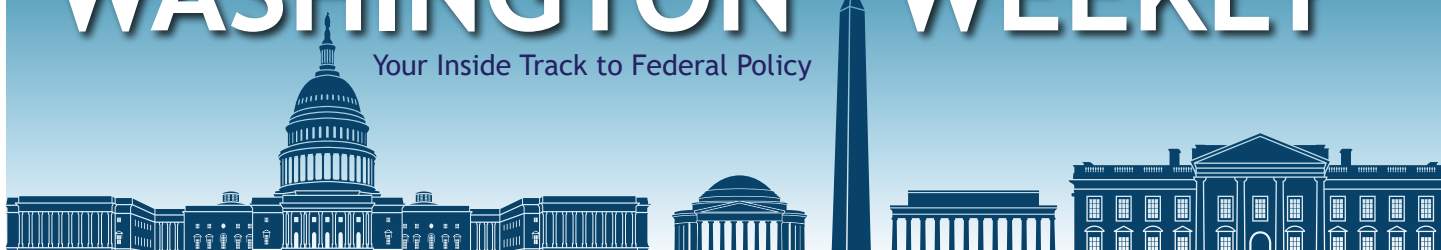


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GAO Report Examines Oversight of Schools' Default Rates

A [report released](#) by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) calls for improved oversight of practices used by colleges and their consultants to prevent students from defaulting on their federal student loans. The Department of Education calculates the cohort default rate (CDR) as the percentage of borrowers who enter repayment on their loans in a given fiscal year and then default within a three-year period. According to federal law, schools can lose their ability to participate in federal student aid programs if their CDR is more than 30% for three consecutive years. The report offers recommendations to Congress to strengthen schools' accountability and to require consultants to provide accurate and complete information about postponement options to borrowers.

GeroScience Summit Request for Information Extended to NGOs

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Aging issued a [Request for Information](#) to provide input for a GeroScience Summit, potentially to take place in 2019. The information will help the [GeroScience Special Interest Group](#) (GSIG), an interdisciplinary collaboration of 22 NIH Institutes with interests in the relationship between aging and disease, to plan for its third summit. GSIG is extending its invitation for stakeholder input to non-government organizations (e.g., researchers, disease and aging patient advocacy organizations, professional societies) with strong interests in specific chronic diseases, in order to learn more about their research-related goals and foster collaboration and coordination around chronic disease and geroscience. Learn more and [submit a response by June 1 here](#).



Survey Finds Health Insurance Coverage Declining

According to The Commonwealth Fund's recently [published survey](#), an estimated four million people (15.5%) ages 19-64 have lost health insurance coverage since 2016. The increasing percentage is due to a combination of factors, including the absence of federal legislation to improve the Affordable Care Act's weaknesses, the shortened open enrollment period, and budget cuts related to open enrollment. Additionally, since the [2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act](#) repealed the individual mandate penalty, it is estimated that another 5% of adult Americans will choose to drop their insurance this year.

PCORI Board Approved \$94M in Funding to Promote Research Partnerships

On April 30, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Board of Governors [approved \\$94 million](#) to fund 13 comparative clinical effectiveness research studies on conditions impacting patients, caregivers, and the healthcare system. The awarded funding includes \$10 million to support two research studies on medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders during pregnancy. It also includes \$20 million for four studies which will use the [National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network](#) (PCORnet) to improve care for conditions related to arthritis, blood pressure, depression, and irritable bowel disease. The funding will promote partnerships between researchers and stakeholders, including several universities and medical centers.

