



## Legislative Updates as of 04/20/2026

### State Policy Watch

While legislative activity has paused, state policy work continues through interim efforts that will shape the next session.

Georgia House leadership has announced a series of Blue-Ribbon Study Committees, signaling areas of focus for future legislation. Of particular relevance to the life sciences sector:

- **Community Health & Healthcare Oversight:** A new committee will evaluate Georgia's healthcare landscape, including access, patient protections, and system efficiency
- **Education & Workforce Stability:** Another committee will examine education performance and workforce dynamics, with implications for talent development and workforce pipelines

### Why it matters:

These study committees often lay the groundwork for future legislation, providing an early signal of where policymakers will focus in the next session. Georgia Life Sciences will monitor these efforts closely and identify opportunities to engage as recommendations are developed.

### Federal Policy Watch

Federal activity will accelerate this week, with increased visibility around biotechnology's role in national competitiveness, healthcare policy, and economic growth.

Last week, GLS was proud to represent Georgia at the CSBA Fly-In in Washington, DC with Evan Scullin, MD of LumeniSci and Eric DeJesus, PhD of Annate Biotherapeutics.

We met with members of Georgia's congressional delegation to thank them for reauthorizing SBIR/STTR and to reinforce why strong NIH funding, predictable policy, and a modernized FDA are essential to innovation, patients, and U.S. competitiveness. We also encouraged support for the Congressional Biotech Caucus and highlighted biotech's importance to both our economy and national security. Having small biotech companies on the Hill matters. Their stories help bring to life why investing in science is investing in jobs, health, and America's future.



Industry leaders and policymakers continue to highlight the importance of maintaining U.S. leadership in innovation, particularly as discussions intensify around drug pricing, trade policy, and global competition.

### **Biotech Takes Center Stage in National Dialogue**

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization launched its [Fight of Our Lives](https://fightofourlives.com/) campaign this week, a national effort to highlight the impact of biotechnology on patients, the economy, and U.S. global leadership. The campaign reflects growing momentum to elevate biotechnology as a strategic national priority. More at <https://fightofourlives.com/>.

BIO also convened policymakers and industry leaders at a Washington event focused on the global “biotech race,” reinforcing the need for policies that support innovation, investment, and commercialization.

### **Drug Pricing Policy Remains a Central Focus**

Federal discussions continue to center on healthcare affordability, with renewed attention on **most favored nation (MFN) pricing proposals**, which industry leaders have identified as a significant risk to innovation and investment.

Additional activity this week included:

- Introduction of legislation to ensure patient out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs count toward deductibles and maximum limits
- Ongoing congressional scrutiny of healthcare intermediaries, including pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), with continued calls for increased transparency
- Continued signals from federal policymakers to **delink drug pricing from PBM compensation structures**, reinforcing momentum around PBM reform

### **MedTech Watch**

While no major device-specific hearings are scheduled this week, several federal hearings on the HHS budget, trade policy, and healthcare reimbursement remain relevant to medtech companies - particularly as policymakers continue to examine FDA capacity, CMS coverage pathways, and supply chain resilience.

Recent congressional activity also signals continued attention to improving patient access to breakthrough technologies and reducing barriers to innovation, including potential policy changes to expand **CMS coverage pathways for FDA-designated breakthrough products**.

In parallel, the Advanced Medical Technology Association [welcomed](#) the reauthorization of SBIR/STTR programs, highlighting their importance in supporting early-stage medtech innovation and helping companies advance new technologies toward commercialization.

### **Policy Environment Reflects Heightened Scrutiny**

Recent congressional activity - including hearings, reports, and oversight efforts - signals continued bipartisan focus on **drug pricing, healthcare costs, and access**, alongside broader debates about the role of industry in the healthcare system.

At the same time, appropriators signaled that **significant reductions to NIH funding are unlikely to advance**, reinforcing the importance of sustained investment in biomedical research even as broader budget discussions continue.

Federal leadership continues to evolve across key health agencies, including new leadership nominations at the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, a development of particular relevance to Georgia’s life sciences and public health ecosystem.

## What to Watch This Week

Congress returns to a full schedule this week, with multiple hearings focused on:

- The **FY 2027 HHS budget and federal health spending priorities**
- The Administration's **trade policy agenda**, including implications for life sciences
- Continued scrutiny of **PBM business practices and drug pricing models**

## Bottom Line

Federal policy discussions are increasingly converging across **pricing, trade, and innovation strategy**, with significant implications for the life sciences ecosystem. As activity ramps up in the coming weeks, continued engagement will be critical to ensuring policies support both **patient access and long-term innovation**.

## 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:

- **Tuesday, April 21:**
  - 10:00AM: House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee: [The Fiscal Year 2027 Department of Health and Human Services Budget](#)
  - 2:30PM: Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee: [A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request for the Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- **Wednesday, April 22:**
  - 10:00AM: House Ways & Means Committee: Full Committee [Hearing](#) on the Trump Administration's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda with United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer
  - 10:00AM: Senate Finance Committee: [The President's Fiscal Year 2027 Department of Health and Human Services Budget](#)
  - 10:15AM: House Education & Workforce HELP Subcommittee Hearing: [Profits Over Patients: The PBM Business Model Under Scrutiny](#)
  - 2:00PM: Senate HELP Committee: [Hearing](#) on Fiscal Year 2027 Department of Health and Human Services Budget
- **Thursday, April 23:** Senate Finance Committee: [The President's 2026 Trade Policy Agenda](#)

**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 2026 Legislative Session Recap & Federal Policy Briefing

Join Georgia Life Sciences for a timely briefing on key outcomes from the 2026 Georgia legislative session and the evolving federal policy landscape. This session will provide insights on recent policy developments and what they mean for the life sciences community.

🔗 Learn more and register: <https://events.galifesciences.org/2026-legislative-session-recap-federal-policy-briefing>

### 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: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ylKnCNTrQIuDKI4pw9dq4w#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ylKnCNTrQIuDKI4pw9dq4w#/registration)

**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](mailto: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.

Questions or feedback? Contact us at [admin@galifesciences.org](mailto:admin@galifesciences.org).