

**CGA Advocacy Task Force and Team Leads Written Report
February 16, 2023**

BIOMEDICAL

Team Leader: Brett Roude (The University of Colorado)

On February 9, House Energy and Commerce Committee Cathy McMorris Rogers (R-Wash.) released the committee’s “Authorization and Oversight Plan.” The plan highlights the Committee’s intent to conduct oversight into the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other HHS agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, the plan highlights how the committee will be investigating the “Gain-of-Function” of medical research, as well as oversight on the NIH’s grantmaking process and use of indirect costs. The full “authorization and oversight plan” can be found [here](#).

During his State of the Union on February 7, President Biden tasked Congress with reauthorizing the National Cancer Institute and increasing investment into cancer research. The President touted the need to continue the work that was done by the Cancer Moonshot program and how newly formed agencies, such as the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), can help accelerate cancer research. More information regarding the President’s remarks can be found [here](#).

EDUCATION

Co-Team Leaders: Melissa Haas (The University of Illinois System) and Amanda Wintersteen (The Pennsylvania State University)

- ED [released](#) its [2021 annual report](#) detailing HEERF impact data. You can find a state-by-state breakdown of HEERF [here](#).
- Within the House Ed & Workforce Committee, the [Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development](#) will be chaired by Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT), with Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL) as ranking member.
- With President Biden’s announcement that COVID-19 national emergency declarations will expire on May 11, certain regulatory flexibilities related to federal student aid programs will be [coming to an end](#).
- *Inside Higher Ed* [reported](#) that ED may not be ready to launch the new, simplified version of the FAFSA by October 1.
- APLU submitted a [comment letter](#) in response to ED’s [Request for Information](#) “Regarding Public Transparency for Low Financial Value Postsecondary Programs.”

INTERNATIONAL AND IMMIGRATION

Team Leader: Whitney Riggs (Arizona State University)

DHS Announces Extension and Redesignation of Temporary Protected Status for Haiti
The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted a [Federal Register notice](#) for the extension and redesignation of Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, from Feb. 4,

2023, through Aug. 3, 2024. DHS previously announced the decision to extend and redesignate TPS for Haiti on Dec. 5, 2022.

This extension and redesignation of Haiti for TPS allows nationals of Haiti (and individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Haiti) who have continuously resided in the United States since Nov. 6, 2022, and who have been continuously physically present in the United States since Feb. 4, 2023, to apply for TPS. Those who have been continuously residing in the United States since Nov. 6, 2022, and have a pending TPS application with USCIS do not have to refile at this time.

Department of State Announces Stateside H-1B Visa Renewal Pilot

The State Department [announced](#) the launch of a pilot program later this year allowing H-1B and L-visas to renew their visas in the United States. Currently, applicants seeking to renew their H-1B visa must leave the country to renew. The State Department reports that restoring stateside visa renewal will reduce the volume of petitions at consular offices across the globe. A timeline for the pilot has not yet been released.

Washtech OPT Case Update

The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit declined to revisit the District Court for the District of Columbia's ruling upholding the legality of the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program in Washtech vs. the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The ruling follows an appeal of an October decision, in which the Court ruled that international students with STEM degrees can continue to work in the U.S. for up to three years following graduation through the OPT program. At that time, the court found that authorizing international students to engage in limited periods of employment for practical training as their schools recommend according to the terms delineated in the rule creating OPT is a valid exercise of DHS authority. The plaintiffs have the option to file a cert petition with the Supreme Court and must do so within 90 days. The Supreme Court would likely respond to the petition in the fall when it reconvenes for the 23-24 term following summer recess.

USCIS Releases FY2023-2026 Strategic Plan

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services released its [FY2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#). The plan identifies three long-term goals to focus on increasing access to the immigration system; promoting and improving the naturalization process; attracting, recruiting, developing and retraining an effective workforce; creating a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; ensuring fiscal solvency; and continuing modernization efforts that introduce additional online filing options. The three overarching goals are:

- to strengthen the U.S. immigration system to ensure that immigration policies, regulations, strategies, processes, and communications support a strong immigration system with integrity that promotes integration, inclusion, and citizenship;
- to invest in workforce to attract, recruit, train, and retain a diverse, flexible, and resilient workforce that drives high-quality organizational performance and is representative of who we are as a nation; and
- to promote effective and efficient management and stewardship to enhance organizational capability for efficient and effective use, management, and sharing of resources entrusted to the agency, and to evaluate and balance competing demands and priorities to serve the agency's mission.

SCIENCE

Team Leader: Neil Canfield (The University of Michigan)

On February 8 the House Science, Space and Technology (SS&T) Committee held its organizing meeting and approved its [Authorization and oversight plan for the 118th Congress](#). The Committee [Republicans](#) and [Democrats](#) each released statements outlining Subcommittee members and leaders. According to the Authorization and oversight plan “The Committee expects to reauthorize key federal science agencies and programs, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) space and research, engineering and development programs, the National Quantum Initiative (NQI), the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP), and offices within the Department of Energy (DOE).”

AIP’s FYI did a nice write up on House SS&T Subcommittee leaders this week. [The Week of February 13, 2023 | American Institute of Physics \(aip.org\)](#)

The [National Science Board](#) is meeting this week – February 15-16 – Day one of the meeting will include the swearing in of [new NSB members](#) and two sessions focused on K-12 STEM education and day two has only one public session focused on NSF’s Sexual Assault/Harassment and Prevention Response Report that will include updates on actions since NSB’s December 2022 meeting. A description of the meeting can be found [here](#).