



We would like to alert you to new legislation that was introduced in the House regarding federal employee travel to conferences. H.R. 2032, [The GSA Act of 2015](#), was introduced by Rep. Blake Farenthold (TX-27) in the last Congressional session as well. The text of the bill is largely duplicative to OMB guidelines put in place in May 2012 to prevent unethical spending. We have concerns about a few points in the bill, including the provision requiring a cost benefit analysis of holding a conference rather than a teleconference, and the required justification for why a location was selected. In addition, we are concerned as statutory language would make the OMB regulations permanent, and eliminate the ability of the administration to ease the regulations.<br>

One important note is that this bill *does not* include the damaging language in Senator Coburn's conference attendance legislation last year. The language to limit agencies from attending more than one conference per outside group each year is not in The GSA Act of 2015. Along with mirroring OMB guidelines, The GSA Act of 2015 adds additional reporting requirements for federal agencies about conference attendance.<br>

We encourage you to share this with your colleagues and to remind them of the value of federal employees attending association meetings. ASAE will continue to monitor this issue closely. If you have questions about this bill, please contact ASAE's Public Policy Department at 202-626-2703 or [publicpolicy@asaecenter.org](mailto:publicpolicy@asaecenter.org).