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Transplantation and Cellular Therapy

Congress Embraces Bipartisan Funding Agreement as it Looks for the Exit

The House of Representatives returned from their August recess after Labor Day and immediately got to work in passing the Senate's Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the federal government through December 11, 2026. Despite the House's steady work on fiscal year (FY) 2027 appropriations bills over the summer, the Senate's lack of progress prompted both sides to take up a CR. Extending government funding at FY26 levels—the fiscal year ends September 30 each year—enables members of Congress to return to the midterm campaign trail without the distraction of a government shutdown.

The CR includes language that prohibits the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) from finalizing and/or implementing its proposed overhaul of the Uniform Guidance. This language received bipartisan support from Senators concerned about OMB's proposed overhaul of the federal grant process. While this sentiment is less known in the House, the Senate's language did not prompt enough concern to delay passing the CR.

While the House—and many Senators—may be willing to ignore their concerns for the sake of the CR, OMB's proposed Uniform Guidance overhaul will be a lingering issue when Congress returns to post-election FY27 negotiations. The November mid-term elections will significantly affect FY27 discussions, as well as the legislative calendar for the remainder of the year.

The House's willingness to ignore the Senate's OMB language also shows that Congress has turned its attention to November's election. September is usually a busy work month for Congress, but members—especially House Republicans—are vying for the nearest exit. Staying in session can be a liability for the majority party, and many Republicans face competitive elections back home. Even though Congress has a long to-do list that is growing, the House adjourned today—two weeks early—so members can return to the campaign trail. The Senate is expected to stay in session through September as planned.



Even if the halls of Congress are quieter in the coming weeks, ASTCT will still be there for our annual Hill Day. On September 24, ASTCT members from across the country will be on Capitol Hill to advocate for increased NIH funding, oppose the implementation of Uniform Guidance changes, and support the C.W. Bill Young Transplantation Program's reauthorization. Look for more information in the coming weeks on how you can engage with your Congressional representatives on these asks.

Learn more about ASTCT Payer and Government Relations activities, and how you can get involved, on ASTCT's Advocacy webpage or contact Molly Ford, ASTCT's Director of Government and Payer Relations.

