

APA Policy News: What's Happening in Psychology, Health, and Washington?

As we head into the fall, there's a lot happening in Washington, D.C., that could affect psychology, health care, and education. Here's a quick update on what the American Psychological Association (APA) is doing to advocate for mental health, science, and social justice.



Government Budget Talks: What's the Hold-Up?

Congress is racing against the clock to avoid a government shutdown at the end of the month. House leaders from both parties recently met to discuss a short-term deal to keep the government running, but no final agreement has been made yet. APA is keeping a close eye on this because it affects funding for mental health programs and research.

Defending Science: A Letter to the White House

APA and 90 other organizations signed a letter to the White House urging support for trustworthy, evidence-based science. This comes in response to a recent Executive Order aiming to improve how the government uses science in policymaking. APA wants to make sure that psychology and other sciences are protected and respected in that process.

APA 2025 On Demand: Learn Anytime, Anywhere

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It): Registration is now open for **APA 2025 On Demand!** You can watch nearly 30 hours of top sessions from the conference in Denver and earn up to **24.5 continuing education (CE) credits** all from the comfort of your home, between now and December 3, 2025.

Psychology and Artificial Intelligence in Health Care

AI is becoming a big part of health care, from diagnosing patients to virtual chatbots. Without proper oversight, it can cause serious problems. APA's Dr. Vaile Wright recently spoke to Congress about this. She warned that some AI tools may mislead users or even worsen health

inequalities. APA is pushing for smart rules to keep AI ethical and fair — and to make sure psychological science helps guide how AI is used in health care.

Medicare Payment Problems: What It Means for Psychologists

APA staff met with top Congressional health care aides to discuss issues with Medicare especially how mental health providers are paid. There's concern that current payment models don't reflect rising costs or new ways of delivering care. Policymakers are also looking at how AI and new tech could be factored into future Medicare rules. APA is working to ensure psychology has a voice in those conversations.

Education Funding: Cuts on the Horizon?

The House just released a draft budget for education programs for next year and it includes some serious cuts. While some programs like Pell Grants and Head Start are safe for now, others like Title I and higher education aid could see big reductions. We're still waiting to hear how programs that support psychology training and mental health services will be affected. The Senate has proposed a more stable funding plan, which APA supports. More updates are expected soon.

Reproductive Rights and Mental Health: APA Responds to VA Proposal

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) wants to **remove abortion and abortion counseling** from its health coverage. APA is strongly opposing this move. Research shows that denying access to reproductive care can worsen mental health especially for underserved communities. APA also raised red flags about how this could affect veterans who have experienced **military sexual trauma (MST)**. They're urging the VA to consider the real-world mental health consequences of this rule.