

July 16, 2025



**The American Physical Society
(APS), American Association of
Physics Teachers (AAPT), and
National Society of Black Physicists
(NSBP)**

**Hill Day 2025
Washington D.C.**



OVERVIEW

We are excited to welcome you to our nation's Capital. An exciting day of meetings has been planned for your visit. Our team has prepared a variety of briefing materials to help guide your conversations and ensure you are fully prepared for your advocacy. In this packet, you will find the following materials:

- Best practices and tips for meetings
- Talking points to guide your advocacy
- Schedule for the day
- Biographies for Members of Congress & their staff
- Map of the Capitol Grounds

Best Practices In Washington

Whether you are seasoned in meetings on Capitol Hill, or this is your first time participating in advocacy work, it is helpful to remember some simple “rules of the road” while in Washington:

- **Prepare in advance** by reviewing the provided talking points and briefing materials. Be sure to ask any questions of your group lead in advance of your meetings.
- **Bring organization-specific information** to share during meetings, such as current role, your organization’s footprint, or success stories of implementation of federal programs.
- **Keep a copy of your schedule handy**, and please enter the number of your group’s guide in your cell phone in advance, should you become separated.
- **The agenda, meeting times, and locations may change** multiple times before the fly-in. This is completely normal. We will do our best to convey that information quickly in order to maximize your time in DC and be effective in our advocacy.
- **You will be required to go through security to enter any federal building.** Allow for extra time to go through metal detectors, minimize jewelry and extra bags, and keep your pockets free of coins and keys to reduce your time in line.
- **Do not be frustrated**, particularly in House offices, if you are asked to wait or take a meeting in the hall – they have small offices and limited meeting space.
- **Don’t be surprised if you meet with young staff.** Despite their title or age, young staffers are often experts in their field and are authorized to represent their bosses.
- **Wear comfortable dress shoes, stay hydrated, and pack a snack.** While we do our best to schedule time for breaks, there may be back-to-back meetings that are far apart. Come prepared to walk and it never hurts to throw a granola bar in your bag!
- **Engage and participate.** Don't hesitate to ask questions, make suggestions on how to improve the dialogue, or add to discussions with your perspective.
- **Don’t be nervous!** Members understand that you may not be a policy expert. If you don’t know an answer, defer to your group lead and offer to have them follow up.

Schedule

Group 1

Participants:

- *Dr. Gabe Spalding, AAPT*
- *Dr. Eric Brewe, APS*
- *Dr. Thomas Searles, NSBP*
- *Dr. Mark Elsesser, APS*
- *Ellie Clancy, Lot Sixteen*

10:00 AM

Office of Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD)

Meeting with Nicole Herman, Legislative Aide

Location: 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building

11:00 AM

Office of Senator John Hoeven (R-ND)

Meeting with Mara Lefevre, Legislative Aide

Location: 338 Russell Senate Office Building

12:00 PM

Office of Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

Meeting with Kai Vogel, Legislative Aide

Location: 322 Hart Senate Office Building

1:30 PM

Office of Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS)

Meeting with Jared Sackett, Legislative Aide

Location: 479A Russell Senate Office Building

2:00 PM LUNCH

3:40 PM

Office of Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH-09)

Meeting with Adrienne Cardulla, Legislative Assistant

Location: 2314 Rayburn House Office Building

4:00PM

Office of Representative Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14)

Meeting with Danielle Floyd, Legislative Aide

Location: 2228 Rayburn House Office Building

Schedule

Group 2

Participants:

- *Dr. Mario Borunda, APS*
- *Dr. Stephen Roberson, NSBP*
- *Dr. Beth Cunningham, AAPT*
- *Dr. Julie Davis, APS*
- *Chelsea Baltes, Lot Sixteen*

10:00 AM

Office of Representative Glenn Ivey (D-MD-04)

Meeting with Walter Gonzales, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director

Location: 1610 Longworth House Office Building

11:00 AM

Office of Representative Tom Cole (R-OK-04)

Meeting with Lauren Ketchum, Legislative Assistant

Location: 2207 Rayburn House Office Building

12:00 PM

Office of Representative Sanford Bishop Jr. (D-GA-02)

Meeting with Jack Bryan, Legislative Assistant

Location: 2407 Rayburn House Office Building

12:30 LUNCH

2:00 PM

Office of Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12)

Meeting with Aanya Friedman, Legislative Aide/Legislative Correspondent

Location: 168 Cannon House Office Building

4:00 PM

Office of Senator John Boozman (R-AR)

Meeting with Kathleen Bochow, Legislative Assistant

Location: 555 Dirksen Senate Office Building

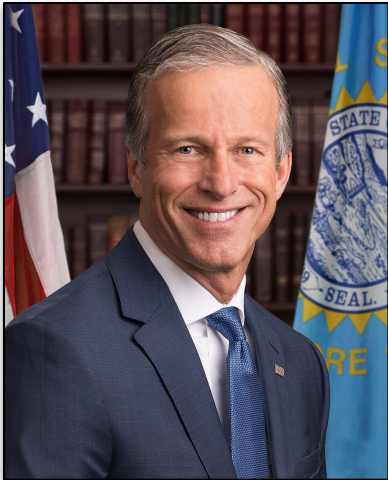
4:30 PM

Office of Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)

Meeting with Alexandra Slocum, Policy Advisor

Location: 330 Hart Senate Office Building

Office of Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD)



Meeting Location: 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-224-2321
Meeting With: Nicole Herman, Legislative Aide

Senate Majority Leader Thune was first elected to the Senate in 2004. In the 118th Congress, Thune served as the Senate Republican Whip – the number two position in Senate Republican leadership – and now is the Majority Leader for the 119th Congress. Prior to his time in the Senate, Thune represented South Dakota in the House of Representatives from 1997 to 2003. He was also an appointee to the Small Business Administration in the Reagan administration.

Committee Membership:

- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
- Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
- Senate Committee on Finance

Context: In 2021, Thune [introduced](#) the Quantum Network Infrastructure and Workforce Development Act ([S.1161](#)) to strengthen national security by advancing U.S. capabilities in quantum information science and establishing a more comprehensive approach to workforce development.

Thune [criticized](#) the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program under the Biden Administration for including DEI hiring practices as part of a “wish list of requirements that Congress never envisioned.”

As Majority Leader, Thune holds significant influence within the Republican conference and is a key figure to engage when advocating for your priorities.

Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, South Dakota received \$124 million in federal research funding from the Department of Defense (DOD), DOE, NASA, and NSF to six unique institutions. At the institutions selected in 2023, there were 87 PhD degrees and 1,700 Bachelor’s degrees awarded.
 - Over the same five years, 137 doctoral-trainees and 53 postdoctoral researchers across three institutions in South Dakota were supported by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF funding.
 - From 2019 to 2023, South Dakota received \$19 million in small business innovation grants to commercialize novel discoveries from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF. The grants were awarded to 12 unique recipients employing 843 workers.

Staff background: Nicole Herman began working for Thune as a Staff Assistant in 2021 and is currently a Legislative Aide. She studied conflict analysis and resolution at George Mason University and has a Master of Arts in national security policy studies from The George Washington University.

Notes:

Office of Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)



Meeting Location: 338 Russell Senate Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-224-2551
Meeting With: Mara Lefevre, Legislative Aide

Sen. John Hoeven was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 2010 following ten years of service as the governor of North Dakota. Hoeven worked as executive vice president of First Western Bank in Minot from 1986 to 1993 and served as CEO of the Bank of North Dakota, a state-owned, state-run financial institution.

- Committee Membership:**
- Senate Committee on Appropriations
 - Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
 - Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 - Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Context: Hoeven’s efforts to expand STEM education are highlighted by his long standing [support](#) for the North Dakota Space Grant Consortium in Bismarck, which provides fellowships and scholarships for students to pursue high-tech careers. He [believes](#) that investment in STEM education is essential to prepare students for the modern workforce and maintain American global competitiveness.

Hoeven is not on the record addressing DEI initiatives within STEM.

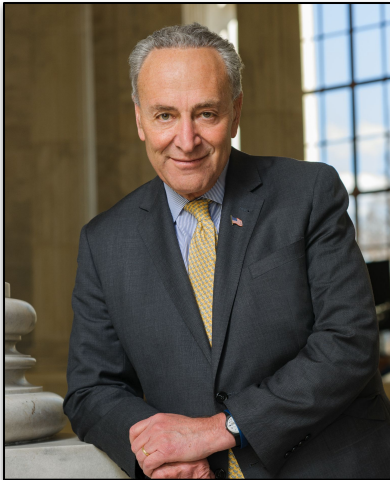
Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, North Dakota received \$240 million in federal research funding from the Department of Defense (DOD), DOE, NASA, and NSF to three unique institutions. At the institutions selected in 2023, there were 116 PhD degrees and 1,400 Bachelor’s degrees awarded.
 - Over the same five years, 149 doctoral-trainees and 54 postdoctoral researchers across 2 institutions in North Dakota were supported by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF funding.
 - From 2019 to 2023, North Dakota received \$2.4 million in small business innovation grants to commercialize novel discoveries from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF. The grants were awarded to two unique recipients employing 69 workers.

Staff background: Mara Lefevre joined Hoeven’s office in 2022 as a Staff Assistant and currently serves as a Legislative Aide covering economics, public finance, education, science, and technology. Lefevre holds a B.B.A. in political science and government from North Dakota State University.

Notes:

Office of Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY)



Meeting Location: 322 Hart Senate Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-224-6542
Meeting With: Kai Vogel, Legislative Aide

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, New York's senior senator, was first elected in 1998 and reelected in 2022 to a fifth term – making him the longest-serving senator from the state. As former Majority Leader, he led the passage of major legislation, including the Inflation Reduction Act, CHIPS and Science Act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the American Rescue Plan.

Committee Membership:

- Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
- Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Context: Schumer [received](#) the “Champion of Science” award from the Science Coalition in 2008 for his commitment to basic research funding and is considered is a longstanding advocate for STEM. He led the creation and passage of the *CHIPS and Science Act* ([H.R. 4346](#)), aimed at advancing scientific research, among other provisions. In January of 2025, he [announced](#) \$825 million in federal R&D funding from the law to establish Albany NanoTech as the first flagship facility of the National Semiconductor Technology Center, underscoring the role of research investment in national security and technological leadership.

Schumer [supports](#) DEI through the [Senate Democratic Diversity Initiative](#), promoting increased representation in senate offices and [emphasizing](#) the importance of diverse perspectives in policy making.

As Minority Leader, Schumer holds significant influence within the Democratic conference and is a key figure to engage when advocating for your priorities.

Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, New York received \$5 billion in federal research funding from the Department of Defense (DOD), DOE, NASA, and NSF to 70 unique institutions. At the institutions selected in 2023, there were 2,500 PhD degrees and 35,000 Bachelor’s degrees awarded.
 - Over the same five years, over 11,700 doctoral-trainees and 2,900 postdoctoral researchers across 30 institutions in New York were supported by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF funding.
 - From 2019 to 2023, New York received \$563 million in small business innovation grants to commercialize novel discoveries from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF. The grants were awarded to 379 unique recipients employing over 11,350 workers.
 - From 2021 to 2023, New York’s Brookhaven National Laboratory received over \$1.8 billion in federal R&D expenditure.

Staff background: Kai Vogel joined Schumer’s office in 2019 and currently serves as a Legislative Aide covering appropriations. He previously worked in the office of former Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) as a Legislative Intern. Vogel holds a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and public affairs from Claremont McKenna College.

Notes:

Office of Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS)



Meeting Location: 479A Russell Senate Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-224-4774
Meeting With: Jared Sackett, Legislative Aide

Sen. Roger Marshall has served as the junior senator from Kansas since 2021. He was the U.S. representative for Kansas’s 1st congressional district from 2017 to 2021. Marshall practiced medicine for more than 25 years as an obstetrician and served in the Army Reserves for seven years.

- Committee Membership:**
- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
 - Senate Committee on Finance
 - Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 - Senate Committee on the Budget

Context: Marshall recently [led](#) a bipartisan letter urging full funding for the Department of Defense’s STARBASE program for fiscal year 2026. This program provides students with STEM education opportunities at elementary and middle schools in Kansas. While serving as a representative of Kansas’s first district, Marshall [praised](#) the Supporting Veterans in STEM Act ([H.R. 6140](#)) to promote veteran involvement in STEM, computer science, and research by integrating veterans programs into existing NSF programs.

Marshall [linked](#) the Biden Administration’s DEI hiring policies to the air collision near Reagan Airport in February 2025, saying, “What I think you’re going to find is there were a lot of qualified white men that they were not hiring because they were holding spots for DEI hires.” He has [praised](#) the Trump Administration for eliminating DEI offices, employees, and practices.

Earlier this summer, APS placed op-eds in the [Wichita Eagle](#) and [Kansas City Star](#) outlining why federal spending cuts to science programs would be detrimental to both Kansas employers who rely on a skilled local workforce, and the community at large who benefit from students studying in Kansas, supported by federal dollars, and contributing to the local economy.

Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, Kansas received \$603.5 million in federal research funding from DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF to five unique institutions. At the institutions selected in 2023, there were 286 PhD degrees and 4,200 Bachelor’s degrees awarded.
 - Over the same five years, over 1,300 doctoral-trainees and 238 postdoctoral researchers across 3 institutions in Kansas were supported by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF funding.
 - From 2019 to 2023, Kansas received \$36.8 million in small business innovation grants to commercialize novel discoveries from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF. The grants were awarded to 26 unique recipients employing 483 workers.

Staff background: Jared Sackett began working for the Senator as an Intern in 2022 and currently serves as a Legislative Aide covering appropriations, small business, Native Americans, and veterans affairs. He holds a B.B.A. in operations and supply chain management from Kansas State University.

Notes:

Office of Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH-09)



Meeting Location: 2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-225-4146
Meeting With: Adrienne Cardulla, Legislative Assistant

Rep. Marcy Kaptur was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1982; she is the longest-serving woman in congressional history. She worked in the Carter Administration and in urban development before her election to Congress. Kaptur is Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy & Water Development, which has jurisdiction over the Department of Energy.

- Committee Membership:**
- House Appropriations Committee
 - House Budget Committee

Context: In 2019, Kaptur [introduced](#) the bipartisan Coast Guard Youth STEM Programs Expansion Act ([H.R. 3205](#)) to support federal funding for hands-on STEM experiences to K-12 students. In 2024, Kaptur [celebrated](#) a \$1 million NSF grant to the University of Toledo for an after-school mechatronics program, emphasizing the importance of engaging youth with technology to foster career readiness.

In 2019, Kaptur [voted](#) in favor of the Equity and Inclusion Enforcement Act ([H.R. 2574](#)) which [aimed](#) to hold federally funded programs accountable for their responsibility to provide students equal opportunity for a quality education.

In-District Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, the University of Toledo in Ohio’s ninth district received over \$79 million in federal science R&D funding – funded by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF. This funding directly supported 84 STEM PhD graduates and 1,000 STEM bachelor’s degree recipients.
- Over the same five years, federal funding from DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF supported 77 full time doctoral-trainees and 29 postdoctoral researchers in Ohio’s ninth district.

Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, Ohio received over \$629 million in small business innovation grants from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF to help commercialize novel discoveries developed by federal agencies. These grants were awarded to 252 unique recipients, who collectively employ more than 7,000 full-time workers.

Staff background: Adrienne Cardulla joined the Congresswoman's office in 2022 and currently serves as a Legislative Assistant covering appropriations, education, animals, veterans affairs, and health. She previously interned in the office of Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12). Cardulla holds a Bachelor’s of Science in anthropology from James Madison University, where she also minored in public policy and administration.

Notes:

Office of Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14)



Meeting Location: 2228 Rayburn House Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-225-2976
Meeting With: Danielle Floyd, Legislative Aide

Rep. Lauren Underwood was elected to the House of Representatives in 2018 and represents Illinois’s 14th District. A registered nurse, she is the first woman, person of color, and millennial to represent her district in Congress. She co-chairs the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee and the Black Maternal Health Caucus. Before Congress, she worked at the Department of Health and Human Services on the Affordable Care Act and emergency preparedness. Underwood is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins University.

- Committee Membership:**
- House Committee on Appropriations

Context: In 2024, Underwood helped [secure](#) \$1.2 million for university research and infrastructure, including \$570,000 from NSF to assist Northern Illinois University with a particle physics laboratory project. In 2022, Underwood supported the America COMPETES Act ([H.R. 4521](#)) aimed at research and development investment and [led](#) an amendment ensuring that STEM education is accessible in rural communities.

In a [press release](#) about the FY26 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, Underwood noted the importance of DEI training to create respectful and inclusive workplaces.

In-District Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, Northern Illinois University in Illinois’s 14th district received over \$30 million in federal science R&D funding – funded by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF. This funding directly supported 27 STEM PhD graduates and 743 STEM bachelor’s degree recipients.
- Over the same five years, federal funding from DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF supported 88 full time doctoral-trainees and six postdoctoral researchers at Northern Illinois University.

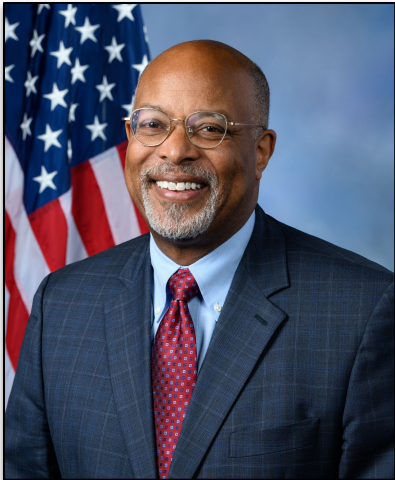
Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, Illinois received over \$278 million in small business innovation grants from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF to help commercialize novel discoveries developed by federal agencies. These grants were awarded to 161 unique recipients, who collectively employ more than 2,480 full-time workers.
- From 2021 to 2023, Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Illinois received \$3.85 billion in federal R&D expenditures funded by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF.

Staff background: Danielle Floyd has worked for the Congresswoman since March 2024 and currently serves as a Legislative Aide having previously worked as a Staff Assistant for Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). Floyd holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics and sociology from the University of Pittsburgh.

Notes:

Office of Rep. Glenn Ivey (D-MD-04)



Meeting Location: 1610 Longworth House Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-225-8699
Meeting With: Walter Gonzales, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director

Rep. Glenn Ivey was elected to the U.S. House in 2022 and represents Maryland’s fourth district. He previously served as the state’s attorney for Prince George’s County from 2002 to 2011. Ivey also worked as Chair of the Maryland Public Service Commission and held senior staff roles in both the U.S. House and Senate, including for Rep. John Conyers, Jr. and Senator Tom Daschle. He studied politics at Princeton University and received his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

- Committee Membership:**
- House Committee on Appropriations
 - House Committee on Ethics

Context: Ivey has demonstrated commitment to advancing STEM education through school visits in his district, including [tours](#) of labs and programs at Chesapeake Math & IT Academy North and remarks at DuVal High School’s STEM day [stressing](#) equal access to hands-on learning.

Ivey [opposed](#) the 2023 Supreme Court’s decisions in [Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College](#), which effectively eliminated the use of race as a factor in college admissions. He affirmed the need to expand opportunity for underrepresented communities is essential to progress in both education and society.

In-District Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, the University of Maryland and its Center for Environmental Science in Maryland’s fourth district received over \$1.3 billion in federal science R&D funding – funded by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF. This funding directly supported 394 STEM PhD graduates and 4,600 STEM bachelor’s degree recipients.
- Over the same five years, federal funding from DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF supported 2,878 full time doctoral-trainees and 581 postdoctoral researchers at the University of Maryland.

Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, Maryland received over \$501 million in small business innovation grants from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF to help commercialize novel discoveries developed by federal agencies. These grants were awarded to 273 unique recipients, who collectively employ more than 8,022 full-time workers.
- From 2021 to 2023, the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center and Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research in Maryland received \$2.44 million in federal R&D expenditures funded by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF.

Staff background: Walter Gonzales joined Ivey’s office in January 2025 as the Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director covering appropriations, science and technology, health, and social welfare. He previously worked for former Representative Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD-02) from 2002 to 2025; most recently as Deputy Chief of Staff. Gonzales previously spent five years working for former Representative Gene Green (D-TX-29) as an Intern and Legislative Assistant. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Vermont.

Notes:

Office of Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK-04)



Meeting Location: 2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-225-6165
Meeting With: Lauren Ketchum, Legislative Assistant

Rep. Tom Cole is currently serving his eleventh term in the House of Representatives. He serves as the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Before Congress, Cole worked as the State Chairman of the Oklahoma Republican Party, District Director to former Congressman Mickey Edwards, a member of the Oklahoma State Senate and as Oklahoma’s Secretary of State. He holds a B.A. from Grinnell College, a M.A. from Yale University and a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma.

- Committee Membership:**
- House Committee on Appropriations, Chair

Context: Cole is a [member](#) of the STEM Education Caucus and [supports](#) strengthening America’s STEM workforce by expanding STEM education at all levels and advancing innovation through investment in research and science labs. As Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Cole plays a key role in determining funding levels for research agencies, giving him significant influence over federal investments in STEM.

In 2021, Cole [expressed](#) concern that DEI-focused initiatives in the Education Department’s civics and history grant priorities – such as references to systemic discrimination and the 1619 Project – politicize education and risk dividing rather than uniting students. Later, in a 2024 [op-ed](#) published in the Wall Street Journal, Cole acknowledged that, as part of efforts to rein in spending, House Republicans redirected resources away from DEI initiatives.

In-District Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, the Norman Health and Science Center at the University of Oklahoma in the state’s fourth district received over \$338 million in federal science R&D funding – funded by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF. This funding directly supported 95 STEM PhD graduates and 1,300 STEM bachelor’s degree recipients.
- Over the same five years, federal funding from DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF supported 451 full time doctoral-trainees and 156 postdoctoral researchers in Oklahoma’s fourth district.

Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, Oklahoma received over \$44.9 million in small business innovation grants from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF to help commercialize novel discoveries developed by federal agencies. These grants were awarded to 46 unique recipients, who collectively employ more than 587 full-time workers.

Staff background: Lauren Ketchum Interned for Cole in 2022 before working as a Staff Assistant for Rep. Amodei (R-NV-02) for a year. She rejoined Cole’s office in January 2024 and currently serves as a Legislative Assistant covering appropriations, science and technology, women’s issues, minority issues, and health. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Baylor University.

Notes:

Office of Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA-02)



Meeting Location: 2407 Rayburn House Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-225-3631
Meeting With: Jack Bryan, Legislative Assistant

Rep. Sanford Bishop has served as the representative for Georgia's second district since 1993. Before Congress he worked as a lawyer and served in the United States Army from 1969 to 1971. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Morehouse College and a J.D. from Emory University School of Law.

- Committee Membership:**
- House Committee on Appropriations

Context: In 2024, Bishop announced three NSF awards totaling over \$3 million to Albany State University. He [voiced](#) his support for NSF funding to boost economic growth and scientific advancement. In 2023, Bishop announced NSF awards of nearly \$400,000 Fort Valley State University, praising the NSF for its investment in STEM fields which he [called](#) “vital to America’s national security and economic prosperity.”

Bishop [opposed](#) the Supreme Court’s opinion issued in [Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College](#), arguing its elimination of affirmative action harms the ability of people of color to achieve economic mobility and wealth.

In-District Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, four unique institutions in Georgia’s second district received over \$149 million in federal science R&D funding – funded by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF. This funding directly supported 604 bachelor’s degree recipients.

Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, Georgia received over \$175 million in small business innovation grants from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF to help commercialize novel discoveries developed by federal agencies. These grants were awarded to 111 unique recipients, who collectively employ 1,893 full-time workers.

Staff background: Jack Bryan first started working for Bishop in 2019 as an Intern and currently serves as a Legislative Assistant covering appropriations, education, science and technology, and women’s issues. Prior to Congress, he worked as a Compliance Associate at Blue Wave Political Partners and as an Anti-Money Laundering Investigator at Protiviti. Bryan completed his undergraduate studies in political science, spanish, and criminal justice at Georgia College & State University.

Notes:

Office of Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ-12)



Meeting Location: 168 Cannon House Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-225-5801
Meeting With: Aanya Friedemann, Legislative Aide/Legislative Correspondent

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman is serving her sixth term in the House of Representatives. Prior to her election to Congress, Coleman served eight consecutive terms in the New Jersey General Assembly. She is the first Black woman to represent New Jersey in Congress and serve as Majority Leader and Chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. She is a graduate of Thomas Edison State College and holds honorary doctorate degrees from the College of New Jersey, Rider University, and Stockton University.

- Committee Membership:**
- House Committee on Appropriations
 - House Committee on the Budget

Context: In June 2025, Coleman introduced the Preventing Halting of Active Research Act ([H.R. 4007](#)) to restore and protect National Institute of Health funding that was canceled by the Trump Administration, aiming to unfreeze grants and prohibit future terminations to safeguard medical research.

Coleman is a member of the Caucus on Black Women and Girls and has [emphasized](#) that structural inequities and lack of DEI in hiring and leadership have prevented women of color from accessing higher-paying fields, including STEM. She [reintroduced](#) the Protect Black Women and Girls Act ([H.R. 3974](#)) in 2025, which would establish a task force to study social conditions of Black females to ensure federal programs are equitable and effective.

In-District Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, Princeton University and the College of New Jersey in New Jersey’s 12th district received over \$687 million in federal science R&D funding – funded by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF. This funding directly supported 312 STEM Ph.D graduates and 1,200 bachelor’s degree recipients.
- Over the same five years, federal funding from DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF supported 1,101 full time doctoral-trainees and 669 postdoctoral researchers in New Jersey’s 12th district.

Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, New Jersey received over \$259 million in small business innovation grants from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF to help commercialize novel discoveries developed by federal agencies. These grants were awarded to 118 unique recipients, who collectively employ 2,580 full-time workers.
- From 2021 to 2023, the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in New Jersey received over \$360 million in federal R&D expenditure from DOE and NASA.

Staff background: Aanya Friedemann started working for Coleman in 2024 as a Legislative Aide/Legislative Correspondent covering appropriations, science and technology, small businesses, and telecommunications. She previously interned for former Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-03) and worked as a Legislative Assistant in the Oregon State Capitol. She studied economics and political science at Willamette University.

Notes:

Office of Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)



Meeting Location: 555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-224-4843
Meeting With: Kathleen Bochow, Legislative Assistant

Sen. John Boozman was first elected to the Senate in 2010 and is the senior senator from Arkansas. He previously served as the representative for Arkansas’s third district 2001-2011. Before Congress, Boozman worked as an optometrist for over two decades.

Committee Membership:

- Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Chair
- Senate Committee on Appropriations
- Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
- Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs
- Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Context: In 2015, Boozman [authored](#) an amendment to the *Every Student Succeeds Act* ([S. 1177](#)) that promoted STEM as an integral component of education policy. Later, in 2020, he [supported](#) a federal grant awarded the University of Arkansas-Pulaski Technical College to launch a STEM Park project increasing specialized training to create a pipeline of a highly-skilled workforce from school to industry.

Boozman [supported](#) the Senate passage of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 ([S. 4638](#)), which included provisions that redirect the Department of Defense away from DEI and Critical Race Theory initiatives.

Statewide Funding Statistic:

- From 2019 to 2023, Arkansas received \$203 million in federal research funding from DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF to six unique institutions. At the institutions selected in 2023, there were 194 PhD degrees and 2,200 Bachelor’s degrees awarded.
 - Over the same five years, 359 doctoral-trainees and 138 postdoctoral researchers across 5 institutions in Arkansas were supported by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF funding.
 - From 2019 to 2023, Arkansas received \$26 million in small business innovation grants to commercialize novel discoveries from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF. The grants were awarded to 17 unique recipients employing 96 workers.

Staff background: Kathleen Bochow joined Boozman’s office in 2023 as a Legislative Correspondent and currently serves as a Legislative Assistant. She previously worked for Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) from 2021 to 2023, most recently as a Staff Assistant. Bochow holds a Bachelor’s degree in neuroscience from Rhodes College.

Notes:

Office of Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)



Meeting Location: 330 Hart Senate Office Building
Phone Number: (202)-224-4721
Meeting With: Alexandra Slocum, Policy Advisor

Sen. Markwayne Mullin was elected in 2022 in a special election to serve the remainder of Jim Inhofe’s term, and he currently serves as the Senate Republican Deputy Whip. He previously represented Oklahoma’s second congressional district in the House of Representatives for a decade. Prior to his political career, Mullin led his family business, Mullin Plumbing. As a member of the Cherokee Nation, he is also the first Tribal citizen to serve in the U.S. Senate in nearly two decades.

- Committee Membership:**
- Senate Committee on Appropriations
 - Senate Committee on Armed Services
 - Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
 - Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Context: In February 2025, Mullin [applauded](#) the presentation of a \$50,000 grant from Aeon and Firehawk Aerospace to the [FISTA foundation](#) to establish a new scholarship program for students interested in STEM. He emphasized that the fund was critical in equipping students with valuable STEM skills for the future.

Mullin has been [called](#) a “credible attack dog” for Trump’s anti-DEI initiatives given his Cherokee Nation citizenship. He [argued](#) that DEI played a role in the February 2025 plane crash outside Reagan National Airport, saying that focusing on hiring “the best and brightest individuals” is more dependable than focusing on “diversity, equity, and inclusion” policies.

Statewide Funding Statistic:

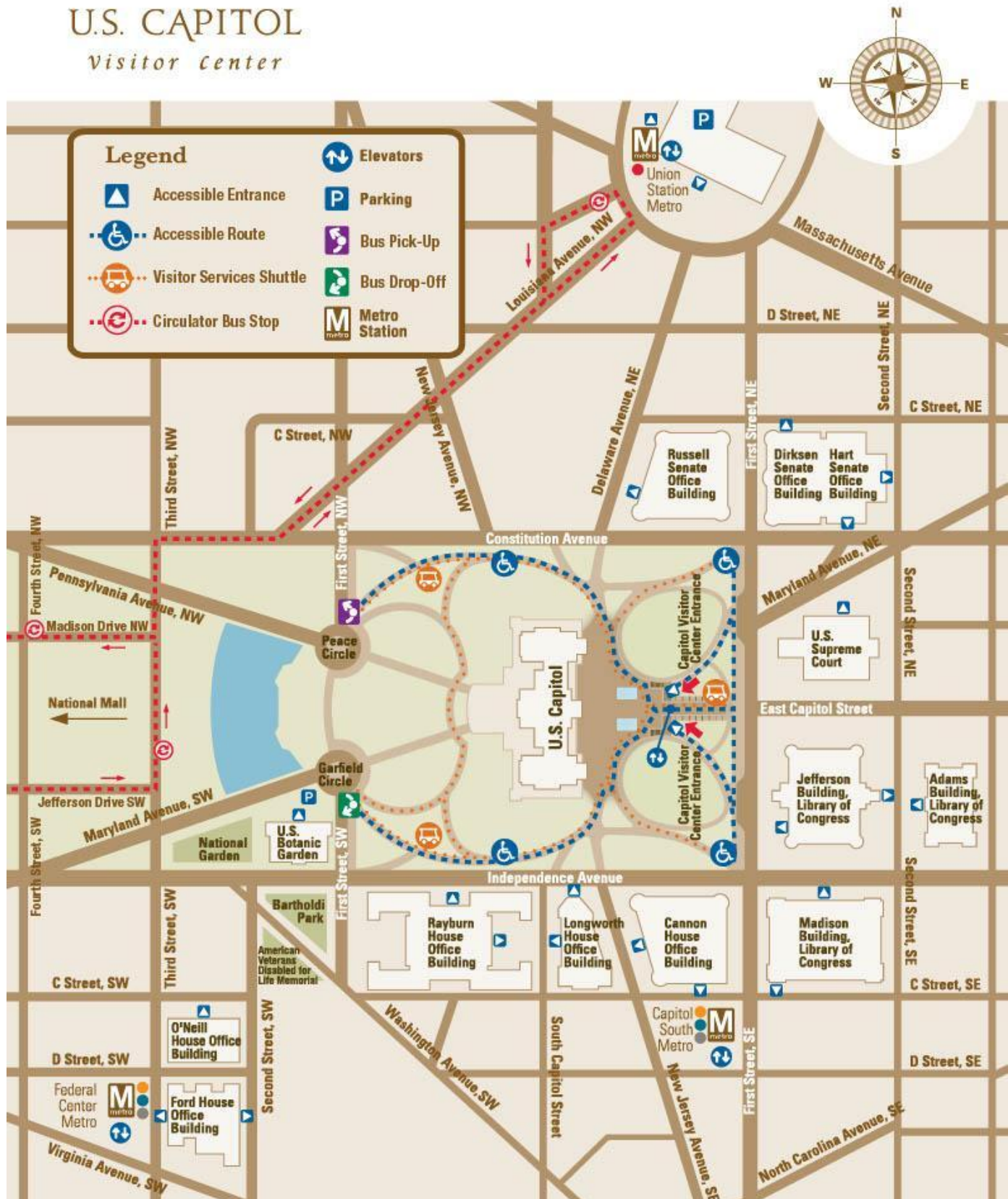
- From 2019 to 2023, Oklahoma received \$486 million in federal research funding from DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF to seven unique institutions. At the institutions selected in 2023, there were 224 PhD degrees and 4,000 Bachelor’s degrees awarded.
 - Over the same five years, 741 doctoral-trainees and 221 postdoctoral researchers across 5 institutions in Oklahoma were supported by DOD, DOE, NASA, and NSF funding.
 - From 2019 to 2023, Oklahoma received \$44.9 million in small business innovation grants to commercialize novel discoveries from DOD, DOE, NASA, NIST, and NSF. The grants were awarded to 46 unique recipients employing 587 workers.

Staff background: Alexandra Slocum started in Mullin’s office in 2023 and currently serves as a Policy Advisor covering science and technology, environmental protection, and energy. She previously worked for former Sens. Jim Inhofe (R-OK) and Kelly Loeffler (R-GA), and current Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS). Slocum holds a Bachelor of Science in forensic chemistry from the University of Mississippi, Oxford.

Notes:

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1500 K Street, NW
Suite 825
Washington, D.C. 20005