Federal Update: Budget and More!
February 24, 2021

Moderator:
Wendy Streitz, COGR
President

Panelists:
Matt Hourihan, Director of
R&D Budget and Policy, AAAS
Matthew Owens, EVP and VP
for Federal Relations, AAU
Sarah Spreitzer, Director of
Government Relations, ACE
Types of Regulatory Action

- Unified Agenda
- Presidential Actions (including Executive Orders, proclamations, and memoranda)
- Policy Memorandums
- Proposed Rules
- Interim Final rules
- Congressional Review Act
Use of Regulatory Actions

Trump Administration
• Many ultimately caught up in litigation and in the courts (i.e. travel ban)
• January 2017 EO 13771, “Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs”

Comparison to previous administrations
• Trump issued a total of 894 executive actions, with 220 of those EO’s. George W. Bush had 291, Clinton had 364, and Obama had 276 (two terms).
• Usually used when Congress is uncooperative or to address timely issues.
Biden actions so far.....

January 20th memo issuing a regulatory freeze

Withdrawal of proposed rules (i.e. DHS rule on SEVIS/ Confucius Institutes)

Biden Presidential Actions:
• January 27 “Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence Based Policy Making”
• January 27 “Executive Order on the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology”
• January 20 “Proclamation on Ending Discriminatory Bans on Entry to the U.S.”
• January 20 “Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government”
What happens if a rule has been finalized?

Use of the Congressional Review Act (unlikely to happen)

Can carry out new rulemaking process, final rule will continue until a new rule replaces it

Biden WH also watching court cases

Outstanding issues for higher education:
  • Title IX
  • Section 117 ICR and investigations
  • Others
Looking Ahead to R&D Appropriations

Matt Hourihan
February 24, 2021
For the Council on Government Relations
AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program
http://www.aaas.org/rd
Upcoming Milestones

- First up: COVID-19 reconciliation package
- Biden Budget: Full details out in April or so?
- Congressional Budget: how much will we spend? Defense vs. Nondefense?
- Appropriations in summer
  - Debt ceiling returns
- Remember: nobody knows anything
Science Agency Budget Increases Since January 2017

Percent change from FY 2016 - FY 2021, nominal dollars

- DOE Energy Tech*
- NIH
- DOD Science and Tech
- DOE Office of Science
- VA Research
- NOAA Research
- U.S. Geo Survey
- NASA
- NIST Labs
- NSF
- USDA Programs

* Nuclear, fossil, renewables, efficiency, grid security and reliability, ARPA-E.

Source: agency budget documents and appropriations. | AAAS 2021
Federal Deficits as Percent of GDP, Actual vs Projected

- World War II
- Tech bubble
- Financial crisis
For more info...

mhouriha@aaas.org
@MattHourihan
http://www.aaas.org/rd
Matthew Owens
Executive Vice President and Vice President for Federal Relations
Association of American Universities
Q & A
Next Session: Disclosure Requirements @ 2 pm EST