Subject: May 28 Newsletter
To attach: Disability Rights Iowa Medicaid Fact Sheet



May 28, 2025

To our fellow friends of science,

Welcome to the May 28th edition of our newsletter! Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives *narrowly* passed (by a margin of 215-214) a reconciliation bill, otherwise known as the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," that includes sweeping changes to federal taxation and spending. This bill includes substantial cuts to Medicaid, the popular health insurance program covering individuals with low-income and disabilities, which the President has repeatedly claimed he would not cut (for more information on Medicaid, please see the attached fact sheet from Disability Rights Iowa). Science, medicine, and healthcare are undoubtedly intertwined: our biomedical research, scientific discoveries, and public health initiatives are meant to support the health of *everyone* in our community, not just those with privileged access to private or employer-funded insurance plans. The Des Moines Register reports that if this bill is enacted, Iowa stands to lose $518 million of federal funding, and consequently, 86,000 Iowans could lose access to Medicaid. **All four Iowa Representatives voted to pass this bill** that restricts Iowan's access to healthcare. To stand against our Representatives' actions, we were at the Solidarity Summer event last week, along with other organizations in the Iowa City community. Importantly, the reconciliation bill now goes to the Senate, and we urge you to **call your Senators** and **tell them to vote "NO"** (See below in this email for Iowan Senators' phone numbers). We must make it clear that the cutting-edge healthcare fueled by our scientific discoveries must be available to *everyone*, not only those wealthy enough to afford it.

On May 23, the Trump Administration issued an Executive Order (EO), named "Restoring Gold Standard Science," which calls for a massive overhaul of how federal agencies handle scientific research. This EO, released on a Friday evening of a holiday weekend with little fanfare, was intended to attract little attention and included scientific jargon such as "transparent" & "reproducible". However, the intentions of this EO become clear in Section 7, which outlines that political appointees are empowered to find and punish researchers who don't align with Trump's agenda. This EO is consistent with the administration's continued attempts to pressure scientists, as evidenced by recent remarks made at the National Academy of Sciences by Michael Kratsios, the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he claims that "DEI represents an existential threat" to the foundation of science. For a

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more thorough summary of this administration's attacks on science, please see a minority report published by the U.S. Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee. If you are as concerned as we are about these actions, **we urge you to sign Stand Up for Science's open letter against the EO**–this letter is open to everyone that believes in science, and you have the option to either sign anonymously or add your name to the public list of signers. We must continue to stand together against the attacks on science.

The Trump Administration has also recently announced, in a post made by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., that the COVID-19 vaccine would no longer be recommended by the CDC for healthy pregnant women and children. This decision was made despite evidence that pregnant women in particular remain at higher risk for poor outcomes from COVID-19 infection. This change in recommendation comes on the heels of an announcement of new proposed requirements for COVID-19 vaccine approval. Both of these actions set the stage for restricted access to COVID-19 vaccines and were made without the usual input from independent external advisors. Denise Jameison, vice president for medical affairs at the University of Iowa was quotes in a recent New York Times article that the proposed change in the approval process "doesn't preserve people's choice to get vaccinated" and adds that "C.D.C. is the agency that really has the expertise in that area," referring to the agency's panel of external advisers who were excluded from the process. Stand Up for Science Iowa will continue to keep you informed on issues related to vaccines and ways to get involved in ensuring vaccine access.

In an escalation of their attempts to strong-arm institutions of higher education to adhere to their political agenda, last Thursday the Trump Administration revoked Harvard's ability to enroll international students. Shortly after, a Judge temporarily blocked the Administration's actions. There will be an in-person hearing on the preliminary injunction tomorrow, and we will provide updates as we know them.

Given these continuous attacks on science, healthcare, education, and knowledge itself, we once again want to encourage participation in the McClintock Letters campaign, an effort encouraging scientists across the U.S. to write op-eds to their local newspapers about their science, why it matters, and why science is worth investing in. This is a great opportunity for scientists to communicate with our communities, rebuild trust, and sway public opinion. **We are hosting a writing session tonight at the Iowa City Public Library from 5-7 PM**–we look forward to seeing you there!

TL;DR ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS NEWSLETTER

1. Call your Senators and tell them to vote "NO" on the Reconciliation Bill AKA the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act"
    a. Charles Grassley: 202-224-3744
    b. Joni Ernst: 202-224-3254
2. Sign the Stand Up for Science Open Letter against Trump's "Restoring Gold Standard Science" executive order - HERE!

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3. Join us tonight at the Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Room B, from 5-7 PM for the Writing Session for the McClintock Letters
    a. If you are unable to join, you can still participate in the Letters campaign! See here for a "McClintock Letters writing guide" to help you get started.

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Archived Newsletters

Policy Updates

- National, court cases:
    - 3:25-cv-00042 - *John Doe 1 v. Department of Homeland Security*. This is the lawsuit filed on behalf of four University of Iowa international students who had their visas revoked.
        - On May 15, Judge ruled for a preliminary injunction that would remain in place until the conclusion of the case (DHS barred from taking any immigration-related action until their lawsuit is resolved - good news!)
    - 3:25-cv-03698 - *AFL-CIO v. Trump*. This lawsuit was filed on behalf of federal employees who were affected by government restructuring.
        - A temporary restraining order was issued blocking some mass layoffs, and a preliminary injunction preventing further restructuring and layoffs was granted on May 22.
    - 1:25-cv-10338 - *Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. NIH*. This case blocked the 15% cap on NIH grants.
        - A permanent injunction was granted on April 4th to prevent this cap from being implemented. Government filed an appeal on April 8th.
    - 1:25-cv-10814 - *Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. Kennedy Jr*. This case is about the cancellation of DEI grants, filed on April 4th.
        - Currently the question of jurisdiction has been ruled upon and both sides have agreed to a course of action moving forward. Next hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 15.
    - 1:25-cv-10787 - *APHA v. NIH*. This case is also regarding the cancellation of DEI grants and is backed by the ACLU. Filed on April 2nd.

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        - A hearing was held on May 22 on a motion to dismiss, but a ruling has not come down yet. Next case management hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 3.
    - 1:25-cv-11472 - *President and Fellows of Harvard College v. United States Department of Homeland Security.* This is a lawsuit over the government trying to prevent Harvard University from enrolling international students
        - A temporary restraining order is in place as of May 23, and a hearing on a preliminary injunction is scheduled for May 29.
- State:
    - HF 856: An act prohibiting public entities from engaging in certain activities relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
        - **This bill was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on 5/27**
    - SF180: This bill would authorize individuals who refuse services such as vaccines to bring a civil action against healthcare providers and employers by using purposely broad language.
        - 5/15: Rereferred to judiciary
    - HF 401 ("Core Curriculum Act"): "An act providing for general education requirements for undergraduate students at regents institutions and including applicability provisions"
        - 4/10: Placed on calendar under unfinished business

Upcoming Events

(You can also view events by subscribing to our Google Calendar)

- **The McClintock Letters Initiative**
    - Location: Wherever you are!
        - Iowa Neuroscience Institute Workshop for all UI scientists - **TODAY**, Wednesday, May 28th from 3-4 PM
        - Writing Session (hosted by us, SUFS Iowa!) - **TODAY**, Wednesday, May 28th from 5-7 PM at the Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Room B
    - Details: Federal funding for scientific research is under unprecedented threat. But how the public responds to this threat depends on the stories they hear, and who they hear them from. Unfortunately, local communities rarely get to connect with the scientists whose work their tax dollars support. To help increase opportunities for public awareness of the impactful research being done across the United States, please consider participating in the McClintock Letters.
- **State of the Science Address (National Academy of Sciences)**
    - Location: Virtual or In-person (2101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington D.C. 20418)
    - Time: June 3rd from 3-5pm EST (2-4pm in Iowa)

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    - Details: Register here. National Academy of Sciences President Marcia McNutt will deliver the second annual State of the Science Address, focusing on the current status of the U.S. research enterprise and strategies for navigating a rapidly changing scientific landscape. After the address, Kelvin Droegemeier, former director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (2019 to 2021) will moderate a discussion with research leaders.
- **Public Comment Workshop (hosted by COGS)**
    - Location: 120 N Dubuque St.
    - Date/Time: June 5 at 5pm
    - Details: Public comment workshop hosted by COGS in preparation for the Iowa Board of Regents Meeting
- **Iowa Board of Regents Meeting**
    - Location: University of Iowa, will likely be at Levitt Center, Iowa City, IA.
    - Date/Time: June 10th-12th
    - Details: The Iowa Board of Regents will be meeting at the University of Iowa. We will pass along more details on the meeting as they become available.
- **No Kings Rally - ALL JUNE 14th**
    - Omaha/Council Bluffs: Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park, Council Bluffs, 10AM-2PM
    - Atlantic, Iowa: City Park, Atlantic, 11AM- 12PM
    - Perry, Iowa: Big Bicycle, Perry, 12PM-1PM
    - Des Moines-Central Iowa: Sign-up for event location, 12PM-2PM
    - Indianola: Moats Park, Indianola, 10AM-11AM
    - North Iowa: Central Park, Mason City, 12PM-2:30PM
    - Oskaloosa: 12:30PM-1:30PM
    - Iowa City: 11AM-2PM
    - Cedar Rapids: 10AM-12PM
    - Davenport: MLK Interpretive Center, 12PM-2PM
    - Cedar Valley: Lincoln Park, Waterloo, 1PM-4PM
    - Dubuque: Washington Park, Dubuque, 12PM-12:30PM
    - Clinton: Clinton County Board-Sprvsrs, 2PM-4PM
    - Charles City: Charles City Arts Center, 6-7PM
    - Details: On June 14th-Flag Day-Donald Trump wants tanks in the street and a made-for-TV display of dominance for his birthday. A spectacle meant to look like strength. But real power isn't staged in Washington. It rises up everywhere else. https://www.nokings.org/