

September 12, 2025

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

What's Happening in Congress

- The House passed a budget bill to fund health, education, and labor programs.
- It includes a 6% cut to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), but that's less than what the White House wanted.
- The Senate is working on its own version.
- These budget discussions are separate from the bigger negotiations to prevent a government shutdown later this month.

Why It Matters for Psychology

- APA has been pushing all year to protect funding for psychology services, training programs, and research.
- So far, programs like the Minority Fellowship Program and the Graduate Psychology Education Program have been maintained in the House's bill, which is a positive sign.

Administration Update

- Today (Sept. 12, 2025) is the last chance to submit comments on the proposed 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.
- Psychologists' feedback has been crucial in past years to keep telehealth and other behavioral health services covered.
- APA is encouraging everyone to take 2 minutes to submit comments through its action center.

APA's Advocacy Work This Week

1. AI and Brain Research – APA participated in a Capitol Hill briefing on how neuroscience and psychology research is shaping artificial intelligence. The goal is to make sure psychological science has a voice in how AI develops and is regulated.
2. Whole-Person Health Summit – APA contributed to a CMS project focused on creating new patient questions that address mental, behavioral, and social health alongside physical health.
3. Hill Day for Training Programs – APA and fellows met with lawmakers to secure future funding for psychology education programs like the Minority Fellowship.