

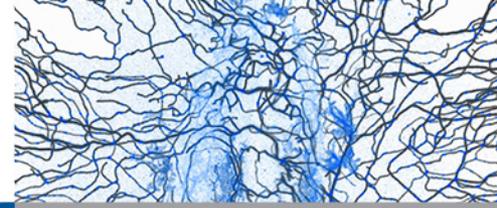
# From Congress to Your Lab

How Federal Funding Affects Your Science

Moderator: Dr. Anne Young  
Chair, SfN's Government and Public Affairs Committee



# Program Will Begin Shortly

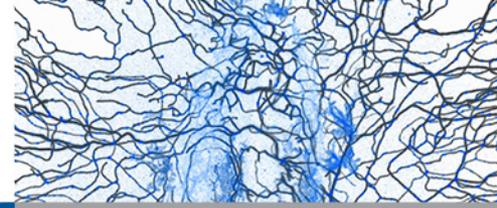


## Do You Know Who Your Elected Officials Are?

- In the U.S., look them up at [SfN.org/ActionCenter](http://SfN.org/ActionCenter)

The screenshot shows the SfN website's navigation and content. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links: About SfN | Press Room | Advertise | Support SfN | Store. The main navigation bar includes: Annual Meeting | Careers & Training | & Funding | Advocacy | Public Outreach | News & Calendar | Member Center. Below this is a 'Take Action' section with a 'My SfN' dropdown menu. A red arrow points to the 'Elected Officials' tab in the 'Take Action' section. The 'Elected Officials' section includes a sub-menu with 'Home', 'Elected Officials', 'Issues & Legislation', 'Elections & Candidates', and 'Media Guide'. Below the sub-menu, there is a search area for 'Elected Officials' with options to search by ZIP Code, Last Name, and State. A map of the United States is displayed with state abbreviations (VT, NH, RI, MA, CT, NYC, DE, DC) and territories (AS, GU, PR, VI) highlighted. The page is powered by CQ Roll Call ©2013.

# Special Guest



## Representative Chaka Fattah

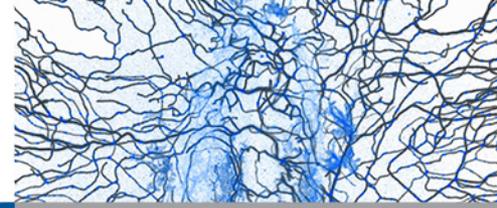
- Rep. Fattah is the U.S. representative for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Pennsylvania
- He is the Ranking Democrat on the appropriations subcommittee that funds NSF (Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee)

Follow him @chakafattah

<http://fattah.house.gov>

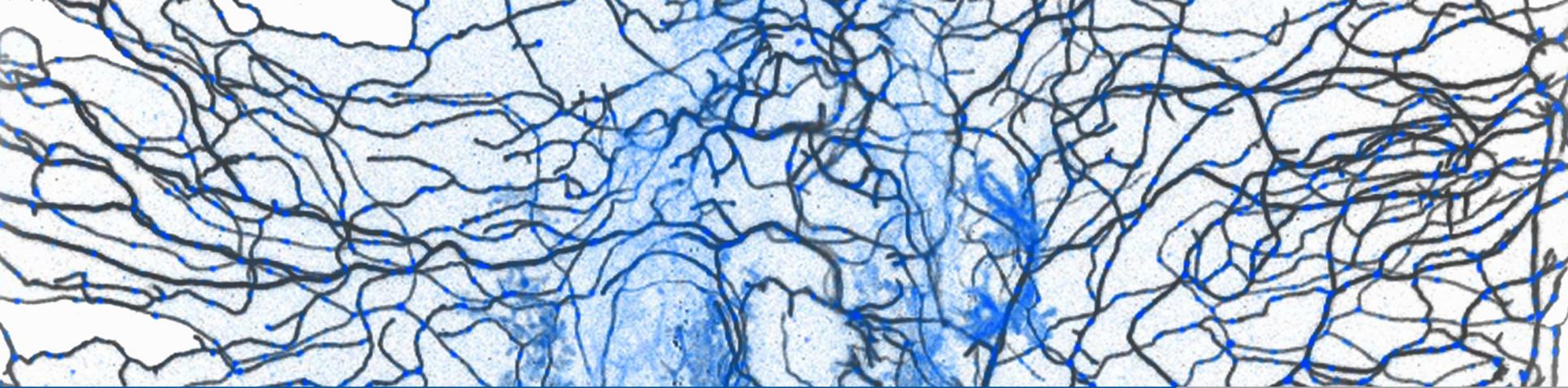


# Overview of Talk



## Outline

- Lyle Dennis, SfN Legislative Advisor
  - The State of Research Funding
  - The Federal Budget Process
  - You Can Make a Difference
- Allen Segal, SfN Director of Policy and Advocacy
  - Take Action

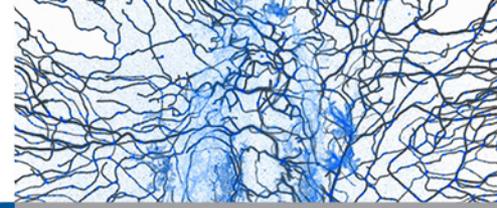


# The State of Research Funding

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Lyle Dennis

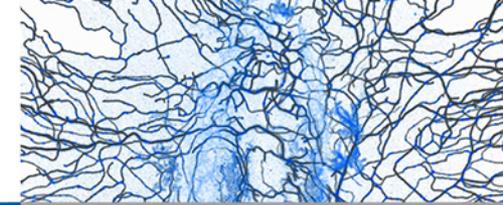
# The State of Research Funding



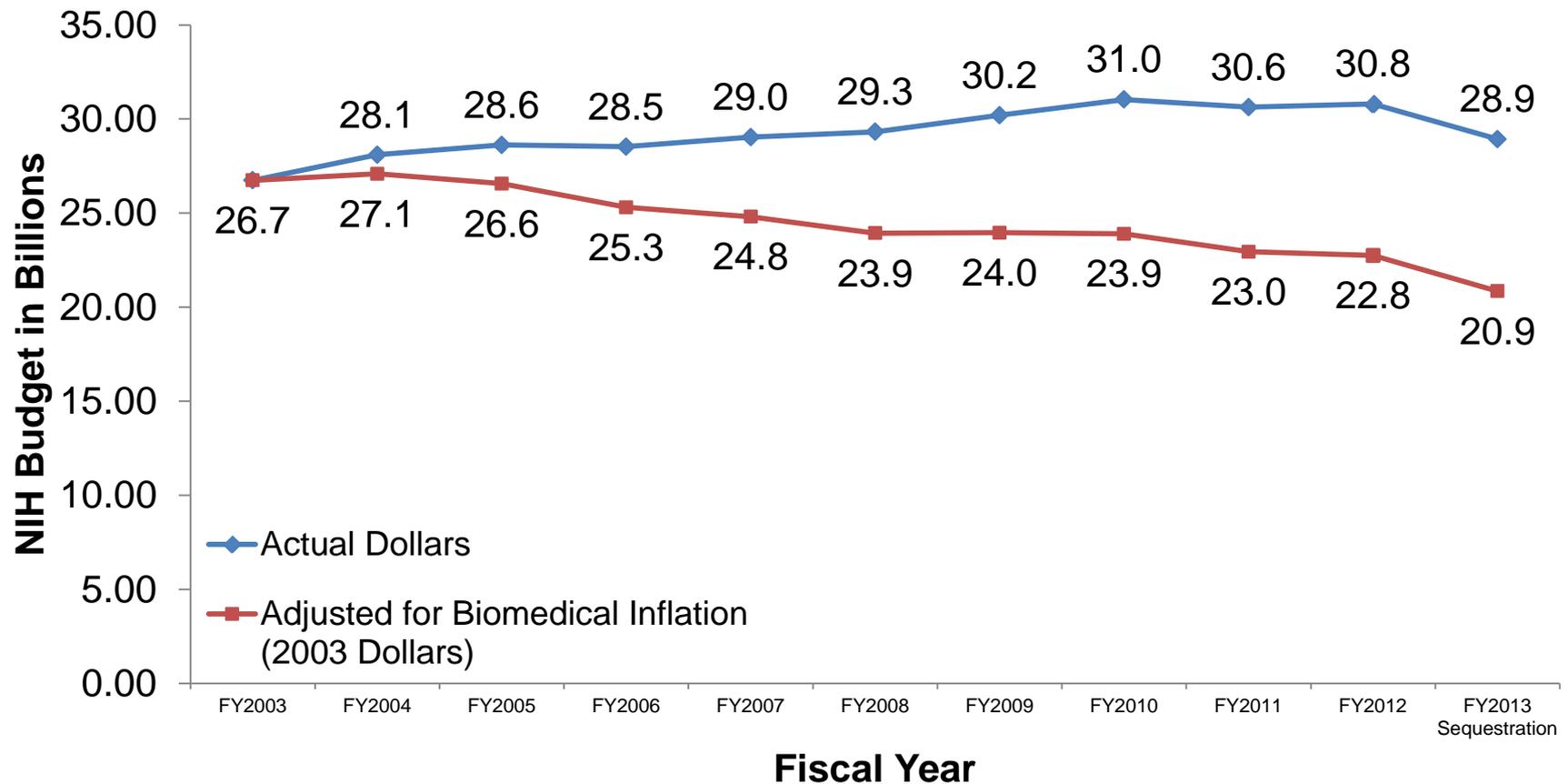
**Which of these numbers is closest to the yearly NIH Budget?**

- A. \$1 Billion
- B. \$15 Billion
- C. \$30 Billion
- D. \$50 Billion
- E. \$100 Billion

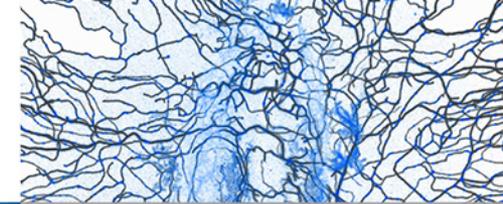
# The State of Research Funding



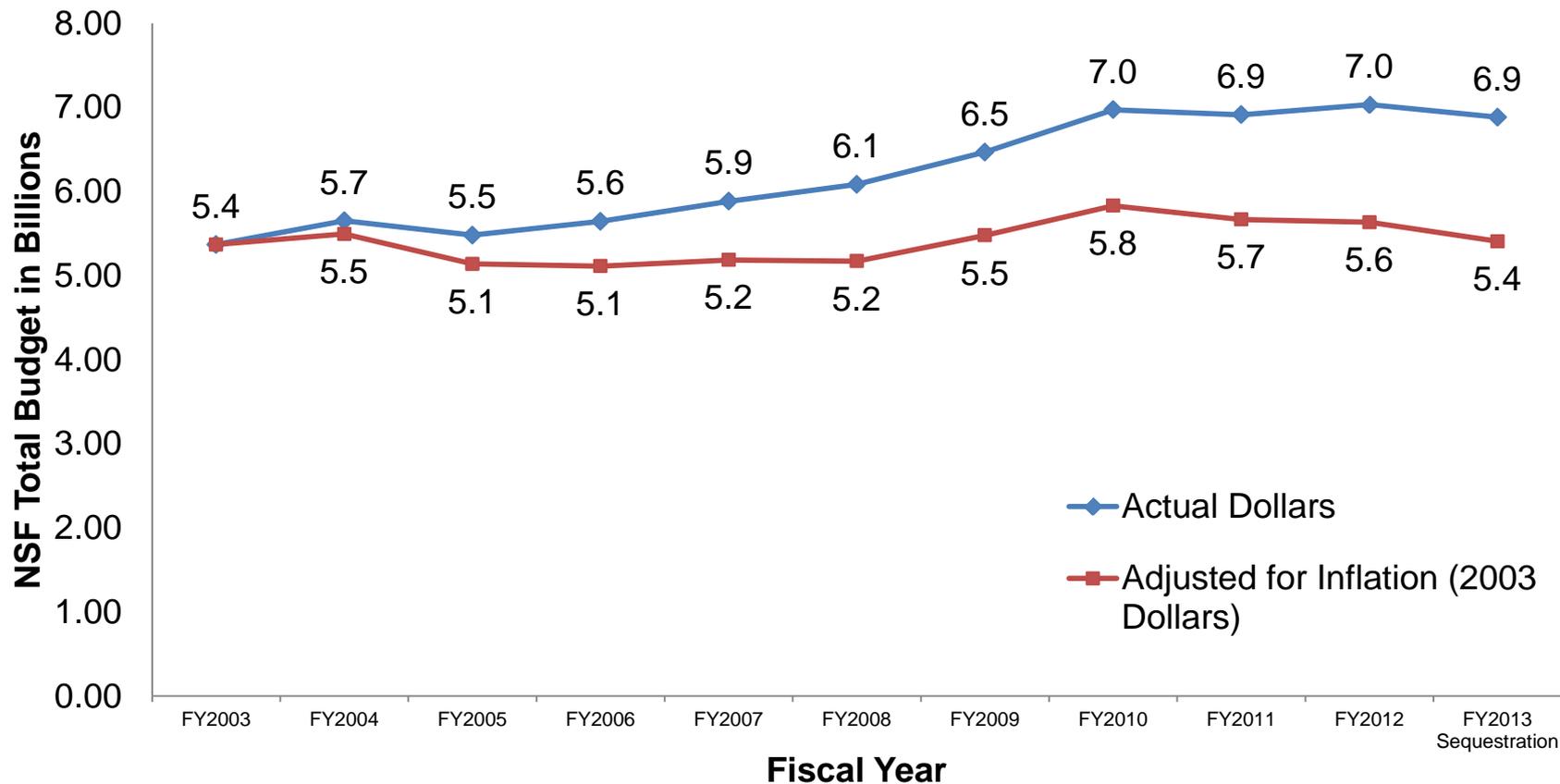
## National Institutes of Health Budget History



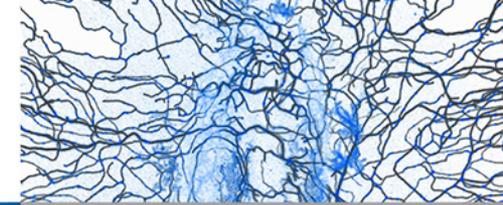
# The State of Research Funding



## National Science Foundation Budget History

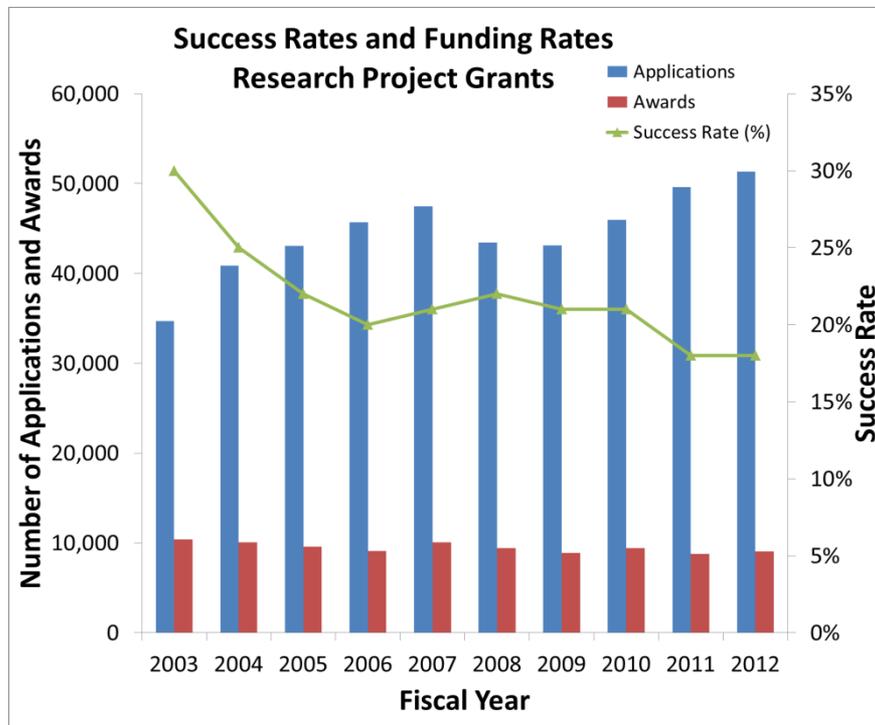


# The State of Research Funding

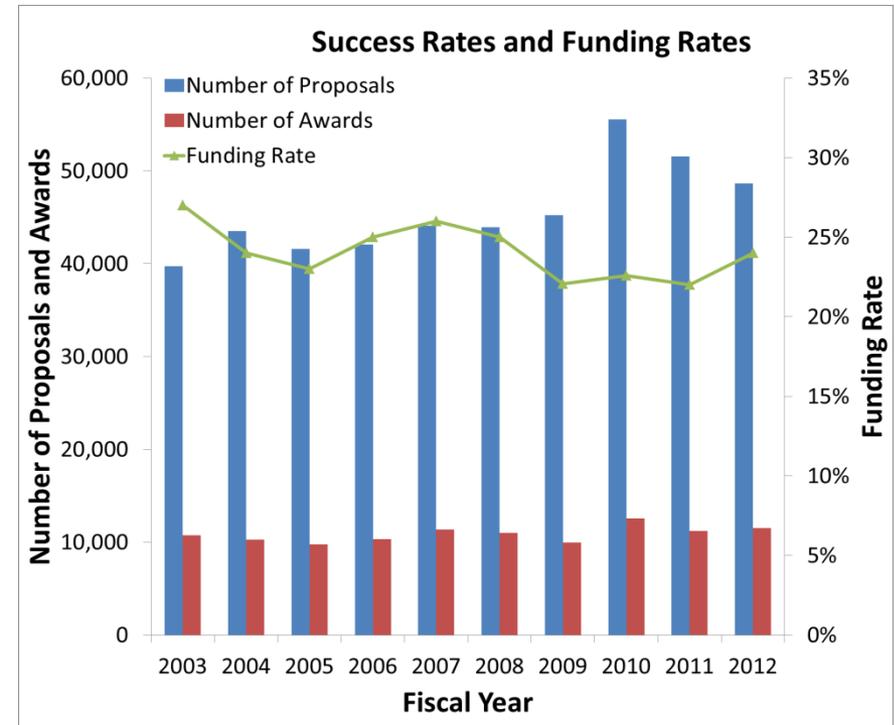


## NIH and NSF Research grants: Competing applications and awards

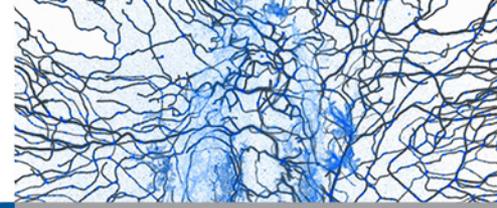
### NIH Awards



### NSF Awards



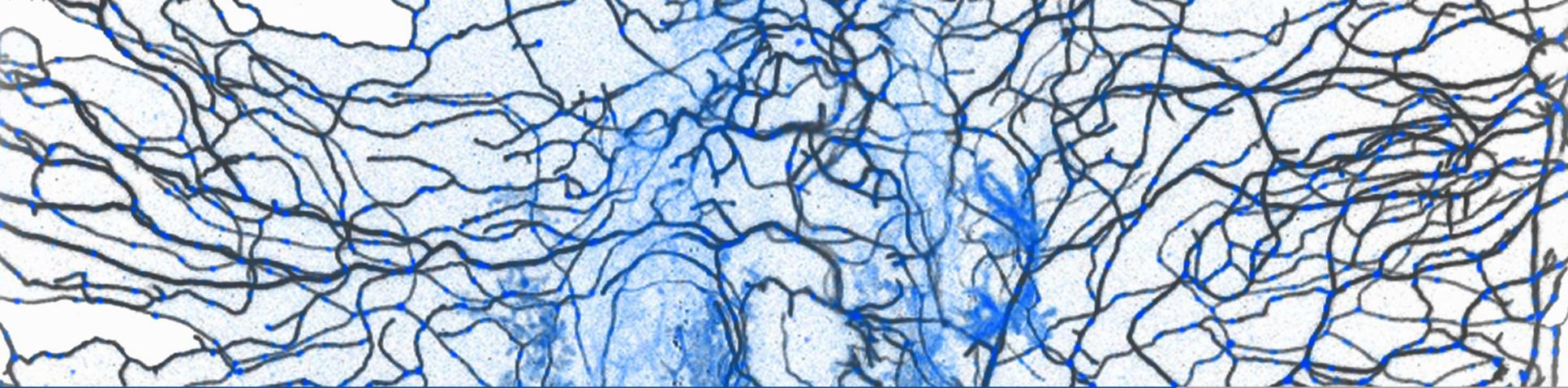
# The State of Research Funding



## The Bottom Line

- The agencies and institutes have some flexibility in determining how they spend their budget.
- However, the **size** of the budget is determined by Congress.

**The best way to increase the grant success rate is to increase the NIH and NSF budgets.**



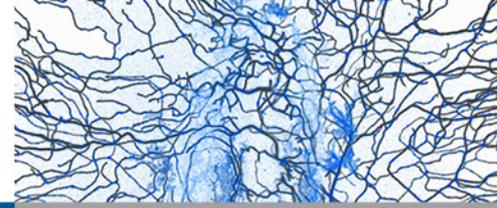
# The Federal Budget Process

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## Opportunities for Advocates

Lyle Dennis

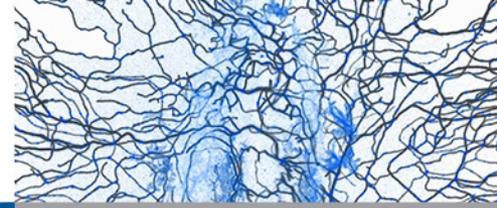
# The State of Research Funding



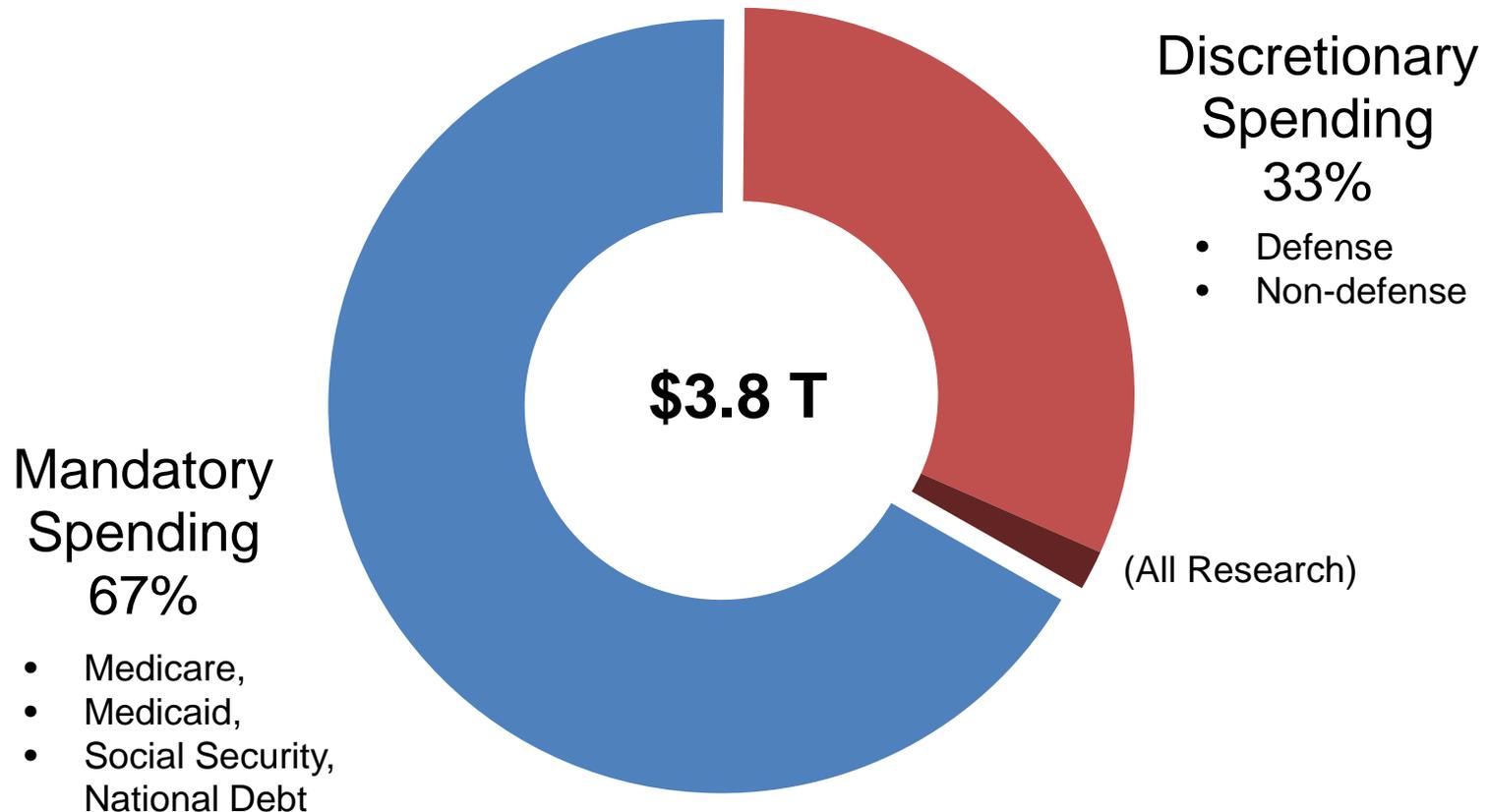
**What percent of the annual federal budget is automatically spent without input from Congress?**

- A. 0%
- B. 14%
- C. 43%
- D. 67%

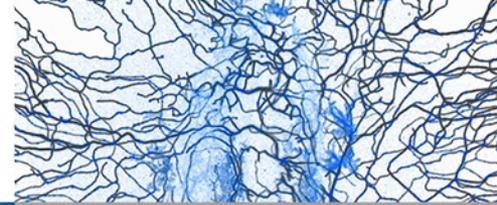
# The Federal Budget Process



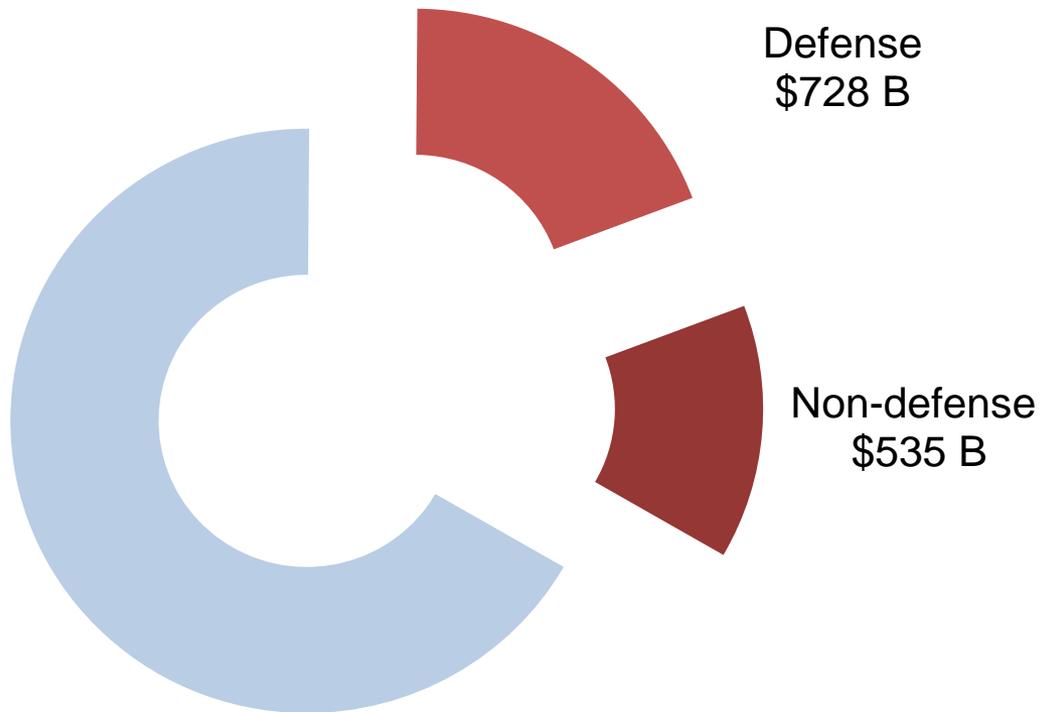
## The Federal Budget



# The Federal Budget Process

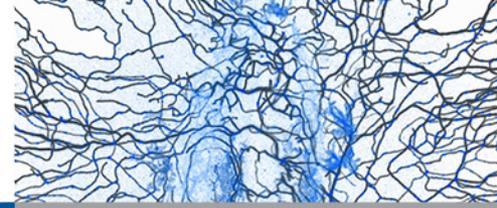


## Discretionary

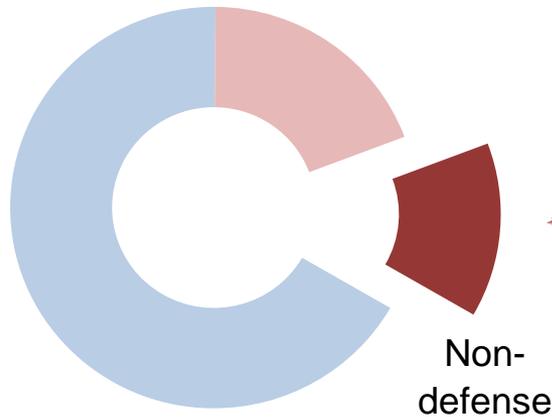


- Defense
  - A single specific purpose
  - Perceived as critical
  - Well-funded contractor community
- Non-Defense
  - Amorphous
  - Perceived as “wasteful bureaucrats”
  - Advocacy community is diverse – and poor!

# The Federal Budget Process

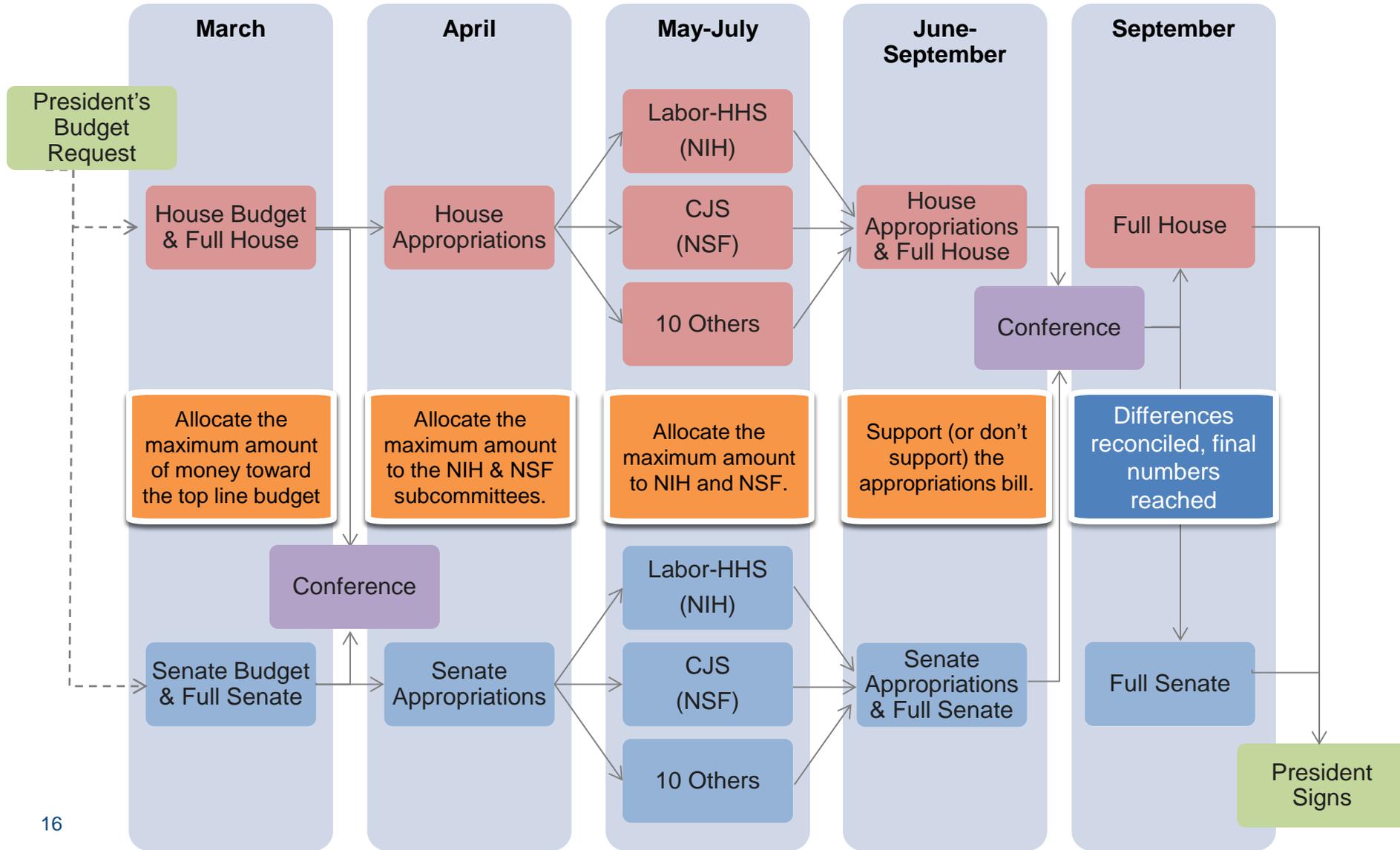
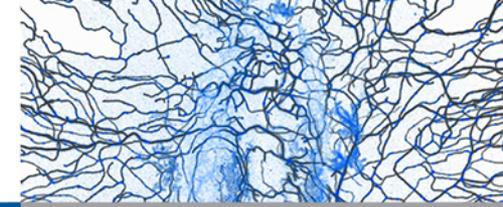


## Non-Defense Discretionary

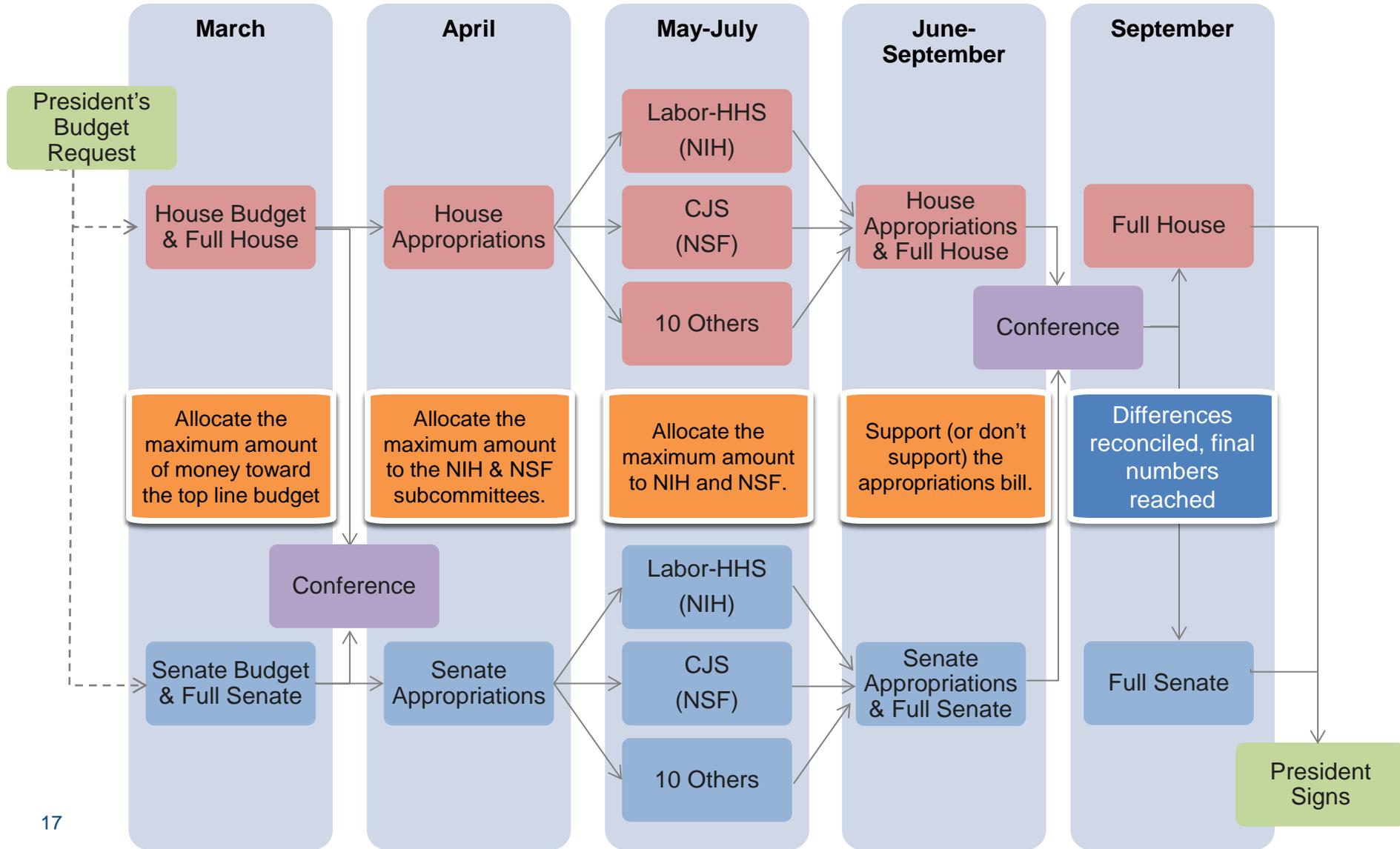
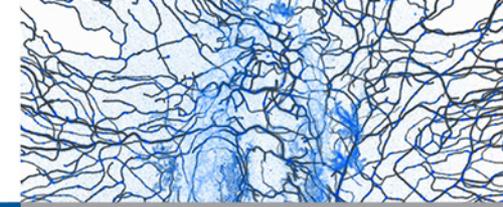


- Health (Includes NIH), 2%
- General Science, Space, and Technology (Includes NSF), 1%
- Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services, 3%
- Transportation, 3%
- Income Security, 2%
- Veteran's Benefits, 2%
- Administration of Justice, 1%
- International Affairs, 1%
- Other, 3%

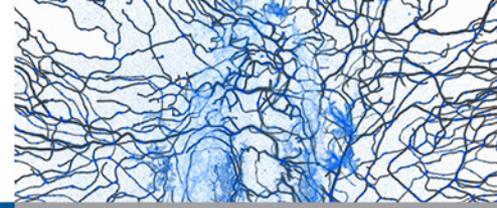
# The Federal Budget Process



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# The Federal Budget Process

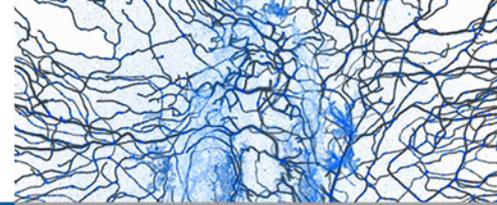


## Roadblocks to Passing a Budget

- Congress' dysfunctional/partisan nature
- Lack of “Regular Order”
  - Especially the use of the continuing resolution (CR)—essentially re-using last year's numbers



# The Federal Budget Process

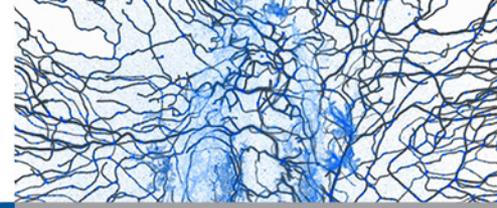


## Impact of Using CRs Year After Year

- Fewer new and competing grants awarded
  - Leading to lower paylines/success rates
  - Leading to higher age of first R01
  - Leading to a damaged, if not lost, generation of young researchers

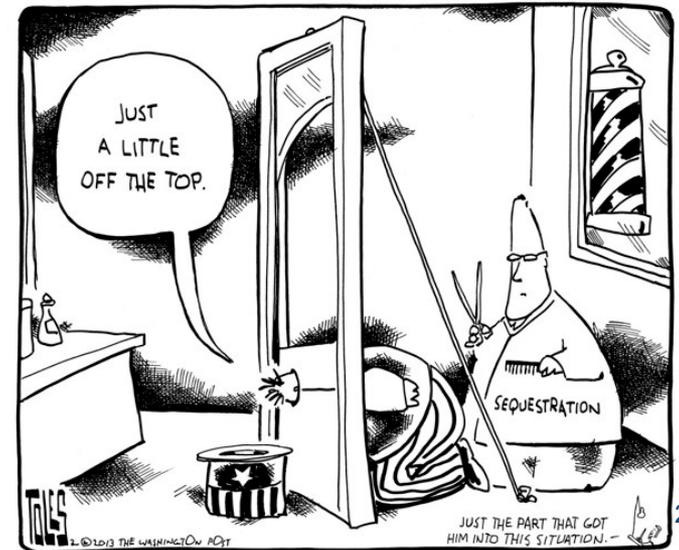
...and then there is sequestration.

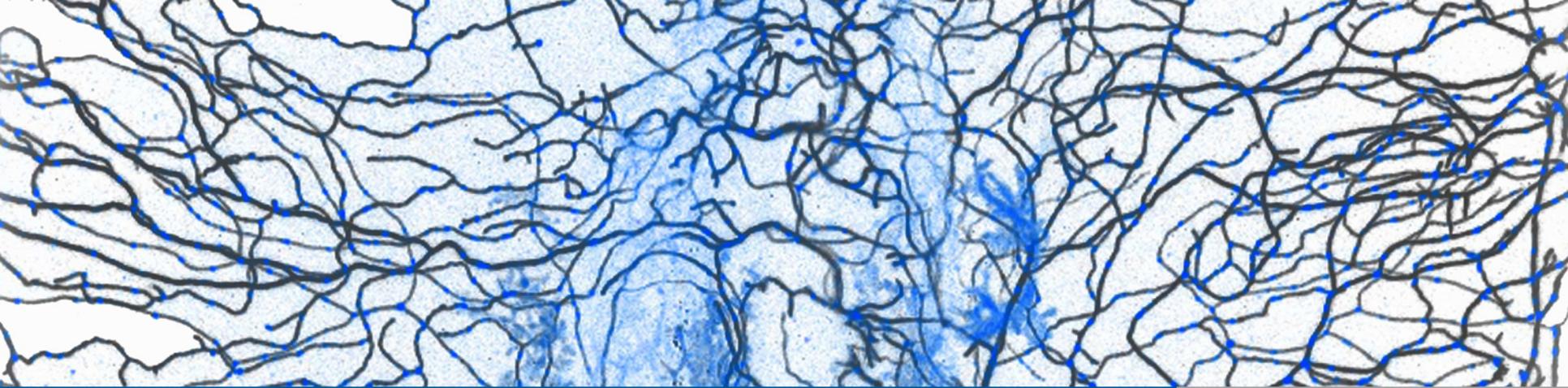
# The Federal Budget Process



## Sequestration

- Budget Control Act of 2011
- Across-the-board cuts of all discretionary spending
  - Took ~\$1.5 billion from NIH this year
  - Took ~\$300 million from NSF
- Only a “grand bargain” can resolve this!



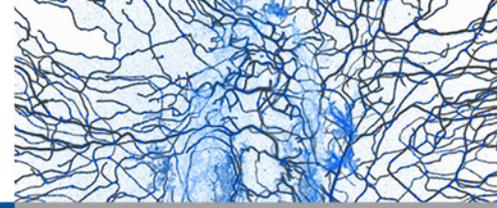


# You Can Make a Difference

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Lyle Dennis

# You Can Make a Difference

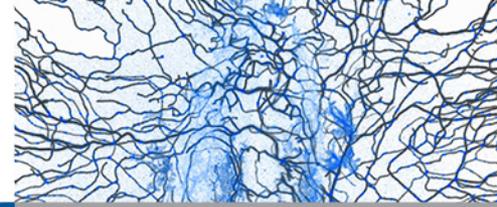


## Common Excuses

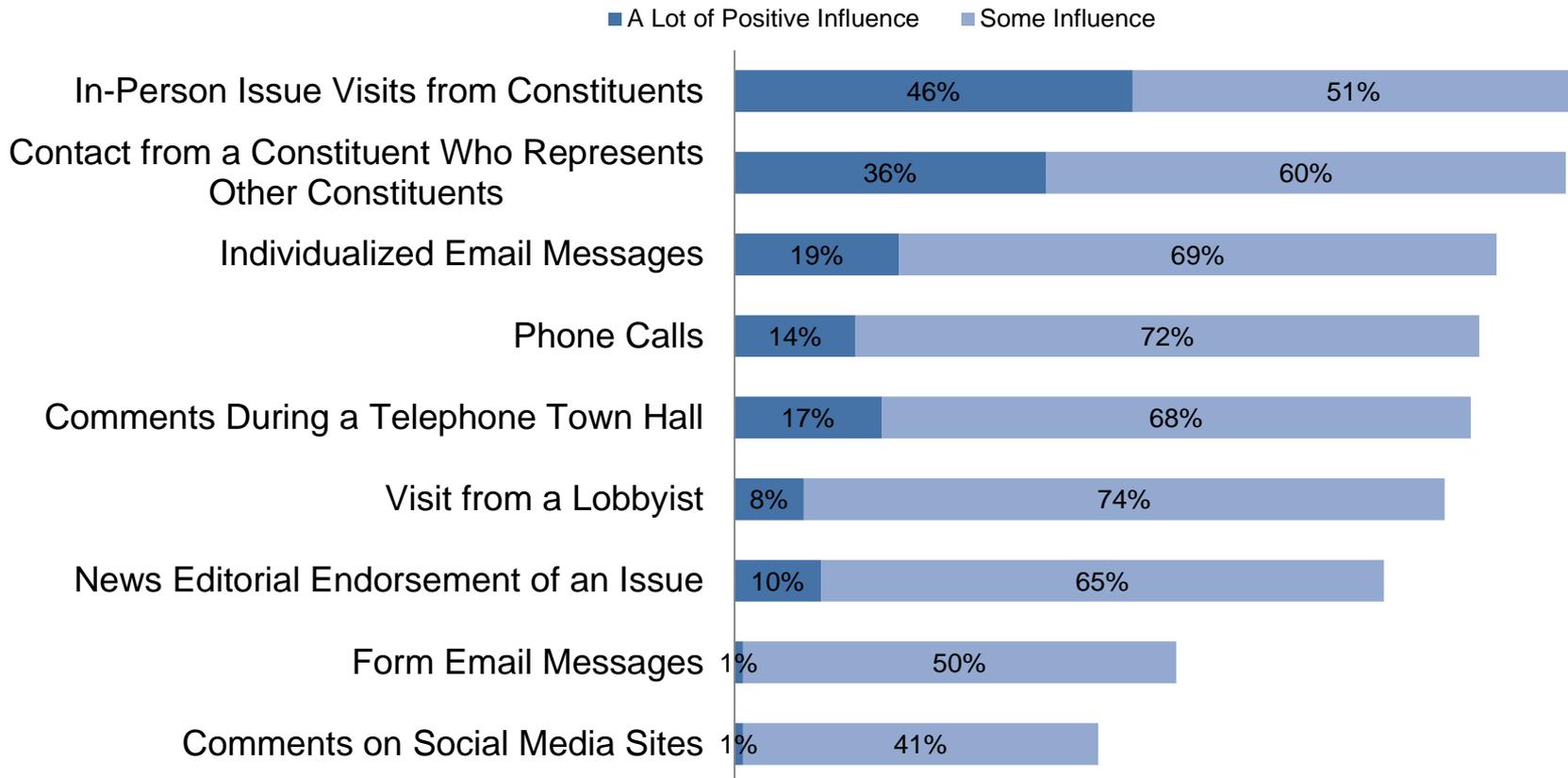
- “My legislator already supports research”
  - It is critical to thank your supporters.
  - There is always more to do.
- “My legislator would never support research”
  - You might be surprised.
  - Even a shift from opposed to neutral helps the cause.

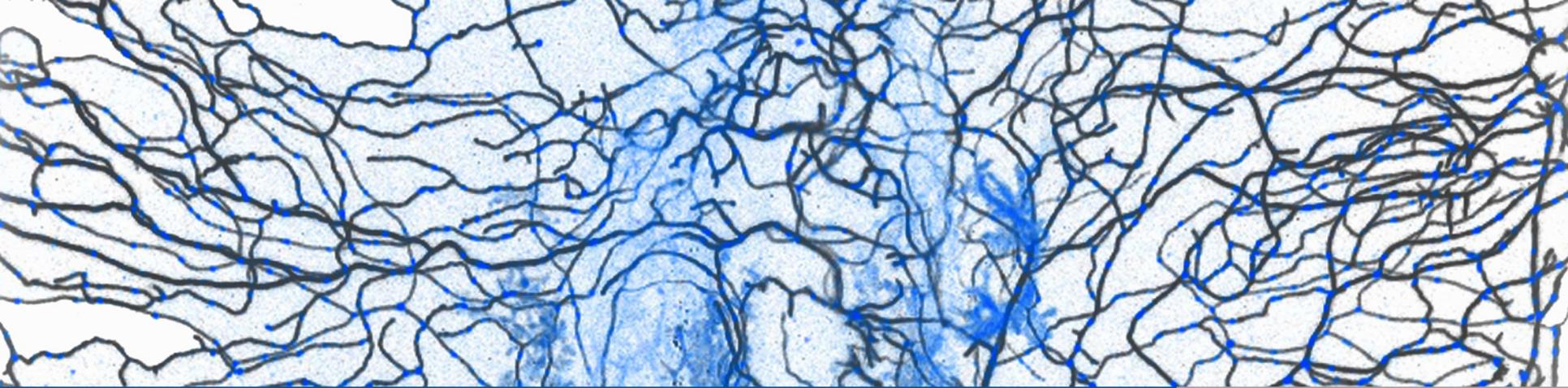
The bottom line: in this fiscal environment, members of Congress must choose between programs they support.

# You Can Make a Difference



**If your Member/Senator has not already arrived at a firm decision on an issue, how much influence might the following advocacy strategies directed to the Washington office have on his/her decision?**



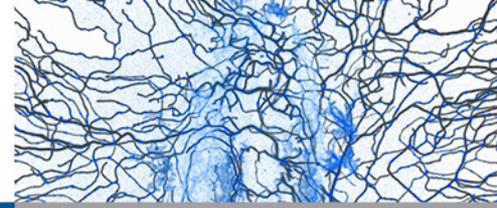


# Take Action

## How Scientists Can Advocate Effectively

Allen Segal

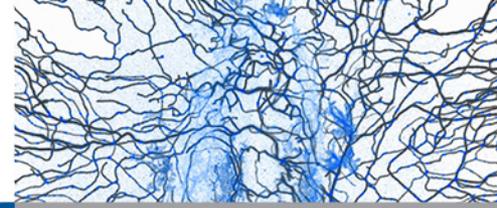
# Take Action



## Which of these activities have you done in support of research?

- A. Participated in a Hill Day or other in-person meeting
- B. Hosted a lab tour
- C. Written about science funding in the media
- D. Sent a letter or email to a legislator
- E. Interacted with a lawmaker on social media

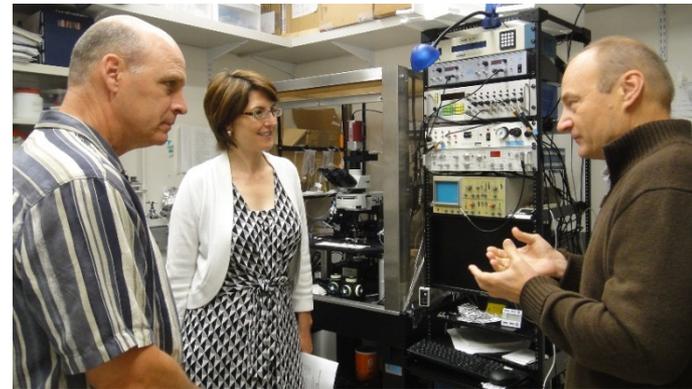
# Take Action



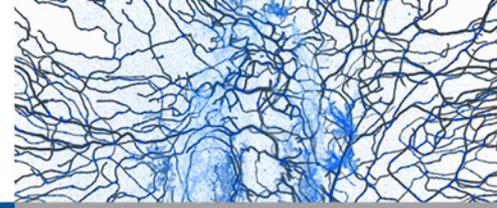
## In-Person Opportunities

Face-to-face meetings with legislators make the issues more memorable.

- Meetings
  - In-district meetings
  - Hill Days
  - One-on-one DC meetings
- Town Halls
- Lab Tours



# Take Action



## Advocacy Action Center

- Use [SfN.org/ActionCenter](https://www.sfn.org/actioncenter) to generate email messages to your representatives in the U.S. Congress.

The screenshot shows the SfN.org website's Advocacy Action Center. The top navigation bar includes 'Take Action' and 'My SfN'. The main content area is titled 'Take Action!' and features several links to advocacy campaigns, such as 'Kansan Scientists: Ask Senator Moran to Support Increased Funding for NIH' and 'Thank Air France for Affirming Its Commitment to Biomedical Research'. Below this is a 'Find Your Elected Officials' section with a search form for ZIP codes.

# Take Action



## Other Activities

- Letter to the editor or OpEd
  - Email [advocacy@sfn.org](mailto:advocacy@sfn.org) for a template.
- Call your legislator
- Communicate with your legislator through social media.
  - Look them up:
    - <http://govsm.com/w/Senate>
    - <http://govsm.com/w/House>
  - Or use sites like: [SoundOffAtCongress.org](http://SoundOffAtCongress.org)

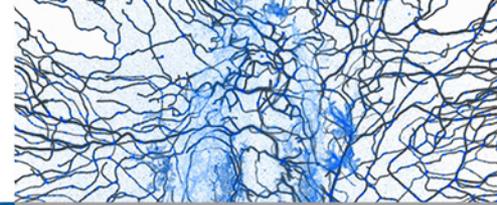
# Take Action



## Educate Yourself

- Join the Advocacy Network
- Visit [SfN.org/Advocacy](http://SfN.org/Advocacy)
  - Watch our recorded webinars.
  - Check out the provided resources.
- Follow SfN on social media
  - @SfNtweets
  - [Facebook.com/SocietyforNeuroscience](https://www.facebook.com/SocietyforNeuroscience)
- Visit us at the SfN booth at AM 2013

# Take Action



## Spread the Word

- Incorporate “advocacy slide” into your scientific talk.
- Discuss federal funding for science in your undergraduate or graduate courses.

### Become a Scientist-Advocate



#### • The Facts:

- NIH's funding is 20% lower today than in 2003, taking into account biomedical research inflation.
- Paylines for research grants are at an all-time low.
- Sequestration cuts \$1.6 billion from the NIH in FY2013 alone and is set to be in effect for 10 years.

**The Bottom Line: Scientists need to speak up for research**

#### • What You Can Do:

- Stay informed
- Communicate with Congress
- Spread the word to fellow scientists
- Public outreach

For more information: <http://www.sfn.org/advocacy> or email [advocacy@sfn.org](mailto:advocacy@sfn.org)



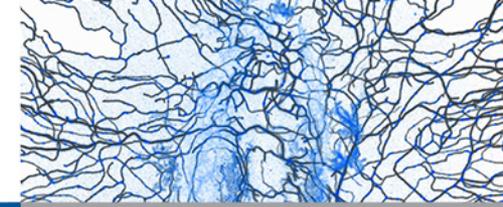
Stand up for Science  
[SfN.org/Advocacy](http://SfN.org/Advocacy)



Concerned about dropping paylines?  
Speak Up!  
[SfN.org/Advocacy](http://SfN.org/Advocacy)



# Take Action



## Spread the Word

- Encourage advocacy at your institution or SfN chapter
  - [Chapter grants](#) are available to fund advocacy-related activities.
  - Join a science policy group—or start one!
  - Submit a Theme H poster on your advocacy activity.

**Congressman Mike Doyle (PA - 14) Lab Tour**  
Center for Neuroscience, University of Pittsburgh  
Daniel A. Jimenez<sup>2</sup>, Robert S. Turner<sup>1</sup>, Mark Cason<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1<sup>2

**Congressman Mike Doyle**  
Congressman Doyle represents Pennsylvania's 14th district encompassing the city of Pittsburgh and nearby Allegheny counties, including the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. He is a generous supporter of NIH funding and has introduced legislation to increase funding for NIH and regularly signs letters supporting annual increases in the NIH budget.

**NIH funding through ARRA**  
A focus of the visit was the 10 billion in new funding that had recently been included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Congressman Doyle visited the Center of ARRA, regularly votes for increased NIH funding, and consistently co-signs congressional letters supporting increases in NIH funding.

**Health Care Reform & NIH: Special Town Hall forum**  
Following the lab tour Representative Doyle was asked to address the Pittsburgh Neuroscience community regarding NIH funding and biomedical research's long term impact on health care reform. These remarks were followed by Q&A from the audience where questions regarding Rep. Doyle's co-sponsorship of the Global War on Alzheimer's Act and Intellectual Property was asked.

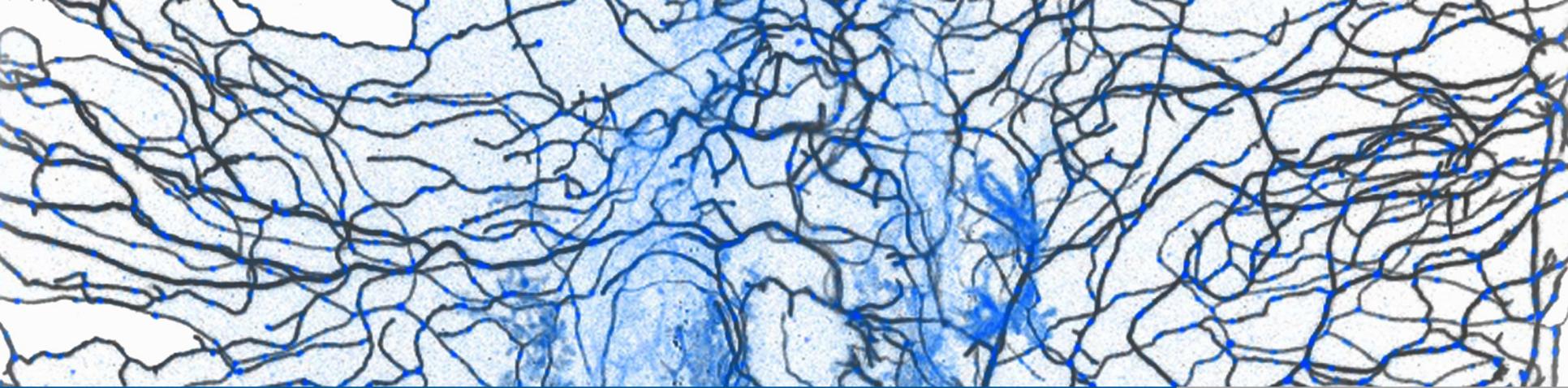
**Center for Neuroscience Lab Tour**  
The lab tour was planned by Chulup graduate students and the Center for Neuroscience. Rep. Doyle was led through open laboratory space occupied by the likes of principal investigators highlighting ongoing research.

**What is Neuroscience?**  
Six prominent members of the Pittsburgh Neuroscience community were invited to speak with Congressman Doyle about neuroscience prior to the lab tour.

**Discussion participants**  
Rep. Doyle was led through open laboratory space occupied by the likes of principal investigators highlighting ongoing research.

**Follow up**  
A thank you letter from the Chulup co-directors was mailed & hand delivered immediately following the visit.

**Acknowledgements**  
Their representation together to honor and welcome Representative Doyle's visit to the Center for Neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh. The Center for Neuroscience & Advocacy committee was responsible for the invitation, planning, and execution of the visit.</sup></sup>



# Questions?

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[SfN.org/Advocacy](https://www.sfn.org/advocacy)