

Snowmass2021 - Letter of Interest

Non Funding Government outreach

☑ (CEF6) Public Policy and Government Engagement

Elements of Interest :

-

The HEP community has an active advocacy effort which has lobbied Congress continuously for the past 20+ years. Based on feedback from Congress and our funding agencies, we believe that P5 has improved the effectiveness of this effort in recent years. Existing efforts are focused specifically on funding related advocacy, but there are additional legislative topics that directly impact the HEP community. These include purely educational efforts and legislation that affects our immigrant colleagues.

The current political climate has given rise to a unique situation where science is closely related to political ideologies. Although HEP is not even close to being as politicized as fields like climate change and other environmental issues, it's part of our responsibility to make sure that policy makers have the needed information to make educated decisions when those decisions impact our field. Different approaches can be used, at both the local and federal levels, but these efforts need to be detached from specific funding requests.

There's also a need for advocacy related to public policies that directly affect the community. Immigration issues influence a considerable number of our colleagues in both personal and professional capacities. APS has organized campaigns to provide feedback to Congress in response to recent attacks targeted at visa types used by most of our foreign national students and postdocs, but that's not enough.

We have the responsibility, as the HEP community, to stand up against policies that we consider morally wrong. Due to the restrictions of using government property, we are limited in the resources that we can use to communicate with our colleagues promptly about these issues. We as a community have solved this problem for the purpose of funding advocacy, but that's the only context where they have been applied. This makes engagement much harder. Either we need a dedicated work-around to facilitate community conversation on these other government policy topics, or we should be sharing some of the infrastructure used for funding advocacy. We should establish a platform to facilitate discussions within the community about issues that would warrant such advocacy.

Concrete steps toward understanding how HEP government outreach can play a role in

advocating for immigrants in our community include meeting with immigration policy experts and activists; surveying the concerns of immigrants in our community regarding policies that influence their ability to travel, work, and study; and establishing long-term platforms for discussing and organizing these advocacy activities and initiatives.

Authors: Mateus F. Carneiro (BNL) [mcarneiro@bnl.gov] , Andrew Santos, Rob Fine
Sponsored by SEC-CE