



## Legislative Updates as of 04/27/2026

### Federal Policy Watch

The Biotechnology Innovation Organization continued to elevate biotechnology as a national priority through its ***Fight of Our Lives*** campaign and direct engagement with policymakers. Industry leaders met with Members of Congress this week to reinforce the importance of policies that support innovation, investment, and U.S. global competitiveness.

### Drug Pricing, PBMs, and Transparency Remain Central

Federal discussions continue to center on healthcare affordability, with increasing convergence across drug pricing, reimbursement, and market oversight.

Key developments include:

- A House hearing examining pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) practices, with bipartisan concern around transparency, pricing, and patient access
- Continued scrutiny of most favored nation (MFN) pricing proposals, including a newly announced agreement with Regeneron tied to the Administration's pricing strategy
- Ongoing legislative and oversight activity focused on drug pricing practices and industry-government agreements

In parallel, BIO submitted comments supporting increased transparency in PBM fee disclosures, emphasizing the need for clearer visibility into compensation structures and potential conflicts of interest

### HHS Budget Hearings Highlight Tensions on Research, Access, and Policy Direction

Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. testified before multiple Congressional committees last week, with discussions highlighting key areas of focus and concern:

- Proposed cuts to NIH, Medicaid, and public health programs
- Continued debate over vaccine policy and scientific governance
- Questions around drug pricing strategies, including MFN models and federal-industry agreements
- Ongoing scrutiny of the 340B program and potential structural changes

**Bottom line:** The hearings underscore a widening gap between Administration priorities and Congressional perspectives—particularly around research funding, public health infrastructure, and regulatory independence

### Innovation, National Security, and Workforce Policy Gain Momentum

Lawmakers advanced several bipartisan efforts linking biotechnology to national competitiveness and workforce development, including:

- Introduction of the *Biotechnology for All High School Students Act* to expand biotech education and workforce pathways
- New biodefense legislation aimed at strengthening coordination and oversight of emerging biological risks
- Continued focus on protecting U.S. leadership in biotechnology amid global competition, particularly with China

At the same time, new bipartisan data privacy legislation aims to establish national standards for consumer data protection—an increasingly important issue for data-driven life sciences companies

### **MedTech Watch: CMS and FDA Move to Accelerate Coverage for Breakthrough Devices**

Federal agencies announced a significant development for medical device innovation this week, with CMS and FDA proposing a coordinated pathway to accelerate Medicare coverage and payment for breakthrough medical devices.

The new **RAPID Coverage Pathway** is intended to align FDA market authorization with CMS coverage review, potentially reducing the delay between approval and patient access for eligible Class II and Class III breakthrough devices. This is especially relevant for medtech, diagnostics, and digital health companies navigating the gap between regulatory approval and reimbursement.

Industry coverage from Reuters, Regulatory Focus, and Medical Design & Outsourcing highlights the significance of this proposal for device manufacturers seeking faster, more predictable commercialization pathways.

In parallel, AdvaMed continues to highlight the importance of SBIR/STTR reauthorization in supporting early-stage medtech innovation and helping companies advance new technologies toward commercialization.

### **What to Watch This Week**

- Continued congressional activity on drug pricing, PBM reform, and healthcare affordability
- Appropriations negotiations shaping NIH and broader health research funding
- Implementation details and impact of MFN-related pricing strategies
- Emerging policy at the intersection of biotechnology, national security, and workforce development
- Federal agency actions impacting coverage, regulatory timelines, and innovation pathways

### **Bottom Line**

Federal policy activity is accelerating across **pricing, research funding, regulatory policy, and national security**, with increasing overlap between these domains. For life sciences companies, the policy environment is becoming more complex—and more consequential—making proactive engagement and clear industry voice more important than ever.

### **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:

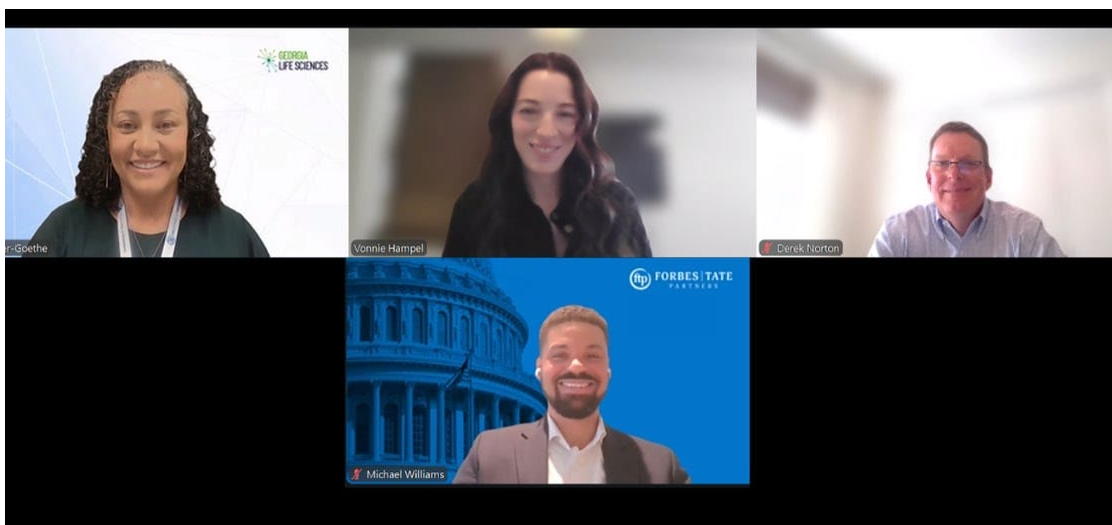
- **Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 AM:** House Ways and Means Committee: [Full Committee Hearing with Health System CEOs](#)
- **Wednesday, April 29 at 2:30 PM:** Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations: [“Unmasked: How Biden Health Officials Purposely Turned a Blind Eye Toward COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Signals”](#)

**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**

## ICYMI: Watch the Georgia 2026 Legislative Session Recap & Federal Policy Briefing

Last week, Georgia Life Sciences hosted a briefing on key outcomes from the 2026 Georgia legislative session and the evolving federal policy landscape. The session provided insights on recent policy developments at the state and federal level and what they mean for the life sciences community. [Click here to watch.](#)



## 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).