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The fiscal year (FY) 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 1356), which normally focuses on the Department of Defense, included provisions supporting scientific research and collaboration among all federal science agencies. The bill, which was signed into law last month, effectively relieves some travel restrictions for federal scientists and engineers traveling to scientific conferences.

The bill allows for an expedited approval process for scientists employed through the federal government to attend science and innovation activities, including conferences. On July 30, 2014 the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved legislation limiting travel to scientific conferences for federal employees.

Sources: AIP News Bulletin, congress.gov
