



University of Colorado **Anschutz**

Central Services Administration

**EDUCATIONAL
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Federal & State Government Relations

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Educational Toolbox Series: Federal & State Government Relations

*Overview of the Federal and State Legislative Landscape
and CU's Role in the Process*



Educational Toolbox Series: Federal & State Government Relations

Overview of the Federal and State Legislative Landscape and CU's Role in the Process

- **Agenda**

Federal Government Relations Landscape

- CU Federal Relations Intro
- Federal Engagement at CU Anschutz
- Federal Lobbying Procedures
- How a Bill becomes a Law...
- Overview of Federal Budget Process
- Authorization v Appropriation
- Federal Appropriation Process
- Budget Reconciliation



Educational Toolbox Series: Federal & State Government Relations

Overview of the Federal and State Legislative Landscape and CU's Role in the Process

- **Agenda Con't**

State Legislative Outlook

- CU Role within and throughout the process
- Legislative priority setting at CU system and Capitol
- CU Anschutz legislative priorities process
- CU Anschutz bill policy and fiscal impact feedback
- Legislative Outlook for next year
- Reminder of CU Faculty & Staff Bill engagement protocols

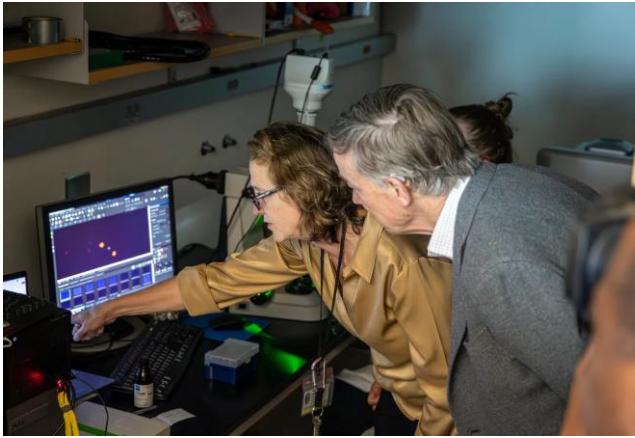
Federal Government Relations Landscape



CU Federal Relations - Introduction

- Increase the visibility, reputation & influence of CU in the nation's Capital.
- Engage in national policymaking on behalf of the University on science, innovation, education, immigration, etc. funding & policy issues.
- Champion robust, sustained investment in federally-funded research, so CU scientists can compete. A rising tide lifts all boats.
- Champion federal student aid programs and initiatives that support students and keep college affordable and accessible.
- Bring CU to DC, and DC to CU.

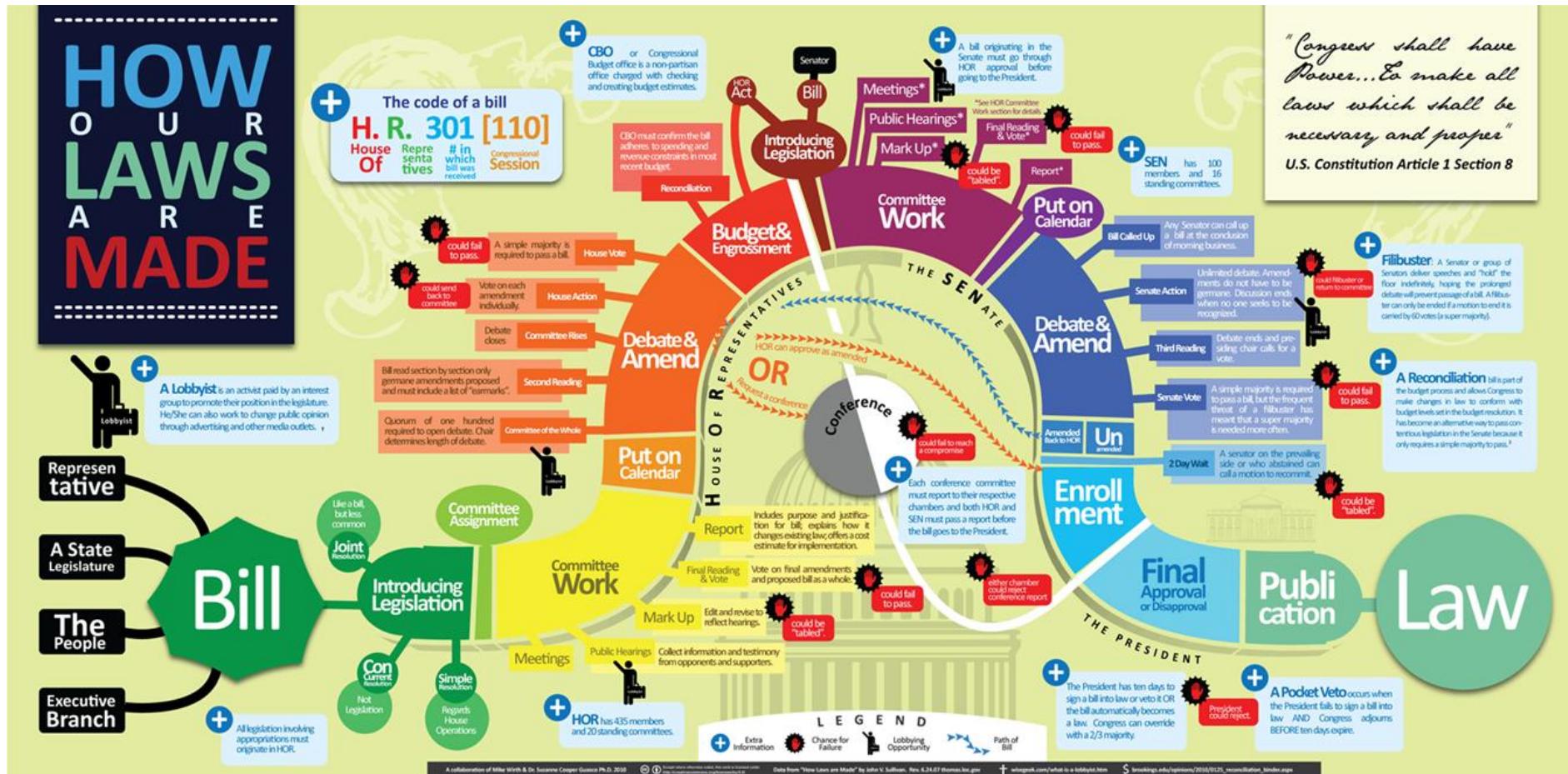
Federal Engagement and CU Anschutz



Federal Lobbying Procedure

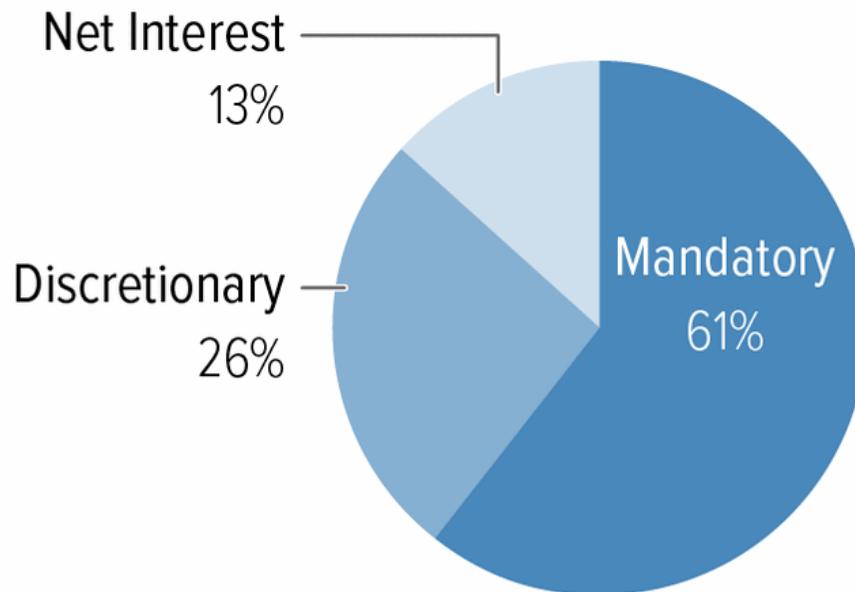
- All *official* contact with Congress or Administration officials must go through the federal relations team. This includes:
 - Letters on behalf of the University
 - Discussing legislation on behalf of the university in official settings
 - Meetings with Congressional Staff or Members of Congress
 - Invites for events on campus or sponsored by the campus with federal officials or staff.
- Full list of federal lobbying activities:
<https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/2004>
- Contact: brett.roude@cu.edu

How a bill becomes a law...



The Federal Budget - Overview

Components of Federal Spending, Fiscal Year 2024



- **Mandatory Spending:**
 - Medicare, Medicaid, Affordable Care Act, Social Security
- **Discretionary spending:**
 - All other government programs – funded through Appropriations

Source: Congressional Budget Office with effect of certain timing anomalies removed, June 2024

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Authorization vs. Appropriations

	Authorization	Appropriations
Purpose	To establish, continue, or modify a program or agency	To provide the actual funding for programs and activities
Process	Done by authorizing committees (e.g., Armed Services Committee)	Done by Appropriations Committee
Funding	May set a specific spending ceiling or be "such sums as may be necessary"	Provides a definite amount of money or "such sums as may be necessary"
Timing	Can be permanent, annual, or multi-year	Typically enacted in an annual cycle
Relationship	Authorization must generally occur before appropriation	A program can be authorized but not funded

The Federal Appropriations Process



House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees create funding bills for various federal departments and agencies

House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee	Federal Departments and/or Agencies within Each Subcommittee's Jurisdiction
Agriculture	Dept. of Agriculture (except Forest Service), Food and Drug Administration
Commerce, Justice, and Science	Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Justice, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Science Foundation
Defense	Dept. of Defense (except Military Construction)
Energy and Water	Dept. of Energy, Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Services	Dept. of Treasury, District of Columbia, Executive Office of the President, Judicial Branch
Homeland Security	Dept. of Homeland Security
Interior and Environment	Dept. of the Interior (except Bureau of Reclamation), Forest Service, Indian Health Service, Environmental Protection Agency
Labor, HHS, and Education	Dept. of Labor, Dept. of Health and Human Services (excluding Food and Drug Administration and the Indian Health Service), Dept. of Education, Social Security Administration
Legislative Branch	Legislative Branch
Military Construction and VA	Military Construction, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
State and Foreign Operations	Dept. of State, Agency for International Development
Transportation and HUD	Dept. of Transportation, Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

SOURCES: Office of Management and Budget, *Budget Appendix, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2024*, March 2023; and House of Representatives Committee of Appropriations, *Subcommittee Jurisdiction*, February 2023.

NOTE: Subcommittees also have jurisdiction over some related agencies not shown.

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Current Appropriations Status – fiscal year (FY) 2026

- Nine out of the 12 appropriations bills are funded until January 30, 2026
- The Military Construction and VA, Agriculture and FDA, and Legislative branch bills are complete.
 - Funded for the remainder FY 2026 (September 30, 2026)
- Shutdowns – lack of agreement on appropriations bills
 - Can be government-wide or agency-specific
 - Coming off a 43-day government-wide shutdown

Budget Reconciliation

- What is Budget Reconciliation?
 - A special legislative process allowing certain budget-related bills to pass with a simple majority in the Senate.
 - Limited debate time and cannot be filibustered.
 - Must relate to spending, revenue, or the debt limit.
 - Used to adjust “mandatory” programs (i.e. Medicaid and taxes).
 - Guided by the 'Byrd Rule' to prevent non-budget items.
- Bills passed via budget reconciliation:
 - One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Inflation Reduction Act, American Rescue Plan Act, Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

CU System State Legislative Engagement Process



Office of Governmental Relations Overview- CU System

- The Office of Government Relations supports the University of Colorado by building effective partnerships between the university and state and federal governments.
- Achieved through central representation and advocacy (Lobbying) of CU's needs and interests with state officials.
 - State team advocates at the state legislature for CU's budget, capital and policy requests and monitors all bills impacting CU's four campuses
 - Individual campus legislative priorities and system leadership inform overall CU legislative priorities- helps guide advocacy and lobbying efforts

System Bill Feedback Process and Official Bill Positions

- State Relations team reads each bill to determine any potential CU campus impact, bills with potential impact are sent to CU campuses to gather feedback
- Campus feedback can include outlining potential issues with the bill, suggested amendments, or specifying desired outcomes (pass or fail)
- Campus feedback is a vital part in determining the position CU will take on the bill (Support, Neutral, Oppose, Amend)
- CU's bill positions further guide lobbying efforts and advocacy
- Once feedback is received, the State Relations team works with system and campus leadership to determine the CU's position

CU Anschutz Internal State Legislative Engagement Process



Campus Legislative Priorities Process

- Legislative policy change ideas that impact CU Anschutz are developed at multiple levels including campus leadership, Dean's, faculty, staff
- Faculty and staff with legislative policy ideas should collaborate with their school or unit leadership to assess their potential as campus priorities
- In each school/college, legislative priorities are set by the Dean (early Fall).
- Deans collaborate with campus leadership to assess the broader policy and fiscal impacts of changes, establishing legislative priorities for submission to the Office of Government Relations before the upcoming session.

Bill Policy & Fiscal Impact Feedback

- System office sends bills with potential impacts to CU Anschutz to campus leadership and Campus Liasons.
 - Neil Krauss, *Assistant Vice Chancellor of Initiatives and Community Engagement*
 - Tobin Bliss, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Fiscal Planning (Fiscal Notes)
- Liasons route bill for feedback to the appropriate impacted constituents (leadership, program leadership, faculty and staff)
- Pertinent feedback includes outlining potential issues and impacts with the bill, suggested amendments, and recommended position (Oppose, Support, Amend) etc.
- Campus feedback process usually entails quick turnaround timeframe requirements (1-5 days)

Bill Policy & Fiscal Impact Feedback Con't

- As bills make their way through the multiple committees of the legislative process, the CU system office keeps need-to-know campus leadership and faculty apprised of a bill's status.
- Amendments may be made in any committee and these amendments might or might not have material implications.
- Campus liaisons work with the CU system staff and affected campus constituents regarding feedback for amendments.
- As the legislative session winds down, bill changes can come unexpectedly and around the clock.

State Legislative Outlook



Current Year Special Session Outcome and Impact

- Special legislative session was called in Aug 2025 to address significant current year (FY26) state budget shortfalls and AI Legislation
- Lawmakers adopted 11 bills during the six-day session, with most passing on party-line vote
- Governor has Cutting Authority in special session, made following reductions to balance budget, \$252.2M in cuts and transfers, \$79.1M in cuts to HCPF, \$12.8M in cuts to Higher Ed
- Four AI-related bills were introduced to address concerns with Colorado's first-in-the-nation AI law (SB24-205), set to take effect in February 2026.
- After extensive debate and lack of consensus, SB25B-004 was amended to simply delay implementation until June 30, 2026.

State Legislative Outlook for Next Session

- Estimated State budget constraints for FY 27 (\$850 mil) will likely be the primary focus of next legislative session
- Likely limited new dollars for new legislation
- Bills will be difficult to pass with significant additive fiscal impacts associated
- Medicaid changes will likely be on the table and could potentially see multiple bills addressing changes
- Other topic areas where we could see potential legislation include:
 - Accessibility, Workforce development, Insurance and AI

CU Faculty & Staff Bill Engagement Protocols



State Lobbying

What is State Lobbying?

- State lobbying involves both written and oral communication aimed at influencing legislative and regulatory actions within the state.
 - Includes engaging with the governor, lieutenant governor, or members of the general assembly to affect the drafting, introduction, and consideration of bills amendments, passage, or vetoes of legislation
 - Regardless of whether the general assembly is in session

Reminder of State Lobbying Protocols

CU Administrative Policy Statement #2009 provides guidance

Who can lobby on behalf of CU?

No person may engage in state lobbying on behalf of the university except the following:

- University president and chancellors;
- Any university employee, or outside hired lobbyist delegated by the president or the chancellors to engage in state lobbying

APS #2009 is not intended to restrict protected expression by university employees.

- University employees must make it clear that they are not expressing an official position of the university.

University funds and resources cannot be used for private lobbying activities.

Employees must take personal leave to lobby during work hours



Additional State Lobbying Considerations

Exemptions for Lobbying Communications: State lobbying does not include certain communications by university employees under specific conditions:

- **Mandatory Responses:** Communications required by statutes, regulations, or orders are exempt, including testimony mandated by subpoena.
- **Official Duties:** A university employee can share information with a state official or a member of a board or commission as part of their job, but they must notify the Office of Government Relations beforehand. This communication must also be related to the employee's duties.
- **Faculty Expertise:** A university faculty member can discuss topics related to their expertise or courses, but they must clarify that they do not represent the university's views and notify the Office of Government Relations before doing so.

Additional Information

- Administrative Policy Statement #2009 Provides Guidance
 - <https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/2009>
- When in doubt contact the Office of Government Relations or the Office of University Counsel or Anschutz Campus Legislative Liasons
- Rebecca Massey- Rebecca.Massey@cu.edu
- Neil Krauss- Neil.Krauss@CUAnschutz.edu
- Tobin Bliss- Tobin.Bliss@CUAnschutz.edu

Questions





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