the best uses of the funding for those programs consistent with the law and the President’s priorities. The temporary pause will become effective on January 28, 2025, at 5:00 PM. Even before completing their comprehensive analysis, Federal agencies must immediately identify any legally mandated actions or deadlines for assistance programs arising while the pause remains in effect. Federal agencies must report this information to OMB along with an analysis of the requirement. OMB also directs Federal agencies to pause all activities associated with open NOFOs, such as conducting merit review panels.

No later than February 10, 2025, agencies shall submit to OMB detailed information on any programs, projects or activities subject to this pause. Each agency must pause: (i) issuance of new awards; (ii) disbursement of Federal funds under all open awards; and (iii) other relevant agency actions that may be implicated by the executive orders, to the extent permissible by law, until OMB has reviewed and provided guidance to your agency with respect to the information submitted.

OMB may grant exceptions allowing Federal agencies to issue new awards or take other actions on a case-by-case basis. To the extent required by law, Federal agencies may continue taking certain administrative actions, such as closeout of Federal awards (2 CFR 200.344), or recording obligations expressly required by law.

Additionally, agencies must, for each Federal financial assistance program: (i) assign responsibility and oversight to a senior political appointee to ensure Federal financial assistance conforms to Administration priorities; (ii) review currently pending Federal financial assistance announcements to ensure Administration priorities are addressed, and, subject to program statutory authority, modify unpublished Federal financial assistance announcements, withdraw any announcements already published, and, to the extent permissible by law, cancel awards already awarded that are in conflict with Administration priorities, and; (iii) ensure adequate oversight of Federal financial assistance programs and initiate investigations when warranted to identify underperforming recipients, and address identified issues up to and including cancellation of awards.



Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Directive – Judge Issues Stay

Case 1:25-cv-00239 Document 1 Filed 01/28/25 Page 1 of 20

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
NONPROFITS,
1001 G Street NW, Suite 700 East
Washington, D.C. 20001,

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION,
800 I Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001,

MAIN STREET ALLIANCE,
909 Rose Avenue
North Bethesda, Md. 20852,

and

SAGE,
305 7th Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10001,

Plaintiffs,

v.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND
BUDGET,
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503,

and

MATTHEW VAETH, in his official
capacity as Acting Director, Office of
Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503,

Defendants.

Case No.

COMPLAINT

Case 1:25-cv-00239 Document 1 Filed 01/28/25 Page 2 of 20

Just yesterday evening, reports surfaced that the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget issued a memorandum entitled “Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and Other Financial Assistance Programs.” Memo M-25-13 (hereinafter “the Memo”).¹ The Memo purports to require every federal agency to temporarily pause “all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance, and other relevant agency activities that may be implicated by [President Trump’s] executive orders, including, but not limited to, financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal”—effective **today** at 5:00 p.m. Memo M-25-13 at 2. In practice, the Memo purports to eradicate essentially all federal grant programs. Acting Director Vaeth’s only stated basis for doing so is his belief that “[f]inancial assistance should be dedicated to advancing Administration priorities,” and that “[t]he use of Federal resources to advance Marxist equity, transgenidism, and green new deal social engineering policies is a waste of taxpayer dollars that does not improve the day-to-day lives of those we serve.” *Id.* at 1.

This Memo—made public only through journalists’ reporting, with barely twenty-four hours’ notice, devoid of any legal basis or the barest rationale—will have a devastating impact on hundreds of thousands of grant recipients who depend on the inflow of grant money (money already obligated and already awarded) to fulfill their missions, pay their employees, pay their rent—and, indeed, improve the day-to-day lives of the many people they work so hard to serve.

¹ A copy of the Memo is available online at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/documents/deb7af80-48b6-4b8a-8bfa-3d84fd7c3ec8.pdf>.



Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Rescinded Directive Memo




THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

January 29, 2025

M-25-14

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Matthew J. Vaeth, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget 

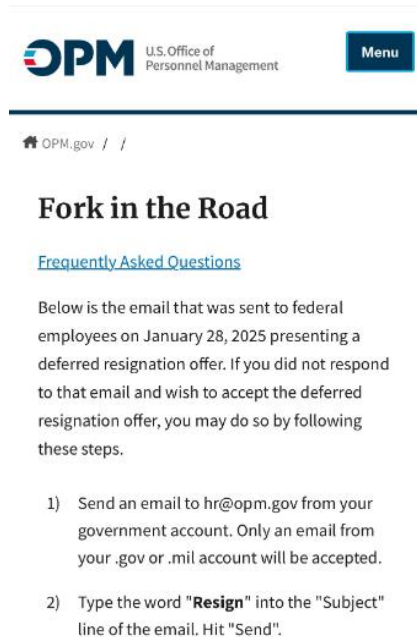
SUBJECT: Rescission of M-25-13

OMB Memorandum M-25-13 is rescinded. If you have questions about implementing the President's Executive Orders, please contact your agency General Counsel.



Fork in the Road Email

The Office of Personnel Management sent an email to 2 million federal worker offering them a chance to preemptively resign, implying additional and unspecified Trump administration efforts to shrink government.



The screenshot shows the top of the OPM website. At the top left is the OPM logo with the text 'U.S. Office of Personnel Management'. To the right is a dark blue 'Menu' button. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: 'OPM.gov / /'. The main heading is 'Fork in the Road' in a bold, dark font. Below the heading is a link for 'Frequently Asked Questions'. The main body of text explains that an email was sent on January 28, 2025, offering a deferred resignation. It lists two steps for accepting the offer: 1) Send an email to hr@opm.gov from a .gov or .mil account, and 2) Type the word 'Resign' into the subject line and hit 'Send'.

OPM U.S. Office of
Personnel Management **Menu**

🏠 OPM.gov / /

Fork in the Road

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Below is the email that was sent to federal employees on January 28, 2025 presenting a deferred resignation offer. If you did not respond to that email and wish to accept the deferred resignation offer, you may do so by following these steps.

- 1) Send an email to hr@opm.gov from your government account. Only an email from your .gov or .mil account will be accepted.
- 2) Type the word "**Resign**" into the "Subject" line of the email. Hit "Send".



Health and Human Services (HHS) Directive



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20201

TO: Heads of Operating Divisions Head
Heads of Staff Divisions

THROUGH: Wilma M. Robinson, Ph.D., Deputy Executive Secretary

FROM: Dorothy A. Fink, MD, Acting Secretary

DATE: January 21, 2025

SUBJECT: Immediate Pause on Issuing Documents and Public Communications – ACTION

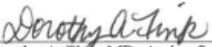
As the new Administration considers its plan for managing the federal policy and public communications processes, it is important that the President's appointees and designees have the opportunity to review and approve any regulations, guidance documents, and other public documents and communications (including social media). Therefore, at the direction of the new Administration and consistent with precedent, I am directing that you immediately take the following steps through February 1, 2025:

1. Refrain from sending any document intended for publication to the Office of the Federal Register until it has been reviewed and approved by a Presidential appointee. Please note that the Office of the Executive Secretary (Exec Sec) withdrew from OFR all documents that had not been published in the Federal Register to allow for such review and approval.
2. Refrain from publicly issuing any document (e.g., regulation, guidance, notice, grant announcement) or communication (e.g., social media, websites, press releases, and communication using listservs) until it has been reviewed and approved by a Presidential appointee.
3. Refrain from participating in any public speaking engagement until the event and material have been reviewed and approved by a Presidential appointee.
4. Coordinate with Presidential appointees prior to issuing official correspondence to public officials (e.g., members of Congress, governors) or containing interpretations or statements of Department regulations or policy. Nothing in this guidance is intended to limit an employee's personal correspondence with members of Congress or other third parties, including an employee's whistleblower protected communications.
5. Notify Exec Sec promptly of any documents or communications that you believe should not be subject to the directives in paragraphs 1-4 because they are required by statute or litigation; affect critical health, safety, environmental, financial, or national security functions of the Department; or for some other reason. Please provide the title, a brief summary, the target release date, and the rationale for expedited release to your Exec Sec Policy Coordinator.

The President's appointees intend to review documents and communications expeditiously and return to a more regular process as soon as possible.

If you identify any actions taken inconsistent with these requests, please know they shall not be considered impliedly ratified. These items should be immediately withdrawn or rescinded to deem them as void and without effect.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring a smooth transition consistent with our nation's democratic principles.


Dorothy A. Fink, MD, Acting Secretary



Executive Orders

- DEI – Equity and Civil Rights
- Immigration
- Management of the Federal Government and Workforce
- Repealing Biden EOs
- Reenact Trump EOs Repealed by Biden

List of Presidential Actions - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/>

Key Federal Science and Technology Positions

- Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)
 - Director - Michael Kratsios
- President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST)
 - Executive Director -Lynne Parker, PhD
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
 - Director - Russ Vought, JD

Federal Agencies

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Institute of Education Sciences (IES)

Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, Stanford
- Acting Director – Matthew Memoli, MD, NIAID
- NIH is within the Health and Human Services Department – Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. has been nominated for Secretary.



National Science Foundation (NSF)

- Dr. Panchanathan is serving a six year term, until June 2026. He is eligible to be reappointed.
- National Science Board – Members serve six year terms, so some protection from the political winds.
 - Alondra Nelson, Institute for Advanced Studies
 - Joan Ferrini-Mundy, University of Maine
 - Victor McCrary, University of District of Columbia
 - Wanda Ward, University of Illinois
 - Willie May, Morgan State University, AAAS President



Institute of Education Sciences (IES)

- IES sits within the U.S. Department of Education. Project 2025 recommends moving the statistical office to the Census Bureau and research centers to NSF.
- President Biden nominated Adam Gamoran, PhD, as Director in September 2024 but he did not receive confirmation during the past administration.
- National Board of Education Sciences has full membership however has lacked an executive director.

Advanced Research Projects for Health (ARPA-H)

- ARPA-H is a research funding agency that supports transformative biomedical and health breakthroughs – ranging from the molecular to the societal – to provide health solutions for all.
- Created in March 2022, ARPA-H received \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 2024.
- Likely to be a target to undue a Biden legacy.



119th Congress



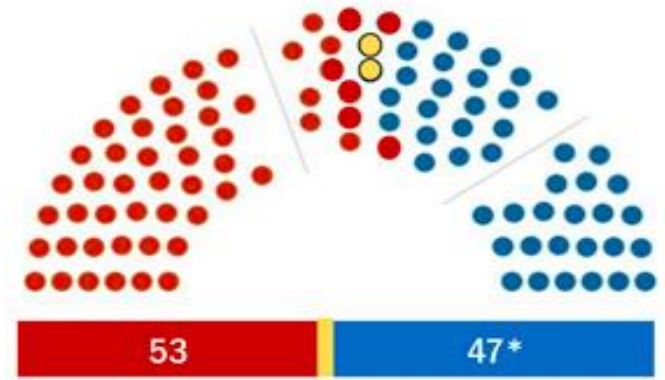
119th Congress

Senate

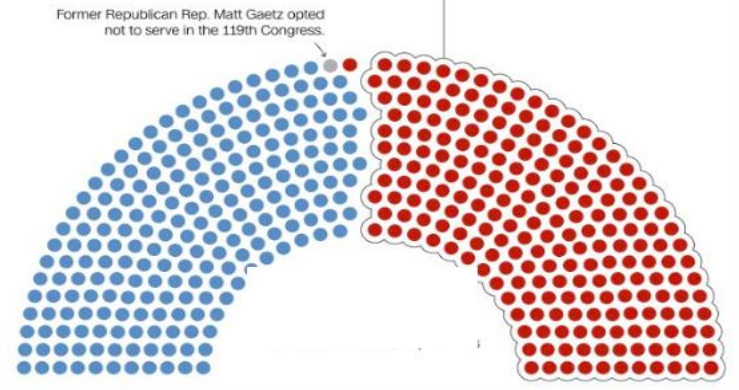
- ▶ 100 members of the Senate (Six-year term)
- ▶ Freshman Senators: 6 Democrat and 6 Republican
- ▶ 119th is composed of 47 Democrats (includes 2 Independents who caucus with Democrats) and 53 Republicans

House

- ▶ 435 members of the House of Representatives (Two-year term)
- ▶ Freshman Representatives: 33 Democrat and 30 Republican
- ▶ 215 Democrats and 220 Republicans (217)



Graphs from FASEB Advocacy Town Hall



New Vacancies

- ▶ Trump has tapped:

- ▶ House

- ▶ Matt Gaetz (R-FL), nominated and then withdrew for AG
 - ▶ Elise Stefanik (R-NY), nominated for UN Ambassador
 - ▶ Mike Waltz (R-FL), National Security Advisor

- ▶ Senate

- ▶ Marco Rubio (R-FL), Secretary of State
 - ▶ JD Vance (R-OH, Vice President



New Senators

- ▶ Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)
- ▶ Adam Schiff (D-CA)
- ▶ Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)
- ▶ Jim Banks (R-IN)
- ▶ Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD)
- ▶ Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)
- ▶ Andy Kim (D-NJ)
- ▶ John Curtis (R-UT)
- ▶ Jim Justice (R-WV)



Senate Committee Leadership

- ▶ Appropriations – Susan Collins (R-ME) and Patty Murray (D-WA)
 - ▶ Commerce Justice Science – Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
 - ▶ Labor Health and Human Services – Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
- ▶ Commerce, Science, and Transportation – Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
- ▶ Health, Education, Labor and Pensions – Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

New Representatives with Science or Education Backgrounds

- Luz Rivas (D-CA 29)
- Laura Friedman (D-CA 30)
- Mike Haridopolos (R-FL)
- Nellie Pou (D-NJ 9)
- John Mannion (D-NY 22)
- Maxine Dexter (D-OR 3)
- Janelle Bynum (D-OR 5)
- Sylvester Turner (D-TX 18)



House Committee Leadership

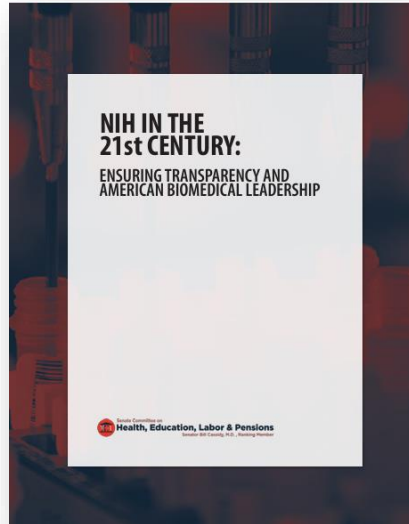
- ▶ Appropriations – Tom Cole (R-OK) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
 - ▶ Commerce, Justice, Science – Hal Rogers (R-KY) and Grace Meng (D-NY)
 - ▶ Labor, Health, and Human Services – Robert Aderholt (R-AL) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
- ▶ Science, Space and Technology
 - ▶ Brian Babin (R-TX) and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
- ▶ Energy and Commerce Committee (Health)
 - ▶ Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
- ▶ Education and the Workforce
 - ▶ Tim Walberg (R-MI) and Bobby Scott (D-VA)

On the Agenda for Congress this Year

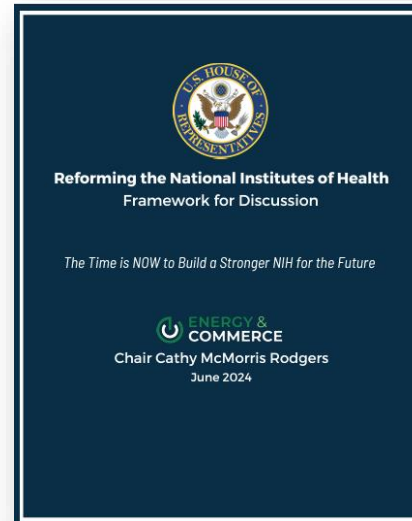
- ▶ NIH Reauthorization
- ▶ IES Reauthorization
- ▶ Higher Education Act
- ▶ Topical - AI, Climate

NIH Reauthorization

- ▶ Senator Cassidy Releases White Paper on Modernization of NIH

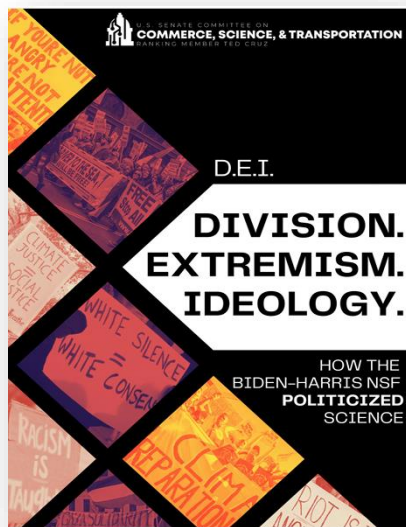


- ▶ FABBS Responds to House Committee's NIH Reform



Attacks on NSF

- ▶ Senator Joni Ernst's (R-IA) [letter to DOGE](#)
- ▶ Senator Ted Cruz's (R-TX) [report on NSF funding and DEI](#)



Appropriations & Authorization

Appropriations

Appropriations
Legislation Provides spending
for the agencies and programs
previously authorized
Congress is not required to
provide appropriations for an
authorized discretionary
spending program Congress
may provide appropriations for
programs or agencies whose
authorization has lapsed

Authorization

Establishes, continues, or
modifies federal agencies or
programs
Often includes funding targets
for an agency over a given time
period

Appropriations

Timeline

FABBS Response

President Submits Budget

FABBS works with coalitions to determine the community 'ask' the number that they will be encouraging Congress to appropriate for federal agencies supporting behavioral and brain sciences.

Congress determines allocation for 12 appropriations subcommittees 302bs

Working with coalitions, FABBS signs letters to leadership and Budget committees advocating for strong allocations to subcommittees.

Meet with committee staff to make the budget request.

Members of Congress determine their funding priorities and have a variety of ways for communicating their priorities to Appropriators

Member requests - FABBS submits Member requests to 5 - 7 Congressional offices, asking MOCs to include key funding agencies in their priorities

Dear colleague letters - As co-chair of the Coalition for National Science Funding, FABBS help draft and circulates letters, seeking signatures.

Report language

Subcommittee hearings with agency leadership

Submit testimony

Working with Congressional offices on questions for witnesses

Appropriations Timeline

FABBS Activities

House and Senate Appropriations committees release budget proposals

FABBS, together with coalitions, respond to proposed budgets.

House and Senate committees vote on budgets

FABBS communicates with committee staff and personal offices.

Full House and Senate vote on budgets

FABBS monitors amendments and thanks offices for good ones and communicates concerns about amendments that negatively impact our disciplines.

Office of Management and Budget begins developing budget for FY 2026

FABBS meets with OMB analyst to encourage strong funding for our disciplines.

President releases Research and Development Priorities for FY 2026

FABBS underscores importance of behavioral and brain sciences to support Administration priorities.

House and Senate conference on FY 25 budget

FABBS works with coalitions to support higher levels of funding for agencies of interest.

*What Can We Do?
Finding a Path Forward*



Remain Focused on Shared Goals

- Vibrant economy
- Strong educational opportunities and outcomes
- Support health and prevent illness
- Compete internationally
- Responsible spending of tax payer dollars

What we Need to Understand about the Current Political Environment

- We are all having the wrong conversation
- So much noise and confusion
- Political context is deafening

Current FABBS Priorities

- Providing reliable information and focusing on big picture and what could move the needle
- Working with Republican Senate Offices – really only hope for more oversight
- Supporting our members to engage and use constituent voices
- Keeping the health and science community together
- Identify new allies – even strange bedfellows

Reach Out to Your Elected Officials

FABBS can help:

- ▶ Provide up to date information
- ▶ Identify key audiences
- ▶ Background and contact information
- ▶ Develop talking points

We are developing resources

Thank you and Onward

