WASHINGTON UPDATE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
Week of May 4 – 8, 2020

THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION

- This week, the Senate is in session.
- This week, the Senate is expected to take up the nomination of Robert J. Feitel to be inspector general of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. They are also expected to consider “mission-critical” nominations.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

- On Monday, UC FGR launched a COVID-19 landing page on the FGR website that serves as a home for UC’s federal COVID-19 materials.
- Last week, UC FGR launched its FY 2021 budget advocacy toolkit, which includes resources designed to assist in advocating for robust and sustained investments in federal education, research and health care programs.
- Last week, UC FGR continued its ongoing advocacy related to COVID-19, engaging with Congress as well as partner organizations:
  - UC FGR hosteud a virtual briefing, “UC COVID-19 Briefing Series: UC Research” and shared how UC’s research enterprise is addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - UC FGR shared tax and financing mechanism priorities with the California congressional delegation and key congressional committees.
  - UC FGR joined Reps. Doris Matsui and Alan Lowenthal in advocating for a congressional sign-on letter to encourage House leadership to support an additional investment of $47 billion in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. The letter was shared May 4.
  - UC FGR and campus governmental relations directors encouraged the California delegation to sign on to the Dear Colleague letter led by Reps. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Fred Upton (R-MI) requesting $26 billion in the next emergency appropriations to fund additional graduate student and postdoc fellowships.
  - UC FGR’s Director of Education Crystal Martinez – along with Director of Student Financial Support Shawn Brick and Associate Director of State Budget Relations Seija Virtanen – participated in a panel hosted by the UC Student Association to discuss the budget and funding landscape related to the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic for the University.
  - Campus vice chancellors for research and lab deputy directors hosted a call with the House Science Committee staff and discussed research priorities and how the UC has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - UCLA Health President and Vice Chancellor Johnese Spisso addressed congressional members and their staff during a meeting of the California State Society focused on the COVID-19 pandemic.

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

- UC’s FY 2021 Appropriations Tracker
UC’s FY 2021 Funding Priorities
UC’s FY 2021 Budget Advocacy Toolkit
Upcoming Congressional Activity:
  o On Wednesday, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on the COVID-19 response.

THIS WEEK IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AND POLICY BRIEFINGS

- On Wednesday, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing to examine COVID-19, focusing on how new information can drive policy.
- On Wednesday, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing to examine Department of Defense spectrum policy and the impact of the Federal Communication Commission’s Ligado decision on national security.
- On Thursday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will hold a hearing titled “Shark Tank: New Tests for COVID-19.”

Washington Update is a publication of the University of California Office of Federal Governmental Relations
Director of Communications and Advocacy Nicole Carlotto, Governmental Relations and Advocacy Assistant Nikki Dalupang

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Associate Vice President for Federal Governmental Relations Chris Harrington

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University of California Office of Federal Governmental Relations
1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW
Second Floor
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 974-6300
Fax: (202) 974-6330
http://www.ucop.edu/federal-governmental-relations