

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our more than 150 scholarly and professional publisher members, including many non-profit scientific societies, we write in opposition to H.R. 3427, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2017. This bill is unnecessary, counterproductive, and would significantly harm the system of peer-reviewed scholarly communication that supports science, scholarship, and innovation. It would reduce the ability of publishers to invest in education, research, and digital platforms that advance and help ensure the quality and integrity of science and discovery.

H.R. 3427 is unnecessary because all major science funding agencies are already implementing public access plans to promote free access to articles reporting on federally funded research, as previously directed by Congress in the America COMPETES Act of 2010 and implemented under a 2013 directive from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. This bill would go far beyond existing policies and impose significant new and harmful regulatory requirements, requiring agencies to restart their processes and delaying implementation. Therefore, this legislation could in fact undermine the very goal it seeks to advance.

Publishers support the public's ability to search, access, and review journal articles that report on government-funded research, and they have worked for many years to provide wide access to the articles they publish. Our organizations work with researchers, physicians, and other practitioners, as well as federal agencies, libraries, and others involved in supporting science and the scholarly record to improve the impact of research and enable the communication of research. Publishers seek to continue to work collaboratively with Congress, the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and the responsible federal agencies to develop a coordinated approach to public access that respects the diverse needs of the scholarly community. H.R. 3427 falls short of this goal.

Under the bill's one-size-fits-all mandates, restrictive license terms that undermine copyright, and a six month limit on opportunities to recoup their investments, many scientific societies and other scholarly publishers would be unable to continue the work they do to advance science, health, and innovation including managing the peer review process, revision, and copyediting; preparing manuscripts; creating extensive links to related research; providing electronic and print distribution; and ensuring discovery and deposit into long-term archives. This would be devastating to the integrity of the scholarly record and would negatively impact jobs throughout the scholarly publishing ecosystem.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 3427 and to focus on providing oversight to agency regulations and the implementation of existing agency plans to ensure they best support American strength in discovery and innovation, and the system of scholarly communication upon which that innovation depends.

Sincerely yours,

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our more than 150 scholarly and professional publisher members, including many non-profit scientific societies, we write in opposition to S. 1701, the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act of 2017. This bill is unnecessary, counterproductive, and would significantly harm the system of peer-reviewed scholarly communication that supports science, scholarship, and innovation. It would reduce the ability of publishers to invest in education, research, and digital platforms that advance and help ensure the quality and integrity of science and discovery.

S.1701 is unnecessary because all major science funding agencies are already implementing public access plans to promote free access to articles reporting on federally funded research, as previously directed by Congress in the America COMPETES Act of 2010 and implemented under a 2013 directive from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. This bill would go far beyond existing policies and impose significant new and harmful regulatory requirements, requiring agencies to restart their processes and delaying implementation. Therefore, this legislation could in fact undermine the very goal it seeks to advance.

Publishers support the public's ability to search, access, and review journal articles that report on government-funded research, and they have worked for many years to provide wide access to the articles they publish. Our organizations work with researchers, physicians, and other practitioners, as well as federal agencies, libraries, and others involved in supporting science and the scholarly record to improve the impact of research and enable the communication of research. Publishers seek to continue to work collaboratively with Congress, the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and the responsible federal agencies to develop a coordinated approach to public access that respects the diverse needs of the scholarly community. S. 1701 falls short of this goal.

Under the bill's one-size-fits-all mandates, restrictive license terms that undermine copyright, and a 12 month limit on opportunities to recoup their investments, many scientific societies and other scholarly publishers would be unable to continue the work they do to advance science, health, and innovation including managing the peer review process, revision, and copyediting; preparing manuscripts; creating extensive links to related research; providing electronic and print distribution; and ensuring discovery and deposit into long-term archives. This would be devastating to the integrity of the scholarly record and would negatively impact jobs throughout the scholarly publishing ecosystem.

We urge you to oppose S. 1701 and to focus on providing oversight to agency regulations and the implementation of existing agency plans to ensure they best support American strength in discovery and innovation, and the system of scholarly communication upon which that innovation depends.

Sincerely yours,