

Yesterday night the Senate passed their fiscal year (FY) 2008 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill. This bill provides the annual funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Library of Medicine (NLM). Furthermore, this years Senate-passed bill seeks to increase funding for NIH by \$1 billion (3.5%) and funding for NLM by \$6.97 million (2.1%).

This bill also contains an important provision that requires investigators funded by NIH to submit their peer-reviewed manuscripts to NLM's PubMed Central database within 1 year of publication. Initially, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) introduced two amendments (S.Amdt.3416 & S.Amdt.3417) that would eliminate and undermine this provision. However, concerned advocates contacted their Senators and these amendments were never even brought up for consideration.

The Senate-passed bill will now have to be negotiated with the FY 2008 Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill that was passed by the House of Representatives earlier this year. While both bills contain the important NIH public access provision, the House-passed bill contains smaller funding increases for NIH and NLM. In the near future, advocates will be called on to contact their Members of Congress and ensure that the higher Senate-passed NIH and NLM funding levels are included in the compromised bill which will be sent to the President for final approval.

-Dane