

Elections 2016: Implications for Research, Higher Education, and Academic Medicine

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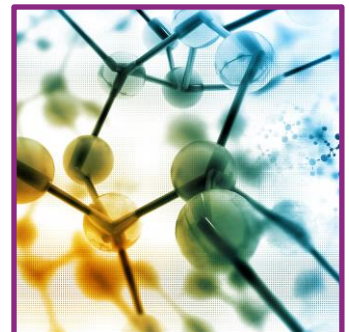
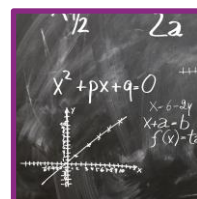


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Introduction

After a historic presidential campaign period, President-elect Donald Trump will be sworn in as the forty-fifth President of the United States in January 2017. While candidate Trump expressed some clear positions for his term, the public is aware of the general contours but not in-depth specifics. Existing Congressional Republican priorities and policies may, but are not certain to, be adopted by the Trump White House.

Beyond the White House race, voters reelected Republican majorities in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, which means the United States will have one party governance for the first time since President Obama's first two years in office. In 2009-2010, Democrats used their unified majorities to pass sweeping legislation such as the economic stimulus package, the Affordable Care Act, and financial Wall Street reforms. Similarly, passage of legislation will take on a heightened role with Republicans now at the helm of the White House and Congress. What isn't clear is the extent to which the White House will be setting the legislative agenda beyond a few key interests in healthcare, immigration, and infrastructure.

Until the Trump Administration has an opportunity to shape its first budget request to Congress, many of the existing programs around which day-to-day grants and contracts interactions occur will likely continue. After the new White House has a chance to populate the agencies with new appointees and put its own imprint on them, some of these programs may change but many of them may emerge from the process unaltered.

This document outlines the election results and what they may mean for the research and higher education communities. Appendix A describes changes in and agendas for individual congressional committees. Appendix B describes individual state-specific congressional delegations for the 115th Congress.

Trump Administration Outlook – Impact on Research, Education, and Healthcare

Shifting from the campaign to the transition and 2017, President-elect Trump will now turn to filling senior and political posts within his Administration, developing specific policy proposals and strategies, and deciding on early initiatives beyond his inauguration on January 20th. As mentioned above, the Trump campaign has highlighted some key legislative priorities such as reducing immigration and strengthening border security, lowering taxes, infrastructure renewal and development, and repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). At a more detailed level, his proposed policies have not been fleshed out with respect to education, science, technology, or a replacement for the ACA. Therefore, much is still unknown about a Trump Administration and how it would treat universities and the research and healthcare communities. As the transition team and the new Administration refine their policy agenda, prioritize actions for early legislative activities, and identify agency and White House leadership, the ensuing months will be a critical period for universities and science organizations to engage and offer suggestions for agency and White House leadership positions as well as for input on emerging initiatives. At the same time, it is important for the community to assess Trump positions as more details emerge and decide where and how to best concentrate energy with respect to key priorities.

While much is still unknown about President-elect Trump's approach to research, education, and healthcare, initial information has emerged in each area as to potential policy approaches and initiatives. Our current knowledge about how the Trump Administration might treat each area is included below.

Research

Research, science, and technology have not been high profile issues for the Trump campaign, yet the campaign has recently outlined some key foci and general thinking by means of policy advisors and responses to questionnaires such as Science Debate.¹ President-elect Trump has been clear that while the constrained fiscal environment will require prioritization, he views investment in academic research and space exploration as critical roles for the federal government and appropriate areas for long term investment. He has also noted a few major challenge areas that could become areas of focus for his Administration such as cybersecurity, defense research, clean water, energy independence, and feeding the world with a special emphasis on the role of agriculture. In particular, in the area of space policy the campaign has outlined a more detailed vision through advisor and former congressman Robert Walker that would include an increase in deep space exploration and a focus on hypersonics technology at the expense of Earth science.² Past Republican Administrations have specifically emphasized basic research but also deprioritized applied research, environmental sciences, and social and behavioral sciences, and this is a potential approach of the Trump Administration as well.

Education

The next presidential administration is likely to have a strong voice in issues pertaining to higher education, although details from President-elect Trump are scarce. As would be the case in any administration, higher education policymaking is complicated by diverse factions within the community, each of which has unique and sometimes conflicting interests. These different groups include public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education, for-profit institutions, students, elite research universities, liberal arts institutions, and community colleges.

While President-elect Trump has not provided detailed plans for higher education reform, he has referenced tenets of the Republican Party's platform, including support for eliminating or reducing the power of the Department of Education (ED), returning the student loan system to the private sector, reducing the breadth of the H-1B visa program, and eliminating the gainful employment mandate. President-elect Trump has also expressed interest in decentralizing the role of the federal government, in areas such as accreditation, which will increase the role of states and the private sector.

One of the more concrete education proposals offered by President-elect Trump is an income-based repayment plan for federal student debt. He proposes payments be capped at 12.5 percent of income per month and that debt be forgiven after 15 years of steady repayment. The current Revised Pay As You Earn plan (REPAYE) caps payments at 10 percent of monthly income and forgives student debt after 20 years. President-elect Trump has also said he would consider the tax-exempt status of large endowments as an incentive to lower student costs. President-elect Trump has expressed interest in reforming and reducing federal regulations on universities. Further, there is a potential for a Trump Administration to counteract what it sees as regulatory overreach taken by ED under the Obama

¹ <http://sciencedebate.org/20answers>

² <http://spacenews.com/what-a-trump-administration-means-for-space/>

Administration, such as its rules on gainful employment, teacher preparation programs, as well as the Department of Labor's rule on overtime pay.

Healthcare

President-elect Trump has emphasized his intention to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as an early priority for his Administration. He is expected to work with Republicans in Congress to repeal certain provisions in the ACA, and may use the reconciliation process to do it, which only requires a simple majority in both chambers. However, this may ultimately be a longer-term effort as Republicans will have to think strategically about how to dismantle the law while replacing it with other policies that could lessen the impact on those who have gained health coverage under the ACA.

While the president-elect has not offered specifics for any sort of alternative healthcare plan, there will likely be a push to grant more flexibility to states to administer their own healthcare programs, as well as a move to encourage people to purchase health insurance across state lines. In addition, President-elect Trump has indicated his support for the distribution of Medicaid block-grants to states in place of the ACA Medicaid expansion, a position also supported by Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.³

Other healthcare issues which may be a priority for the president-elect include more transparency in pricing among healthcare providers; addressing prescription drug prices, possibly through drug importation; and mental health reform, likely starting with efforts already underway in Congress. President-elect Trump is also expected to continue efforts to address the opioid epidemic and has expressed his support for the bipartisan passage of the *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)*.

Top Congressional Issues to be Addressed in Lame-Duck 2016 Session

One of the biggest impacts of the elections outcome could very well be felt almost immediately when Congress returns to session on Monday, November 15th. With less than 30 days until the current fiscal year spending resolution expires, congressional leaders have not signaled how much they intend to accomplish before adjourning for the year and ending the lame-duck session. High priority issues on the table include:

- **Annual Appropriations** legislation which could be resolved through an Omnibus "catchall" spending package, a year-long Continuing Resolution, or some combination of the two. Members of Congress have spoken of the need to dispense with fiscal year (FY) 2017 funding ahead of the next Congress but the politics of whether only some agencies could receive a full year bill complicate the process.
- **21st Century Cures** legislation which would require changes to the Food and Drug Administration's approval process for drugs and medical devices and also potentially boost spending for the National Institutes of Health. Leaders on both sides have expressed a desire to finalize and pass this legislation, but the nature and offsets for new funding are still undecided and it may get punted to the next Congress when prescription drug legislation is set to be considered.

³ <https://www.donaldtrump.com/policies/health-care/>

- **Tax Extenders** are routinely a year-end priority, with many in 2016 impacting energy and home mortgage sectors. However, the expectation that a new Congress could embrace tax reform may delay this issue until 2017.
- **Aid to Flint, MI and Defense Authorization** legislation are two additional items that must be dealt with in the lame-duck session. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) legislation has passed every year for many decades and Republican leadership will not want to break that trend this year. The assistance for Flint as well as any additional assistance for hurricane victims may be combined with other supplemental spending for the Department of Defense related to war-time operations.

Ultimately how productive the lame-duck session will be is still largely unknown and will be complicated by considerations as to whether the Republicans will continue to support Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) as Speaker of the House for the 115th Congress.

115th Congress

While Republicans will retain control of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, Democrats made gains in both chambers. The Senate will be composed of at least 51 Republicans, 46 Democrats, and two Independents who caucus with Democrats. The Louisiana Senate seat will not be decided until a December runoff. In the Senate, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will return as the Majority Leader while Chuck Schumer (D-NY) replaces the retiring Harry Reid (D-NV) as Minority Leader.

At the time of this writing, the House will be composed of at least 239 Republicans and 193 Democrats with several races yet to be called and Republicans far surpassing the necessary 218 members to retain control of the majority. House Republicans and Democrats are expected to meet in November to elect their respective party leaders. There is heavy speculation as to what a Trump Administration will mean for House Speaker Paul Ryan given his lukewarm support for President-elect Donald Trump during the campaign. However, Speaker Ryan has recently publicly increased his support for Trump, making it unclear whether Trump's win will impact his position as Speaker. With respect to the democratic leadership, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) is expected to retain her role as Minority Leader.

The following appendix describes changes to and predicted future agendas for individual congressional committees important for the research and higher education communities. Appendix B describes individual state-specific congressional delegations for the 115th Congress.

Appendix A: Changes to Congressional Committees

Appropriations Committees

The 115th Congress will bring significant change to the leadership and membership of the full House and Senate Appropriations Committees as well as several subcommittees. The upcoming retirement of Vice Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) on the Senate Appropriations Committee opens the door for a new top Democrat on the panel starting in January. The leading candidate is Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), but she would have to relinquish her position as ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Two other leading candidates are Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL). The most senior Democrat on the Committee is Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), but he has passed on the opportunity in the past and favors remaining ranking member of the

Judiciary Committee to influence criminal justice reform and the confirmation of Supreme Court justices. Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) will remain Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

In the House, after three terms as House Appropriations Chairman, Rep. Harold Rogers (R-KY) is required by GOP rules to step down and pass leadership to another senior member on the committee. The leading candidate is Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ). Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) will continue as the ranking Democrat on the full committee.

The Appropriations Committees will be busy during the lame-duck session. The federal government is currently operating under a continuing resolution (CR) at fiscal year (FY) 2016 enacted funding levels through December 9. The one exception is the Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction projects that received final FY 2017 appropriations allocations. Congress still needs to find a final resolution for the remaining 11 annual spending bills.

There are four likely scenarios:

- Negotiate an omnibus appropriations bill to include the 11 remaining annual funding measures during the lame-duck session when Congress returns on November 14;
- Negotiate minibuses that would involve grouping three or four spending bills together and taking individual votes on each minibus rather than one large omnibus with any bills not passed by the end of the year falling under a CR;
- Enact another CR through March 2015 to give the new 115th Congress and a new Administration the opportunity to consider the FY 2017 appropriations bills; or
- Enact a full-year CR to complete the appropriations process through September 2017.

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) are pushing for a minibus strategy. They are opposed to an omnibus that they believe would receive little scrutiny in a last-minute rush to avoid a government shutdown. Democrats are concerned that with only three work weeks remaining before December 9, there is not time to pass a series of smaller funding packages and each one could become a magnet for ideologically driven policy provisions that would lack bipartisan support. A group of conservative House Republicans are still pushing for a CR through March to punt major fiscal decisions until a new president and a new Congress take office. The most likely outcomes are a full-year CR or a small set of funding bills that get full year appropriations with the others in a CR.

The appropriations committees will face an even more challenging funding environment next year when the sequester, or automatic spending reductions, set in the *Budget Control Act of 2011*, are back in force. The *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015* provided sequester relief only for FY 2016 and FY 2017. Under current law, discretionary funding in FY 2018 would be \$5 billion below FY 2017 enacted funding levels. Without a new budget agreement or repeal of the 2011 Budget Control Act, congressional appropriators will be responsible for making necessary funding cuts to federal programs.

House Appropriations Subcommittees

The most significant change due to the outcome of the 2016 election is for the top position on the House Appropriations Committee. As discussed above, Rep. Harold Rogers (R-KY) is required by GOP rules to step down and pass leadership to another senior committee member. The leading candidate is Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ). With Rep. Frelinghuysen needing to vacate his leadership post on the Defense Subcommittee, Rep. Harold Rogers is a leading candidate for Chair of the Defense Subcommittee, but he may be challenged by Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX), the current Vice Chair. Rep. Nita

Lowey (D-NY) will continue to serve as the ranking Democrat on the full committee and Rep. Pete Visclosky (D-IN) as the Ranking Member on the Defense Subcommittee.

Republican leadership positions on the remaining subcommittees are expected to remain the same, such as Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL) on Agriculture; Rep. John Culberson (R-TX) on Commerce, Justice, and Science; Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID) on Energy and Water Development; and Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Democratic leadership of most subcommittees will also stay the same, such as Rep. David Price (D-NC) on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development; Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) on Energy and Water Development; Rep. Rosa DeLauro on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; and Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) on Interior and Environment.

However, there will be new ranking members for the Agriculture and Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittee with the retirement of Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA), who is the current Chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee, and re-election loss of Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA), who is the current Ranking Member of the Commerce, Justice, and Science Subcommittee. The leading candidates for the Agriculture Subcommittee are Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA) and Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME). For the Commerce, Justice, and Science subcommittee the most likely candidates are Rep. José Serrano (D-NY) and Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA).

Senate Appropriations Subcommittees

The leadership positions of the Senate appropriations subcommittees will see some changes in membership in the 115th Congress. The most significant changes result from the election loss of Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL) and the retirement of Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD).

Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) is expected to remain chairman of the full Appropriations Committee. He is also expected to stay as Chair of the Defense Subcommittee with Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) as the ranking member.

Senator Murray (D-WA) is likely to serve as the Vice Chairwoman of the full Appropriations Committee and will likely keep her position as top Democrat on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee. If she does become the top Democrat appropriator, she will relinquish her role as ranking member on the HELP Committee. Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) is expected to remain Chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee.

Senator Kirk's loss opens up the Chair of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. The leading candidates are Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Senator John Boozman (R-AR). Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) is expected to remain ranking member of the subcommittee.

Senator Barbara Mikulski's retirement vacates the ranking member position on the Commerce, Justice, and Science subcommittee. The leading Democratic candidates are Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Senator Chris Coons (D-DE). Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) is expected to continue as chair.

In the new Congress, Republican Senators likely to continue as chairs in their current subcommittees are Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) on Energy and Water Development; Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on Interior and Environment; Lindsey Graham (R-SC) on State and Foreign Operations; and Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) on Agriculture.

Leading Republican Senators for chair of the remaining subcommittees include Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Shelley Capito (R-WV), or Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) for Transportation and Housing and Urban Development; Senator John Boozman (R-AR) or Senator Shelley Capito (R-WV) for Financial Services; and Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) or Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) for Homeland Security.

Democratic Senators likely to continue as ranking members in their current subcommittees are Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) on Energy and Water Development; Chris Coons (D-DE) on Financial Services; Tom Udall (D-NM) on Interior and Environment; and Jack Reed (D-RI) on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development. Leading Democrats for ranking member positions on the remaining subcommittees include Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) or Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) for Homeland Security, and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) or Jeff Merkley (D-OR) for State and Foreign Operations.

Budget Committees

The Budget Committees have as their primary responsibility the preparation of an annual budget resolution to outline a fiscal blueprint for the nation in terms of spending, revenues, and entitlement and mandatory programs. There will be increased pressure to pass a budget resolution in FY 2018 to reflect Republican spending priorities and set up a special mechanism known as reconciliation that could expedite the consideration of spending and tax legislation, including tax cuts and changes or repeal of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*. Reconciliation bills cannot be filibustered by the Senate and only require a majority (51) vote to pass. Congress is meant to pass a budget resolution by April 15, but often it takes much longer or, in some cases, Congress is unable to pass a budget resolution, such as in FY 2017. Of most relevance to the research community is that the budget resolution includes the top funding level for discretionary spending, which the Senate and House Appropriations Committees then divide among the 12 subcommittees to fund federal agencies.

With the two-year funding agreement under the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015* set to expire at the end of FY 2017, mandatory spending cuts, known as sequester, will be back in force in FY 2018. Under current law, discretionary funding in FY 2018 would be \$5 billion below FY 2017 enacted funding levels. The House and Senate Budget Committees will be leading efforts to find another short-term compromise to lift budget caps for discretionary spending or permanently revoke the caps mandated under the *Budget Control Act of 2011*. A change in Presidential Administration, a new Congress, pressure to increase defense spending, and a recognition that discretionary spending is not a major contributing factor to the debt compared to mandatory funding programs like Social Security, increase the likelihood of at least another two-year budget deal.

The Budget Committees are also likely to take up efforts to overhaul the budget process and the suspension of the federal debt limit, which is set to expire on March 15, 2017. This may provide an opportunity to include some budget reforms. The last time Congress reformed the budget process was in 1974, and many Members of Congress see the current process as broken and unworkable. Every year, Congress is expected to enact all 12 appropriations bills by the start of the new fiscal year on October 1 to fund all discretionary spending programs. The last time all appropriations bills were enacted by the start of the new fiscal year was in 1996—two decades ago. This year, the passage of the bill funding the Department of Veterans Affairs was the first time since 2009 a single bill was enacted on time. The current House and Senate Budget Chairmen, Senator Michael Enzi (R-WY), and Representative Tom Price (R-GA), have held hearings and proposed legislation to overhaul the budget process to set the groundwork for the next Congress. Some of the ideas include a biennial budget cycle where appropriations bills are taken up only in odd-numbered, non-election years; moving the start of

the fiscal year from October 1 to January 1 to give Congress more time to complete spending bills; putting all spending and revenue including Social Security and Medicare into the budget and spending bills; cutting off pay to Members of Congress and their staff if spending bills are not passed on time; and merging the appropriations and authorizing committees.

The Committee has no subcommittees and meets as a full committee to discuss overall federal priorities.

House Budget Committee

Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) will likely remain House Budget Committee Chair. With Rep. Chris Van Hollen's (D-MD) move to the Senate, the leading Democrat is likely to be Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY).

Senate Budget Committee

Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) will most likely remain Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Budget Committee. If Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) becomes the top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, Senator Bernie Sanders would possibly take the leading Democrat position on the HELP Committee, which is currently held by Senator Murray. The other Democratic contenders to be Ranking Member on the Budget Committee are Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Mark Warner (D-VA).

Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee

In the 115th Congress, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) is expected to chair the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) is the current ranking member and may remain in that role. However, she is also a top contender for the position of ranking member on the Senate Appropriations Committee following the retirement of Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD). Should she assume the senior Democratic position on Appropriations, the role of ranking member on the HELP Committee would likely be filled by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) or Senator Bob Casey (D-PA). In these roles, the members will lead the development and passage of bills that affect biomedical research and education. With Republicans remaining in the majority in the Senate, the committee's partisan make-up will remain largely unchanged. Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), a member of the HELP Committee, was defeated in his bid for reelection by Democratic Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL). Senator Kirk's vacancy on the committee will need to be filled by another Republican.

In the 114th Congress, the HELP Committee approved a bipartisan, comprehensive *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA) reauthorization, which ultimately passed the Senate and was signed into law by President Obama. As demonstrated by the passage of this often contentious legislation, Senators Alexander and Murray work well together, which will be important as the HELP Committee is expected to take up the long overdue reauthorization of the *Higher Education Act* (HEA) in the first session of the 115th Congress.

While a comprehensive draft bill has not been introduced in either chamber, several smaller bills were introduced in the 114th Congress that provide insight into the priorities of Members and will likely be included in the HEA draft bill. There is generally bipartisan support for simplifying the process for applying for federal student aid, reinstating year-round Pell Grants, and streamlining loan repayment options. Members of Congress still need to come to an agreement as to how to address campus safety and campus sexual assault, institutional risk-sharing, and accreditation reforms. A partisan divide remains on several issues including teacher preparation program reform, regulation of for-profit

institutions, and privacy issues. These unsettled issues offer an opportunity for universities to weigh-in with the committee prior to the introduction of a comprehensive bill.

While education is expected to be the top priority for the Senate HELP Committee in the 115th Congress, several health issues are likely to be addressed in hearings and legislation that come before the committee. As noted earlier in this report, it is possible that Congress will pass a 21st Century Cures bill during the lame-duck session, taking care of an agenda item that has loomed over the committee for more than a year. However, if the bill is not passed, the HELP Committee will likely seek to move bills similar to those it approved earlier this year aimed at advancing biomedical research and accelerating drug discovery and approval.

Regardless of what occurs in the lame duck, the HELP Committee must pass a bill to reauthorize the *Prescription Drug User Fee Act*, which will expire in September 2017 and is commonly referred to as PDUFA VI. This bill would continue the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authority to collect user fees from companies that seek approval of their drug and biological products; these funds are essential to the FDA's efforts to expedite drug approvals. In the event a Cures bill is not approved by Congress this year, the FDA-related provisions of that legislation, as well as other health-related issues, could be folded into PDUFA VI, as the bill must pass Congress next year.

House Education and the Workforce Committee

The House Committee on Education and the Workforce has primary legislative oversight of a range of education and workforce issues, including higher education, K-12 education, jobs and job training programs, as well as the authorization of both the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA) and the *Higher Education Act* (HEA).

With the retirement of Committee Chairman John Kline (R-MN), it is expected that the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) will take over the full committee chairmanship. On the Democratic side, current Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA) is likely to continue his role on the committee. With Rep. Foxx's elevation to full committee chair, there will be a vacancy for the Higher Education and Workforce Training Subcommittee's top post. Similarly, with the retirement of Rep. Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX), the current ranking member of the subcommittee, a new Democrat will need to be appointed for that position.

The possible contenders for the subcommittee chair and ranking member include Rep. David "Phil" Roe (R-TN) and Rep. Hakeem S. Jeffries (D-NY), who are currently second in line for the subcommittee for their respective parties. Given Rep. Foxx's background as a college administrator and with her strong interest in higher education policy, it is probable that efforts to reauthorize the HEA will be coordinated through the full committee, limiting the role of the higher education subcommittee in the 115th Congress.

In terms of higher education priorities, the committee is expected to attempt a comprehensive reauthorization of the HEA, likely aligned with the piecemeal HEA related proposals from the 114th Congress. The smaller bills that passed the House this year focused on increasing transparency for students and families, enhancing financial aid counseling, and simplifying the financial aid process and student aid programs. The Education and the Workforce Committee will likely continue to examine and criticize how the Department of Education and individual states have implemented the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, the ESEA reauthorization bill signed into law in 2015.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee should have stable leadership entering the 115th Congress, with Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) continuing to lead the committee, and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) remaining in her leadership role as well. Although both the House and Senate passed comprehensive energy legislation during the 114th Congress, the subsequent conference negotiations are ongoing. If lawmakers are unable to compromise and pass this legislation during the lame-duck session, it will set the stage for the committee to try again under a new Administration and with new leadership in the companion House Energy and Commerce Committee in the 115th Congress. This is the most probable outcome, given the numerous differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill and the constrained timeline after the election.

Though a number of Senators on the committee were up for reelection during this cycle, all were safely reelected, and no other committee members have left the Senate. It is therefore expected that much of the committee's composition will be unchanged in the 115th Congress. Over the years, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee has maintained a bipartisan working relationship and it's likely to continue to take a pragmatic approach to addressing the nation's energy challenges. The Committee's stability and history of bipartisan support may give it an advantage over other Senate committees as party leaders look to make an early impact on the new Administration's priorities. The Energy and Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over the entire Department of Energy (DOE). Some issues thus overlap with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which has primary jurisdiction over environmental issues, such as climate change. In the 115th Congress the committee is likely to debate issues such as nuclear waste disposal and Yucca Mountain in Nevada, environmental regulations for energy production, and oil and gas issues including pipelines and US export controls.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce (E&C) maintains principal responsibility for legislative oversight relating to biomedical research, telecommunications, consumer protection, food and drug safety, public health, air quality and environmental health, the supply and delivery of energy, and interstate and foreign commerce in general. This jurisdiction extends over five Cabinet-level departments and seven independent agencies including the Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Transportation, Federal Trade Commission, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Federal Communications Commission.

In the 114th Congress, this committee illustrated a strong ability to work together to pass major reforms including the *21st Century Cures Act*, focused on accelerating the review process for drugs and devices, while also investing in biomedical research, and the *Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act*, focused on reforming the mental health infrastructure in the United States. With both pieces of legislation, the committee worked across the aisle to address outstanding issues.

In the 115th Congress, this committee will see a major shakeup in leadership. Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) will step down from his position as chairman due to term-limits. Vying for the position to serve as chairman are Reps. John Shimkus (R-IL), Greg Walden (R-OR), and Joe Barton (R-TX). All three have been vocal about their desire to lead the committee. Rep. Walden is currently serving as Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, which means he has illustrated his ability to fundraise and been instrumental in elections of his colleagues. However, both Reps. Barton and Shimkus have more seniority than Rep. Walden. Additionally, Rep. Barton previously served as chairman of the

committee for two years and ranking member for four. In addition, the committee will lose Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-NC) who lost in her primary. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) is expected to remain ranking member.

In addition, the E&C Health Subcommittee will lose its Chairman, Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA), who is retiring at the end of this Congress. Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee and could potentially take over as chairman. However, Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX), an M.D. and Chairman of the Congressional Health Caucus, is well positioned to take over as Chairman of the Health Subcommittee, although he currently serves as Chairman of the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee, which he would have to forfeit. In addition, Rep. Tim Murphy (R-PA) has been a very influential Member of the subcommittee. As a psychologist, Rep. Murphy authored and led efforts for several years on the *Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act* and mental health reform overall, including negotiating a bill that passed the committee on a 53-0 vote.

In addition, if Rep. Walden is successful in his bid for chairman of the full committee, that would leave an opening for Chairman on the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, in which Rep. Robert Latta (R-OH) currently serves as Vice Chairman. Also, departing from the Committee is Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA), who is retiring. Rep. Capps has been a long-time advocate for nursing issues, including nursing workforce issues.

E&C will play a key role in expected efforts to repeal provisions of the ACA in the next Congress. The committee will also have to reauthorize the *Prescription Drug User Fee Act* (PDUFA) next year. PDUFA is key to the FDA's activities because it allows the agency to collect user fees from companies seeking approval of their drug and biological products. This legislation could also serve as a vehicle to pass other FDA and prescription drug legislation, particularly if Congress is unable to pass Cures legislation during the lame-duck session.

Although both the House and Senate passed comprehensive energy legislation during the 114th Congress, the conference negotiations are ongoing. If lawmakers are unable to compromise and pass this legislation during the lame-duck session, the current energy legislation will provide a framework for the 115th Congress and set the stage for the committee to try again under a new President and with new leadership on the committee.

The committee could also consider updating the *1996 Telecommunications Act*. In addition, there could be a new opportunity for movement on the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Repository Site in the committee. This is an issue that has been at the top of the agenda for Rep. Shimkus in his role as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has been one of the biggest opponents to using the Yucca Mountain as a Nuclear Repository Site, and his retirement at the end of the 114th Congress, will remove one of the barriers to potential action.

Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation (CST) Committee will not see major leadership changes in the 115th Congress, with Senator John Thune (R-SD) likely to remain chair of the committee and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) continuing as ranking member. The election's only impact on the committee is the outcome of Senator Kelly Ayotte's (R-NH) race against Democratic challenger Maggie Hassan. Senator Ayotte's narrow loss opens the chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security. With jurisdiction over the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the top spot on the committee will likely be taken by Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) or Senator Roy Blunt (R-

MO). The Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness is projected to remain unaffected, with Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Gary Peters (D-MI) continuing as chair and ranking member, respectively.

Efforts to reauthorize the *America COMPETES Act*, which sets policy for numerous federal research and development programs, and the *NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2016*, continue as the 114th Congress moves towards its conclusion. Staff on the committee will likely continue conversations with their House counterparts in the coming months, and revisiting both bills in the 115th Congress is possible if they fail to move forward in the lame duck. Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) has been a vocal proponent of efforts to reauthorize *COMPETES*, and is anticipated to have a hand at crafting future, related legislation.

The committee shares jurisdiction with the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) on certain aspects of infrastructure policy. While EPW will be the lead, CST will likely provide input on any major infrastructure stimulus package considered as part of President-elect Trump's campaign promise to advocate for a major infrastructure spending bill.

The committee will also need to work with their counterparts on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on legislation related to federal aviation infrastructure. One "must-pass" item is reauthorization of funding and programs at the FAA beyond 2017. Efforts to begin crafting new FAA reauthorization legislation will likely begin in earnest sometime in the spring, and it is anticipated that any future bill will tackle issues related to implementation of next generation airspace management technologies, the evolving landscape around drone use and policies, and airport security in light of global terror threats abroad.

House Science, Space, and Technology Committee

The House Science, Space, and Technology Committee's (House Science) leadership is expected to remain the same in the 115th Congress, with Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX) remaining chairman and Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) expected to return as ranking member.

While the House Science leadership will stay the same, many new members are expected, as several current committee members lost their seats. For example, Energy Subcommittee Ranking Member Alan Grayson (D-FL) and Space Subcommittee Ranking Member Donna Edwards (D-MD) did not seek re-election in the House as part of failed bids to run for the Senate. In addition to these changes, the committee traditionally experiences substantial turnover as senior members seek spots on more powerful committees and new freshmen members take over those spots.

Chairman Smith is expected to use his last two years as committee chairman to continue his push for accountability among science agencies such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as on issues such as cybersecurity. It is likely the committee will once again tackle National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and *America COMPETES* reauthorizations should current legislative efforts not be resolved in the lame-duck session.

Partisan rancor will likely remain high. For example, Chairman Smith is unlikely to give up his quest to exert greater oversight on NSF facilities or to decrease authorized funding for NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences and Geosciences directorates. However, some of these efforts may be moot should a friendly Trump Administration enact Chairman Smith's favored policies without a legislative

push. Despite disagreement over NSF and environmental research, among other areas, the committee is likely to continue bipartisan cooperation on issues such as: computing and computational science; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education; and advanced manufacturing.

The House Science Committee has jurisdiction over non-defense federal scientific research and development at NASA, NSF, the Department of Energy (DOE) science programs, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), EPA, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), among others.

Armed Services Committees

The House and Senate Armed Services Committees (HASC/SASC) will continue to be at the forefront of key policy debates during the 115th Congress, as policymakers grapple with sequestration, expanding military capabilities and readiness, and the annual *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA).

House Armed Services Committee (HASC)

As expected, Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX) will retain his chairmanship of the full committee with Adam Smith (D-WA) continuing to serve as ranking member, although 11 other current Members of the committee will not be serving in the House in 2017. In the few months leading up to the election, Chairman Thornberry stated that passing the FY 2017 NDAA is the committee's first priority in the lame-duck session. He will likely announce proposed subcommittee chairs in December, once the agreement has passed. The turnover among rank and file Republicans on the committee was all expected before last night's votes, as four opted not to run for reelection: Reps. Jeff Miller (R-FL), Christopher Gibson (R-NY), Richard Nugent (R-FL), and John Kline (R-MN), while Reps. John Fleming (R-LA) and Joseph Heck (R-NV) ran for Senate seats.

Republicans have anticipated subcommittee leadership changes, as well. Rep. Randy Forbes (R-VA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, lost his primary race earlier this year. Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness, expressed interest in chairing the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces. Rep. Wittman has served on HASC since 2008 and represents many military installations in Virginia's first district, with others nearby. Reps. Duncan Hunter (R-CA), a Marine Corps veteran and representative of military bases in southern California, and Bradley Byrne (R-AL) have also declared their interest in the chairmanship. Should Rep. Wittman become Chairman of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, it will create a domino effect for other subcommittees. Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, may assume the chair for the Subcommittee on Readiness.

Additionally, Republicans need to fill the chairmanship for the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. Chairman Joseph Heck (R-NV) ran for Senate in Nevada. While readiness and personnel are high priorities for Chairman Thornberry, it is unclear who will fill the vacant chairmanship for the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. It will likely be a veteran.

HASC Democrats will experience notable departures in the 115th Congress: Rep. Gwen Graham (D-FL) is retiring and Reps. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) ran for the Senate. Earlier this year, Rep. Mark Takai (D-HI) passed away. While most top Democratic slots on subcommittees will remain stable, Democrats will need to fill the ranking member position on the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, Rep. Sanchez's current position.

Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC)

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) will retain the chairmanship of SASC, and Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) will serve as ranking member. Both faced reelection bids this cycle and won their respective races. While SASC membership is likely to remain stable, Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) lost her reelection bid. Senator Ayotte chairs the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support. Republicans will need to fill the chairmanship of the subcommittee.

House Homeland Security Committee

The House Homeland Security Committee oversees activities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Most of the current committee will remain intact as Chairman Mike McCaul (R-TX) and Ranking Member Bennie Thompson (D-MS) won their re-elections and will remain in their respective positions. Chairman McCaul is expected to continue efforts to address countering violent extremism and domestic terrorism, especially the influence of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), and transnational organized crime; cybersecurity and protecting critical infrastructure in physical and cyber realms; and general DHS oversight. Given that President-elect Trump campaigned on immigration enforcement, expect the committee to focus on policies to secure the United States' borders and toughen immigration laws. All the subcommittee chairs won their elections and will remain in Majority control. The subcommittees are expected to address several key issues, including immigration reform, the threat of domestic terrorism, national cybersecurity preparedness, improvements to airport security, and ways to enhance the operations of DHS.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is the Senate's chief oversight committee on government activities, with a particular focus on Department of Homeland Security (DHS) operations. The Committee's jurisdiction over DHS activities includes most of the Department's sub-agencies, including the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate. With the Republicans retaining control of the Senate, Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI), who won his close race for reelection, will remain as chairman. Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) will continue as ranking member.

The committee will continue to focus on performing oversight of government regulations and the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and will be involved in many federal office nominations with the Administration change. The committee will pursue President-elect Trump's campaign promise to reduce federal spending by focusing on eliminating federal waste and government bureaucracy. With a possible executive effort to stimulate infrastructure improvements in the nation, the current pending legislation, the *Federal Property Management Reform Act of 2016* (S.2509), which would establish a Federal Property Council to be chaired by the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), could have an impact on how federal S&T laboratories pursue capital improvements. Additional pending legislation that could be reintroduced in the next Congress includes the *Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act of 2015* (S.461) to enhance immigration and trade capabilities at land border ports of entry and the *National Biodefense Strategy Act of 2016* (S.2967) that directs DHS to update a National Biodefense Strategy that coordinates U.S. efforts.

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has general oversight over the federal government, as well as specific oversight over the District of Columbia, federal regulatory processes, and

procurement and spending systems. With Republicans maintaining a majority in the House, it is expected that Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) will remain chairman in the 115th Congress. It is also expected that Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) will remain the ranking member on the committee.

During the 114th Congress, which was Representative Chaffetz's first term as chairman, the committee held a series of notable hearings and investigative efforts focused on Secretary Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server during her time as Secretary of State. Prior to the election of President-elect Donald Trump, Chairman Chaffetz had promised to continue probing Secretary Clinton's record. However, it is unlikely the chairman will pursue his investigation into Secretary Clinton since she failed to win the presidency. Rather, it is expected the committee's focus will shift to more bipartisan issues, such as information technology (IT).

Representative Will Hurd (R-TX), who chairs the Information Technology Subcommittee, has been a champion of improving and expanding the use of IT across the federal government while maintaining a focus on cybersecurity. It's anticipated he will stay in this role, having won a close race for his reelection. As cybersecurity emerges as an issue of national importance that cuts across party lines, the committee will have an opportunity to delve deeper into the topic in the next Congress. In addition, the committee may also choose to focus on examining the rising cost of prescription drugs. In 2016, the committee held a hearing in which it examined the cost of EpiPens and the reasons their manufacturer, Mylan, had for dramatically increasing the drug's price. The issue is a bipartisan one, and Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings may decide to further examine the Food and Drug Administration's role in promoting market competition and its approval process for generic drugs.

In the 115th Congress, committee leadership will undergo changes. Rep. John Mica (R-FL), the current Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets, lost his reelection bid to challenger Stephanie Murphy (D) and will need to be replaced. The GOP will also have to replace retiring Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) as Chair of the Interior Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the Departments of Interior, Energy, and Agriculture, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency. On the Democratic side, Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) will not return to the committee, having won a seat in the Senate by defeating incumbent Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL).

Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) oversees seven federal agencies including the Department of Interior (DOI), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In the 114th Congress, EPW notably advanced a water infrastructure reauthorization bill, which proceeded to pass the full Senate chamber. During the lame-duck session, it is expected that the Senate and House versions of the *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016* will be reconciled and advance as one compromise package. Both Chairman James Inhofe (R-OK) and Ranking Member Barbara Boxer (D-CA) have considerable incentive to utilize the last few months in leadership to advance the bill.

Looking ahead to the 115th Congress, EPW will undergo significant leadership changes due to vacancies from members retiring and term restrictions. Chairman Inhofe is prohibited from continuing to serve in this role due to term limit rules. The next Republican in line, Senator David Vitter (R-LA) is retiring, therefore, Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) is expected to assume the committee chairmanship.

On the other side of the aisle, Senator Boxer is retiring and it's expected that Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) will take her place as ranking member. Senator Boxer's departure will create a significant vacuum with respect to Democrats' legislative agenda for environmental issues, providing a potential platform for Senator Carper to advance his priorities related to climate change and sea level rise. Other less likely possibilities for EPW ranking member include Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), or Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI).

Over the course of his campaign, President-elect Donald Trump has frequently touted plans for a \$1 trillion infrastructure stimulus package as an initial priority of his presidency. EPW will likely have primary jurisdiction over it should such legislation materialize.

Although he's offered no specific details on how an infrastructure stimulus package would be financed, Trump's remarks throughout his campaign indicate it would be deficit-neutral and rely on a mix of tax incentives and public-private partnerships. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will also likely play a role in this potential legislation due to its jurisdiction over non-surface transportation infrastructure.

House Natural Resources Committee

The House Committee on Natural Resources has authorization and oversight jurisdiction over the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI), research programs at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as well as oceanography, mining, and water issues generally.

Under the leadership of Chairman Robert Bishop (R-UT) in the 114th Congress, the committee priorities included increasing state control over federal lands, modernizing the process for offshore oil and gas leasing, and developing reforms for wildfire budgets.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee since 2014, has focused on Native American issues such as water rights settlements, supporting national monument designations, and recently, the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Moving into the 115th Congress, Rep. Bishop is expected to remain chairman, as he has four more years to serve in this capacity under current Republican rules. As chair, he will likely continue his focus on public land management and reforms, specifically through his Public Lands Initiative, as well as increased oversight and transparency for endangered species, land, and water conservation. Rep. Grijalva is expected to remain ranking member of the committee.

Agriculture Committees

A top priority for both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees in the 115th Congress will be to begin conversations to shape the next farm bill, which authorizes numerous programs related to food and agriculture. The current farm bill, formally known as the *Agricultural Act of 2014*, expires in 2018.

Due to the breadth and scope of the legislation, partisan and regional battles often make the process a highly political, multi-year effort.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) research enterprise, which includes the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), as well as the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), enjoyed broad support during the last farm bill. Representative of this support was the creation of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) with \$200 million in mandatory funding. While general support for USDA research programs is expected to continue, both committees will likely examine research priorities, FFAR, and other areas such as international development and urban agriculture, which may include research components.

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee

Barring any shuffling of committee assignments, the current membership of the Senate Agriculture Committee is expected to remain intact, with the six committee members up for reelection winning their seats. Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) is expected to return as chairman with Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) returning as ranking member.

House Agriculture Committee

For the House Agriculture Committee, Representative Mike Conaway (R-TX) is expected to retain the chairmanship, with Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN) remaining as the ranking member. There will be several vacancies on the committee for the 115th Congress, with Representatives Randy Neugebauer (R-TX), Dan Benishek (R-MI), Chris Gibson (R-NY), and Gwen Graham (D-FL) not seeking reelection; Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ) leaving the House to make a (failed) bid for a Senate seat; and Brad Ashford (D-NE) losing his election.

Senate Finance Committee

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), will remain the chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, with Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) continuing in his role as ranking member of the committee. Chairman Hatch still has four years before his term limit as chairman of the Finance Committee expires. While Chairman Hatch was expected to retire at the end of his term in 2018, he has recently suggested that he will run for his eighth term. For the 115th Congress, the committee make-up will change with the retirement of Senator Dan Coats (R-IN); Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) will likely step down from the committee as he assumes the position of Senate Minority Leader.

Chairman Hatch is expected to continue to challenge provisions under the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA). With President-elect Trump's plan to repeal the ACA, efforts to weaken parts of the law through a congressional budget reconciliation tactic will likely be a priority. The way in which the committee decides to dismantle the ACA remains to be seen.

Additionally, with funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) set to expire in 2017, CHIP reauthorization is expected to be a priority area for the committee. Although Chairman Hatch was an original supporter of CHIP when it was first created, Republican committee members will likely discuss the need for tighter eligibility parameters if reauthorization is brought to the table. Additionally, given bipartisan support on the committee level, as well as Chairman Hatch's and Ranking Member Wyden's personal interest in improving chronic care, activities to reform reimbursement for the management of chronic conditions are also expected to be a priority. Further, if the committee does not have time in the lame-duck session to address the most recent site-neutral payment policy for hospital outpatient

departments (HOPDs), authorized in Section 603 of the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015*, legislative revisions to the new policy may also be a priority for the committee in the 115th Congress.

Chairman Hatch has stated his desire to tackle tax reform next year. He has expressed an interest in investing in the nation's pressing infrastructure needs, funding such projects through the repatriation of untaxed corporate earnings held outside the U.S. In terms of higher education issues under jurisdiction of the committee, Chairman Hatch has shown interest in college endowments, having joined leaders of the House Committee on Ways and Means in sending inquiries earlier this year to universities regarding their endowment spending and management practices.

House Ways and Means Committee

House Ways and Means leadership is expected to remain the same in the 115th Congress. chairman of the committee, Kevin Brady (R-TX), is finishing his first term as chairman and is expected to continue to serve in this position, and Representative Sander Levin (D-MI) will likely continue as Ranking Member. Five seats on the committee will become vacant. One significant loss to the Ways and Means Committee is longtime Member, Representative Jim McDermott (D-WA), who is retiring. Representative McDermott, who is Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Health, and a physician by training, has been a champion of healthcare workforce issues and academic medical centers. Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY) another longtime Member and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Trade is retiring as well. Three Republican seats will also become vacant, including seats held by Representatives Todd Young (R-IN) who won a seat in the Senate, Charles Boustany (R-LA), who also ran for Senate but lost, and Bob Dold (R-IL) who lost his bid for re-election.

Comprehensive tax reform is expected to be at the top of the agenda for this committee. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) has noted his intent to use the congressional procedural tactic of budget reconciliation to move quickly on tax reform early in 2017. As such, Chairman Brady has been convening stakeholders and preparing the committee to be ready to start immediately on tax reform in the new year. This summer as part of Speaker Ryan's *A Better Way* Republican policy platform, Chairman Brady released his tax reform blueprint, which highlights tax priorities and reforms the committee will likely tackle in the 115th Congress.

Chairman Brady's plan calls for a simplified tax system, which includes consolidating tax brackets, creating a larger standard deduction, streamlining education tax benefits, as well as an overhaul of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The blueprint, which offers few specific details, also outlines the chairman's interest in encouraging charitable giving.

While the tax reform blueprint does not address universities directly, the committee has shown great interest in college costs and university endowments during the 114th Congress, including hosting a few hearings on the topic. The committee chair, along with Oversight Subcommittee Chair Peter Roskam (R-IL) and Senate Committee on Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), sent inquiry letters earlier this year to the wealthiest private universities into endowment practices and management.

Committee member, Representative Tom Reed (R-NY), has stated he intends to introduce legislation aimed at requiring wealthy institutions to use endowment pay-outs for the purpose of tuition aid. Although Representative Reed has yet to officially introduce such legislation and the committee leaders have not pushed any specific proposals related to college costs or endowments, higher education institutions will likely continue to face scrutiny by the committee in the 115th Congress.

With President-elect Trump's plan to repeal the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA), this committee will also be key in efforts to repeal the ACA. Attempts to push forward Speaker Ryan's healthcare plan under *A Better Way* will likely occur. Chairman Brady is expected to advance efforts to address financial matters linked to the ACA, such as dramatic increases in premiums for mid-level health plans sold in the federal marketplaces. Previous proposals on how to improve post-acute care through Medicare payment adjustments, such as the *Medicare Post-Acute Care Value-Based Purchasing Act* sponsored by Chairman Brady, will also likely re-emerge given bipartisan support on the committee level and the chairman's personal interest.

While the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will have primary jurisdiction over President-elect Trump's proposed \$1 trillion infrastructure plan, little is known about how this signature campaign promise would be paid for. President-elect Trump's remarks during the campaign indicate it would be deficit-neutral, and rely on a mix of public-private partnerships and tax incentives. The latter component indicates the Ways and Means Committee will play a role in the shaping of future legislation, should congressional support materialize.

Chairman Pat Tiberi (R-OH) is expected to remain Chairman of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee and will likely continue to look at payment reform policies, as well as proposals to improve and sustain Medicare. One significant loss to the Health Subcommittee is Ranking Member Jim McDermott, who has been a champion of healthcare workforce issues and academic medical centers.

Judiciary Committees

The Senate and House Judiciary Committees oversee a variety of issues, including immigration, patent and intellectual property reform, and criminal justice policies. In addition, the Senate Judiciary Committee is responsible for holding confirmation hearings for the President's federal judicial nominees. The leadership of both committees is expected to remain the same in the 115th Congress. Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) will retain his chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) is expected to continue to serve as ranking member. In the House, Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) is expected to remain Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, and Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) is likely to continue to serve as the ranking member. All subcommittee leaders will remain in the House. The Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest is the only subcommittee that will need to fill leadership vacancies. Current Chairman Jeff Sessions (R-AL) is considered a likely candidate for a senior position in the Trump Administration, and Ranking Member Chuck Schumer (D-NY) will become the new Senate Minority Leader.

Chairman Grassley and Senate Republican leadership are likely to continue postponing consideration of a new justice for the Supreme Court until the 115th Congress. President-elect Trump is expected to announce a nominee soon after his inauguration. The Senate confirmation hearings are likely to be very contentious and could stall other committee actions.

Immigration reform will also be a priority in the next Administration. President-elect Trump has proposed pursuing strict policies that ensure enhanced vetting on incoming immigrants, the tightening of border security, and further restrictions on the H-1B visa program to counteract perceived abuses. Chairman Goodlatte and Chairman Grassley have agreed with several aspects of these proposals in the past and will look to find common ground on immigration reforms in the early stages of the new Congress.

Another issue that could arise during the 115th Congress is patent reform, particularly congressional efforts to address patent “trolls,” which were a major issue in the 114th Congress that have not been resolved. The House and Senate are expected to continue to pursue separate approaches on this issue with the Senate taking a more bipartisan approach.

During the 114th Congress, both the Senate and House Judiciary Committees were engaged in bipartisan negotiations over criminal justice issues, such as sentencing reform. The House Committee also recently formed a bipartisan task force to review policy solutions for policing reform. On the campaign trail, President-elect Trump strongly opposed federal intervention on most criminal justice issues. It remains to be seen if further negotiations over criminal justice reform will remain a priority in the next Congress.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Investment in infrastructure and its potential to strengthen America’s economic position were central points throughout the presidential campaign. During the 115th Congress, the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee is expected to not only address a potential large-scale infrastructure initiative, but will also need to tackle issues related to aviation and surface transportation, as well as water resources. Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) will remain in place, with most subcommittee chairs retaining their existing spots. The only known change is to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment whose current chair, Representative Bob Gibbs (R-OH), is term limited and will step down at the end of this year. Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AK) is next in line to claim the open chairmanship.

Of note, although not in a current leadership position on the committee, past chairman Rep. John Mica (R-FL) lost his race to Democratic challenger Stephanie Murphy. Congressman Mica was known for his leadership in shepherding landmark transportation reauthorization legislation and for his ardent opposition to many federally-funded mass transit projects.

President-elect Trump has pledged throughout his campaign to push for a \$1 trillion infrastructure stimulus as an initial priority of his presidency, and the committee will have primary jurisdiction should Trump’s signature campaign promise materialize. Details on how the package would be paid for have been scant. Trump’s remarks during the campaign indicate it would be deficit-neutral and rely on a mix of tax incentives and public-private partnerships. The House Committee on Ways and Means will play a role in shaping any future legislation should it include tax modifications.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will need to work with its counterparts on the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee beginning next year on reauthorizing the Federal Aviation Administration, whose current authorization expires September 30, 2017. Efforts to begin crafting new FAA reauthorization legislation will likely begin in earnest sometime in the spring. It is anticipated that any future bill will tackle issues related to the implementation of next generation airspace management technologies, the evolving landscape around drone policies and use, and airport security in light of global terror threats abroad.