



Senator John Cornyn
Attn: Michelle Chin
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

February 11, 2013

Dear Senator Cornyn:

Creative Commons supports the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA). Creative Commons (<http://creativecommons.org>) is a 501(c)(3) U.S.-based nonprofit corporation dedicated to making it easier for people to share and build upon the work of others, consistent with the rules of copyright.

The 2012 iteration of FRPAA would have required federal agencies to provide free online access to publicly funded research no later than six months after publication in a peer-reviewed journal. We applaud the move toward free, timely public access to research paid for by U.S. taxpayers.

At the same time, the federal government can increase the impact (and by extension, increase the return on the public's investment) of grant-funded research by requiring that all articles developed as a result of federal funds be freely licensed under a worldwide, royalty-free copyright license that allows the research to be used for any purpose, and that would require that attribution be given to the authors.

Last year Creative Commons responded to the Office of Science and Technology Policy's request for information on Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting from Federally Funded Research. We suggested that taxpayer funded research be made available with the reuse rights described above. We urge the same course of action for FRPAA.

The key pieces to be communicated about the reuse rights provision is that the copyright license should:

- be irrevocable,
- grant worldwide, royalty-free permission under copyright,
- allow use the research/publication for any purpose, and
- require that attribution be given to the authors and as designated by the copyright holder

Thank you for your work on this crucial issue to increase access to taxpayer funded research. We'd be happy to provide additional assistance or answer other questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Casserly, Ph.D.
CEO, Creative Commons
cathy@creativecommons.org
(650) 294-4732

