

Research Works Act

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Full title	"To ensure the continued publication and integrity of peer-reviewed research works by the private sector." —H.R. 3699 ^[1]
Citations	
Codification	
Legislative history	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced in the House as H.R. 3699 ^[2] by Darrell Issa (R-CA) on December 16, 2011 • Committee consideration by: House Oversight and Government Reform Committee 	
Major amendments	
None	
Supreme Court cases	
None	

The **Research Works Act**, also known as H.R. 3699, is a bill that was introduced in the United States House of Representatives at the 112th United States Congress on December 16, 2011, by Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA) and co-sponsored by Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY).^[3] The bill contains provisions to prohibit open access mandates for federally funded research^[4] and effectively revert^[5] the NIH's Public Access Policy that allows taxpayer-funded research to be freely accessible online.^[6] If enacted, it would also severely restrict the sharing of scientific data.^[7] The bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,^[8] of which Issa is the chair.^[9] Similar bills were introduced in 2008^[10] and 2009^[11] but have not been enacted since.^[1]

Reception

The bill is supported by the Association of American Publishers (AAP)^[12] and the Copyright Alliance.^[13] In contrast, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition,^[4] the Alliance for Taxpayer Access,^[14] the American Library Association,^[5] the International Society for Computational Biology^[15] and prominent open science and open access advocates have criticized the Research Works Act,^{[16][17][18][19][20]} some of them urging scholarly societies to resign from the AAP because of its support for the bill.^{[21][22]} MIT Press, a member of the AAP, have stated their opposition to the bill but signaled no intention to leave the trade union.^[23] Other AAP members have since stated their opposition to the bill as well.^[24]

Opponents of the bill stressed particularly the effects of this legislation on the public availability of biomedical research results, such as those funded by NIH grants, submitting that under the new bill "taxpayers who already paid for the research would have to pay again to read the results".^[25]

Related legislation

The Research Works Act is the latest in a series of attempts to challenge institutional open access mandates in the US.

On September 9, 2008, an earlier bill aimed at reversing the NIH's Public Access Policy – the Fair Copyright in Research Works Act, or Conyers Bill – was introduced as H.R.6845 in the House of Representatives at the 110th United States Congress by U.S Representative John Conyers (D-MI), with Tom Feeney (R-FL), Darrell Issa and Robert Wexler (R-FL) acting as co-sponsors.^[26] It was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, to which Conyers delivered an introduction on September 10, 2008.^[27] After the start of the 111th United States Congress, Conyers reintroduced the bill to the House of Representatives as H.R.801 on February 3, 2009, co-sponsored by Steve Cohen (D-TN), Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Trent Franks (R-AZ), Darrell Issa, Carolyn Maloney and Robert Wexler.^[28] It was on the same day referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary and on March 16 to the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy.^[29]

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External links

- H.R. 3699 on Thomas – Library of Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d112:h.r.3699>;)
- H.R. 3699 on GovTrack (<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h112-3699>)

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