



Dear ASHG Advocate,

We have a few updates to give you on recent policy and advocacy-related activities and developments.

NIH Funding Alert: The President released his budget plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 last week, which includes slashing the NIH budget by 12% compared to FY 2019 funding levels. So far, the reaction by ASHG members has been tremendous in reaching out to Congress. If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to [TAKE ACTION](#) through our Advocacy Center.

Genetics and Public Policy Fellowship: Application for ASHG's [2019-2020 Genetics and Public Policy Fellowship](#) is now open. The deadline for application submission is **Friday, April 19, 2019**. The fellowship is for early-career professionals transitioning to policy and is co-sponsored by the National Human Genome Research Institute. We encourage all interested eligible members to apply.

Capitol Hill Updates

FASEB Hill Day: [FASEB's annual Capitol Hill Day](#) was on March 7, 2019. ASHG joined 57 scientists from 29 states meeting with their representatives in Congress to advocate for biomedical research funding. Key issues raised included increasing the budget for NIH and NSF. Photos and tweets related to the event can be found at [@FASEBorg](#) and [#RaisetheCaps](#) and [#FundScience](#).



Access to Genetic Counselor Services Act: The National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) reported that [Rep. Dave Loebsack \(D-Iowa\)](#) has agreed to sponsor the [re-introduction](#) of the bill, which would improve access to genetic counselors by expanding coverage under Medicare. ASHG, in concert with NSGC, [supported similar legislation last](#)

[year](#), when it was introduced in the House. ASHG will be on alert when the bill is introduced in the 116th Congress.

Thank you for your advocacy!

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