



## Ohio State University – Office of Government Affairs 2009 First Quarter Federal Update

**Federal Stimulus:** President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law on February 17, 2009. This bill includes \$787 billion, with significant funding for state relief, student aid, scientific research, instrumentation, facilities. Our office is working closely with the Offices of Research, Business and Finance, and Deans and Directors to ensure that Ohio State submits applications for all appropriate research and infrastructure funding opportunities. Each federal research agency will issues specific guidelines for grant programs. We will also be working with the Governor regarding funding for higher education through the state stabilization fund. The Ohio State Office of Research has established a webpage to assist faculty and staff pursue funding opportunities. <http://research.osu.edu/stimulus/>

**FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill:** The Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 1105), containing \$410 billion to support for all domestic agencies and the State Department for Federal FY09, was signed into law today, March 11. The measure includes more than \$5.6 million in congressionally directed funding to support Ohio State initiatives (chart attached). When combined with the projects funded in the Defense Appropriations bill passed last year, Ohio State received just over \$8.8 million through the Ohio Delegation. It also provides base funding for federal programs that support biomedical and scientific research and student aid. This includes \$6.49 billion for National Science Foundation (NSF), \$30.3 billion for National Institutes of Health (NIH), increases the maximum appropriated Pell Grant award to \$4,860, and \$4.77 billion for Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science.

**FY10 Budget:** President Obama released a draft budget [document](#) for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 on Feb 25. While the complete budget will be issued April, the budget statement signals that his priorities include science, research, and student aid. Specifically he has called for a \$6 billion investment in cancer research, \$7 billion for NSF, and increases to Pell Grants, NASA funding, and doubling the investment in basic energy science research. In addition, Obama is proposing to make major changes to student financial aid programs, including making the Pell Grant an entitlement program. Fact sheets for the federal agency budget proposals can be found here: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/2010\\_factsheets/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/2010_factsheets/).

**Other Legislation:** The leaders of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees introduced "bipartisan, bicameral" patent reform legislation (S. 515) on March 3, and the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the measure Tuesday March 10. There is general agreement by lawmakers that the patent law needs to be modernized. Most of the debate on this legislation will focus on the appropriate level of damages charged for infringement violations.

Please contact us for additional information or if you have a federal issue and we can be of help:  
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