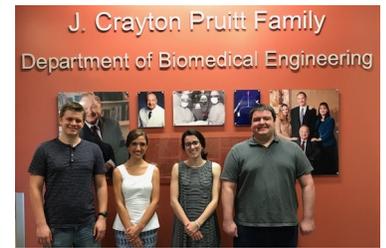


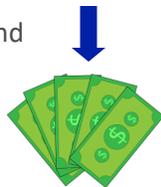
# BME STUDENT ASSOCIATION FOR THE SUPPORT OF SCIENCE (SASS)

BME Student Association for the Support of Science (SASS) is a student organization at the University of Florida that advocates for science and informed science policy. We highlight the many benefits science has brought to our community and our world, encourage scientists and non-scientists to be involved in science policy, and influence policy makers to support science.



## WHY POLICY MATTERS

Public policy is immensely important to engineers, especially biomedical engineers. The field of biomedical engineering is heavily dependent on innovations through research. Most of this funding for research comes in the form of grants from the federal government, particularly the NIH as well as the NSF, DOD, and other federal agencies.



The US is the leader in biomedical innovation largely due to the public's and government's willingness to fund this innovative research. The healthcare industry is 1/6th of the US economy and plays a key role in which innovative biomedical products are financially successful. In addition, federal standards and regulations are essential to ensure the efficacy, safety, and reproducibility of healthcare innovations. The FDA regulates biomedical devices, the USDA regulates animal research, and the CDC regulates laboratory biosafety levels. All of these and more are reasons we biomedical engineers should be invested in public policy and events happening in Washington, DC.

## FEDERALLY FUNDED SCIENCE

*What good has federally funded science done for us?* From groundbreaking discoveries like the structure of DNA to developments like vaccines, MRI and the internet, federally funded science has been an essential ingredient in our nation's success. While industry does invest in R&D, basic research from government funded labs provides the foundation for industry to build upon. Many important therapeutics and health-related devices began in this setting, and the next generation of these is being developed now in academic labs. For America to remain a competitive global leader in science and technology, investment in research must be a priority. See examples of what your tax dollars are doing for you! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Let's get involved!

- [Write a letter! \(click here\)](#)
- Inform friends and family members
- Stay tuned for upcoming events!

### WAYS TO CONTACT

 <b>IN-PERSON VISIT</b> <small>Be sure to meet your Representative or Senator in their district office!</small>	 <b>ATTEND A TOWN HALL MEETING</b> <small>Show up and be heard!</small>	 <b>CALL THE OFFICE</b> <small>Emails are okay, but calls are more effective. Be sure to provide your home address!</small>
 <b>INVITE THEM TO A GROUP MEETING</b> <small>It never hurts to ask for a member to attend a group meeting in your community!</small>	 <b>TESTIFY AT A COMMITTEE HEARING</b> <small>Registering support or opposition at a hearing is very effective.</small>	

## 2018 NIH FUNDING

Appropriation committees in both the House and Senate have approved bills that propose to increase the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget for the fiscal year 2018 (FY2018). The Senate bill which was passed on September 7<sup>th</sup>, proposes a \$2 billion increase from FY2017. Rather than passing individual appropriations bills, the House passed a single bill covering all FY2018 discretionary funding. The omnibus appropriations bill proposes to increase the NIH budget by \$1.1 billion from FY2017.

However, unable to pass a full 2018 appropriations bill by the end of the FY2017 on September 30<sup>th</sup>, Congress passed a

short term continuing resolution (CR). The continuing resolution lasts until December 8<sup>th</sup>, and provides funding at .6791% below FY2017 levels.

With the Senate releasing their budget resolution on September 29<sup>th</sup>, Congress now has until the current CR ends on December 8<sup>th</sup>, to resolve differences between the proposed budgets and present a final approved bill to the president. If Congress cannot come to an agreement, an additional CR will need to be passed to avoid a government shut-down.

