



Legislative Updates as of 04/14/2026

Federal Policy Watch

We wanted to share a brief, but important update prior to this week's BioBeat newsletter, highlighting developments from Washington, DC and their relevance to Georgia's life sciences community.

SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Signed into Law

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs have been reauthorized through Fiscal Year 2031 following the signing of S. 3971, the Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act, into law.

Why it matters: SBIR and STTR are critical drivers of early-stage innovation, providing non-dilutive funding to startups and small businesses advancing new technologies, therapies, and platforms across the life sciences sector. Reauthorization ensures continued stability and access to these programs for the innovation ecosystem.

What's next: Federal agencies are expected to begin rolling out updated program guidance and funding opportunities in the coming months.

Additional Key Updates

NIH Policy & Funding Direction: The Administration's FY27 proposal reiterates plans to cap NIH indirect costs at 15% and shift toward fully funding multi-year grants upfront. NIH is also seeking stakeholder input on its FY2027–2031 Strategic Plan (comments due May 26), signaling potential longer-term shifts in research funding structure and priorities.

FDA Regulatory Updates: The FDA's FY27 budget proposal includes measures to allow earlier initiation of clinical trials and accelerate pathways for generic competition, reflecting continued focus on both innovation speed and market competition.

Research Security & Global Competition: The Department of Defense announced new restrictions on federally funded research collaborations with entities on a "restricted list," with a particular focus on China, reinforcing broader efforts to align life sciences innovation with national security priorities.

Watch for more federal updates in **Friday's BioBeat newsletter**.

Upcoming Federal Hearings

Several key congressional hearings this week will focus on federal health spending, policy priorities, and drug pricing—offering important signals for the life sciences sector:

- **Wednesday, April 15:**
 - House Budget Committee – [The President's FY 2027 Budget Request](#)
 - Subcommittee on Health hearing titled Healthier America: [Legislative Proposals to Improve Public Health](#)
- **Thursday, April 16**
 - House Appropriations (Labor-HHS Subcommittee) – [HHS Budget Hearing](#)
 - House Ways & Means Committee – [Hearing with HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.](#)

- Senate HELP Committee – [Making Medicines More Affordable: How Competition Can Lower Drug Prices](#)
- **Friday, April 17:** House Education & Workforce Committee – [Examining the Policies and Priorities of HHS](#)

Why it matters: These hearings will provide insight into **federal funding priorities, healthcare affordability efforts, and regulatory direction**, all of which have direct implications for innovation, access, and the life sciences ecosystem.

Upcoming Events

GEORGIA LIFE SCIENCES

2026 Legislative Session Recap & Federal Policy Briefing

Vonnie Hampel
GLS Policy Committee Chair | GSK

Derek Norton
GLS Contract Lobbyist | Topspin Strategies

Michael Williams
Forbes Tate Partners

Tuesday, April 21 | 10 AM ET

Virtual | Zoom Webinar

From Policy to the Pharmacy Counter—What MFN Would Mean for Patients

On Thursday, April 23 at 10:00 AM ET, the Women in Government Health & Human Services Foundation will host a webinar exploring how most favored nation (MFN) drug pricing policies could impact patients, families, and communities across the U.S. The session will feature a panel of policy and patient advocacy leaders, including representatives from the Caregiver Action Network, Alliance for Aging Research, and the National Minority Quality Forum. [Register here](#)

GLS Members Only: GBG Monthly Federal Funding Report Call

Don't miss the monthly GBG Report call, held every third Thursday at 12 PM ET. These sessions provide updates on the latest federal funding opportunities and insights to help companies navigate and secure non-dilutive capital. GLS partner G2G has helped raise over \$612M and brings deep expertise in supporting innovation and commercialization. Interested? Contact Stacey Bowlin at SBowlin@galifesciences.org

Georgia Life Sciences is the leading advocate for the state's life sciences sector. Our team works on behalf of our members to advance policies that support innovation and growth—advocating for federal funding that drives research and enables the approval of new therapies; a fair reimbursement and pricing landscape to ensure patient access to life-saving medicines; continued investment in research and pandemic preparedness; strong intellectual property protections that reward innovation; a business-friendly tax environment that allows companies to thrive and grow; and expanded loan guarantees and grant programs to improve access to capital, including for agricultural and energy biotechnology.