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Dear Mr Wackler

I will keep my comments brief and direct them to 4 of questions listed.

(1)

- The bill HR. 3699 as written contradicts the researched and justified recommendations of the Task Force on Public Access to Scholarly Publications. As such, this bill cannot be supported. Additionally, the NIH call to have all publicly-funded work available to the public must be enforced. And this responsibility should be on the shoulders of the private-sectors publishers, who knowingly accept, and profit from, this work for publication.
- Federally-funded work must survive a rigorous process in which must justify not only its scientific merit, but also how it benefits the public. If the results of this work are kept from the public, then how are we benefitting from the work?
- The proportion of citizens that can afford access to privately held publications, or have access to a university that can afford the cost, is relatively small. Innovation and discovery happen through the development of ideas mixing with creativity. Restricting access denies possible problem solvers from gaining the necessary information to push innovation and discovery forward

(2) The idea that private-sector publishers add unique value cannot be accepted as truth. Few publishers edit and review work submitted to them. Instead they enlist the expertise of researchers who decided if the work is appropriate for publication and suggest revisions if necessary. This is done without pay and generally anonymously. While the publishers should reserve the right to control the publications for a period of time, federally-funded work cannot be allowed to be kept from the source of the funding.

(3) What are the pros and cons of centralized and decentralized approaches to managing public access to peer-reviewed scholarly publications that result from federally funded research in terms of interoperability, search, development of analytic tools, and other scientific and commercial opportunities? Are there reasons why a Federal agency (or agencies) should maintain custody of all published content, and are there ways that the government can ensure long-term stewardship if content is distributed across multiple private sources?

(4) Public Library of Science (PLOS)

Thank you for your attention,

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