



# Medical research funding

## Timeline of key recent federal actions on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act

May 19, 2015

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**21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act introduced:** 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act is a bipartisan bill aimed at reforming the clinical trial process and providing mandatory funding for the NIH and the FDA over the next five years, via budget offsets.

May 21, 2015

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**Bill was reported and amended by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce:** The U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce unanimously passed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures bill by a vote of 51-0. The committee chair Fred Upton (R-MI) is the bill's sponsor along with 230 cosponsors (121D, 109R).

July 2015

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**House voted on amendments:** In a key vote on the house floor, an amendment that would shift the NIH and FDA funding from mandatory to discretionary was struck down 141-281.

July 10, 2015

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**House passed H.R. 6 the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act:** The bill passed the House by a vote of 344-77 with twelve abstentions in a bipartisan effort led by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Ranking Member Diana DeGette (D-CO).

January 2016

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**Senate worked on "Innovation for Healthier Americans" initiative:** The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions started working on this initiative, meant to align with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act.

June 2016

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**Senate health committee working on companion package:** Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) has approached this medical research funding push by passing 19 smaller bills through his committee intended to compile into a companion package for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act.

Nov 2016

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**Sen. Majority leader McConnell declares 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures one of two priorities** in the lame duck session

Potential actions in Congress

- According to Senate Health Committee Chairman, Lamar Alexander (R-TN), his ability to stitch together 19 bills approved in his committee and bring a package to the floor depends reaching a funding agreement with the Democrats
- Senate Democrats like Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Patty Murray (D-WA) want funding to be mandatory while Republicans resist that approach
- Senate Republicans want to make sure other spending is cut to pay for the funding necessary to pass the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act
- Both Murray and Alexander are hopeful they will reach a bipartisan agreement on the bill before this Congressional term closes
- According to GovTrack the bill has a 41% chance of being signed into law

Sources: GovTrack.us; American Association for Cancer Research; David Nather, "Landmark Effort to Speed Drug Approvals Nears Critical Phase in Congress," STAT, June 21, 2016; Sheila Kaplan, "Trump's victory is a likely roadblock to medical 'cures' package," STAT, November 14, 2016.