

Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

September 12, 2017

Dear Senator McConnell and Senator Schumer,

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, I am writing to you to voice our opposition to S. 951, the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017 (RAA). Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society is the world's oldest, largest, and most active organization dedicated to the understanding of hormone systems and the clinical care of patients with endocrine diseases and disorders. Our membership of over 18,000 includes scientists, clinicians, and health care professionals who are dedicated to research, prevention, and treatment of diseases such as diabetes, cancer, osteoporosis, and reproductive health issues. We recognize the important role that federal agencies such as the NIH, FDA, and EPA play in implementing effective regulations to protect public health.

The Endocrine Society is alarmed about S. 951 because, as written, it would create barriers to effective rulemaking. For example, the RAA would introduce additional duplicative and unnecessary steps to the regulatory process, such as periodic impact assessments and evaluations of proposed alternatives to a regulation based on cost considerations rather than public health protections. We are particularly concerned that certain provisions, such as judicial hearings on disputed facts, will have the effect of preventing agencies from properly assessing and making use of conclusions based on independent, peer-reviewed scientific literature, undermining the agencies' ability to protect public health.

Effective federal standards and regulations are required to ensure that government policies and plans are able to support individual and community health efforts. Furthermore, regulations and standards must be updated periodically to reflect the latest science, including academic research results. S. 951 would weaken protections by drastically limiting the ability of federal agencies to implement and efficiently revise regulations. The Endocrine Society is extremely concerned about the negative impact this will have on public health, and therefore opposes S. 951. We urge you to abandon further consideration of the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017.



Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joseph Laakso, PhD, Associate Director of Science Policy at jlaakso@endocrine.org or at 202.971.3632.

Sincerely,

Margaret Eckert-Norton, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, CDE, CNE
Chair, Advocacy and Public Outreach Committee
Endocrine Society