



UC DAVIS FEDERAL RELATIONS UPDATE
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Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed a **comprehensive immigration reform bill**. Senate leaders plan to take the bill to the Senate floor after the Memorial Day recess, which ended May 31. While the higher education community remains concerned about some of the bill's provisions, we are pleased that the bill incorporates a streamlined green-card process for international students with advanced STEM degrees from U.S. institutions and an expansive version of the DREAM Act. The latter provision would give undocumented students brought to this country before the age of 16 an expedited path to citizenship. In the House, Republican leaders want a different, more conservative version of immigration reform. A bipartisan group has agreed on reform principles, but has not reached a final deal, reportedly due to disagreements over healthcare for immigrants.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee recently approved the **Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act of 2013** (H.R. 2061). The Presidents of APLU and AAU support H.R. 2061 because the measure would NOT impose significant new reporting requirements on federal grant and contract awardees. Instead it will focus on setting government-wide data standards. The revised bill includes a three-year pilot program to evaluate consolidated financial reporting and its ability to increase transparency and reduce the compliance burden on federal award recipients.

Congress is moving ahead with legislation to prevent the **interest rates on Stafford federally subsidized student loans from doubling to 6.8 percent on July 1**, but there is disagreement on how best to do so. The House passed the Smarter Solutions for Students Act (H.R. 1911), which would set interest rates on the government's cost of borrowing, with interest rates changing from year-to-year and an 8.5-percent cap on Stafford loans. UCOP opposes the legislation because the average borrower would pay more under this proposal than current law. On May 22, the White House issued a veto threat against the legislation. Meanwhile, Senate Democrats have introduced the Student Loan Affordability Act of 2013 (S. 953), which would maintain a 3.4% interest rate for two years, using non-education savings offsets. It will be voted on next week.

Questions or need assistance

If you have questions, need additional information about any of the above items, or would like assistance in connecting with senior federal officials, please let me know. I can be reached at gabanks@ucdavis.edu or at 530-752-9795.