

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

June 24, 2026

Dear Director Vought:

We write in opposition to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) disastrous and likely unlawful proposed rule that would devastate American health care innovation for generations. OMB's proposed rule change to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, or the "Uniform Guidance," grants partisan political appointees final say over all grant decisions and sidelines the longstanding and trusted peer review process. This alarming change would convert our venerable grant review process into a political obstacle course and insider's game, irreparably damaging our nation's leading health research institutions, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its grantees across the country.

Since the end of World War II, our nation has relied on qualified peer reviewers and nonpolitical expert evaluators to determine which health care research offers the best use of Americans' tax dollars. This thorough, nonpolitical process has set the global standard for high-quality grant review and propelled U.S. institutions like the NIH to the forefront of scientific innovation, discovery and research. Since peer review became standard more than 75 years ago, brilliant researchers at NIH or funded by NIH have decoded the human genome, discovered new immunotherapies to treat cancer and created life-saving drugs for genetic disorders like cystic fibrosis.

NIH's groundbreaking discoveries have given millions of Americans hope for life-saving cures and innovative treatments and built hard-won trust in U.S. research institutions. Patients, researchers, and doctors at the NIH have shared stories describing the importance of the impartial grantmaking process:

- One constituent, Rob, credits NIH health care research with saving his life. Pioneering research conducted by the NIH's Human Genome Project allowed Rob to finally receive an ultra-rare disease diagnosis after 14 years without answers. Today, he is thriving.
- Another constituent's participation in an NIH clinical trial led to the identification and treatment of his small yet pervasive cancerous tumors and helped pave the way for a recently approved type of cancer screening that will save numerous lives.
- Another constituent was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer before the age of 40 but survived this aggressive and unforgiving disease because of NIH research into early pancreatic cancer detection, targeted immunotherapies and prevention.

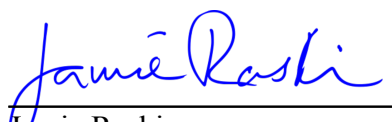
Millions of lives have been saved by trailblazing NIH research and treatments, and people across the country and the world are living fulfilling lives today because of these discoveries. This rule change threatens to destroy that remarkable track record and upend the foundation of our health and science infrastructure.

This rule would destroy the peer review grantmaking process which America pioneered and which has served us so well. The rule explicitly instructs political appointees not to “routinely defer” to peer review. Instead, political appointees, often lacking scientific expertise, are given the exclusive authority to reject and terminate projects with little explanation or transparency into their decision-making process. Grant projects could be stopped mid-project with no explanation. Political appointees could eliminate funding for research institutions and research projects simply because they do not align politically with this Administration, expanding the Administration’s ability to punish its designated political adversaries. OMB’s guidance would provide little recourse to people subject to political retribution. President Trump’s sacking of thousands of NIH researchers and scientists has led to severe understaffing and grant approval delays at NIH. This rule change would make an already problematic situation disastrous.

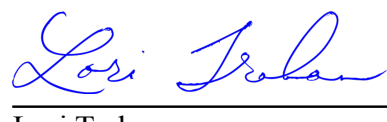
Congress has the power to legislate and appropriate money, but this rule would mandate that “discretionary awards advance the President’s policy priorities.” It grants OMB unilateral authority over grant terminations. At least two courts have preliminarily found that OMB likely exceeded its statutory authority when pausing payments on federal grants and freezing federal funding.¹ OMB’s decision to consolidate termination authority is similarly ultra vires and violates Congress’s statutory instructions and power of the purse.

We vehemently oppose this proposed rule change and urge you to consider its deeply harmful effects on medical research and on the millions of Americans who are waiting on life-saving cures.

Very truly yours,



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

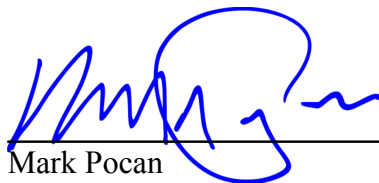


Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

¹ *National Council of Nonprofits v. Office of Management and Budget* (2025) and *Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council v. Department of Agriculture* (2025)



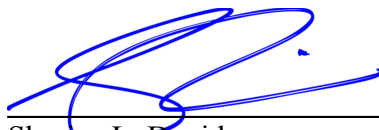
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



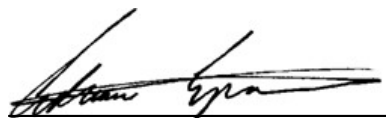
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



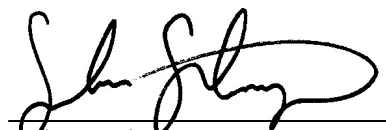
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



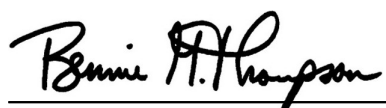
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



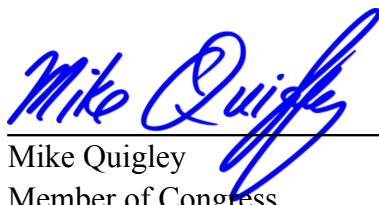
Suhas Subramanyam
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Nancy Pelosi
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Bennie G. Thompson
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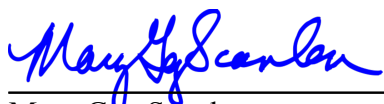
Mike Quigley
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Danny K. Davis
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Mark DeSaulnier
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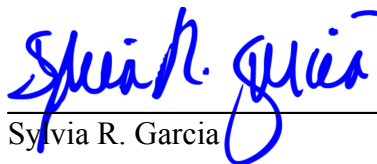
Mary Gay Scanlon
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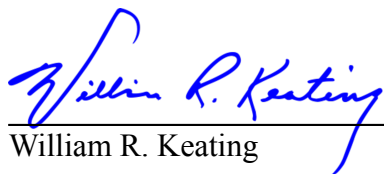
Janelle S. Bynum
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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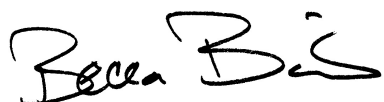
Madeleine Dean
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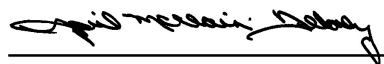
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Becca Balint
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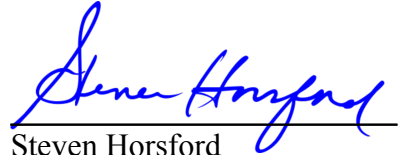
April McClain Delaney
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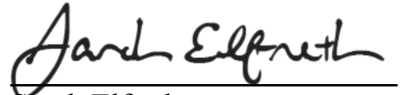
Steve Cohen
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Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Nevada's Fourth
Congressional District



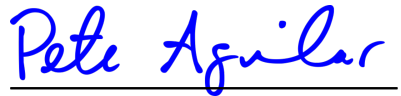
Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Sarah Elfreth
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Adam Smith
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Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



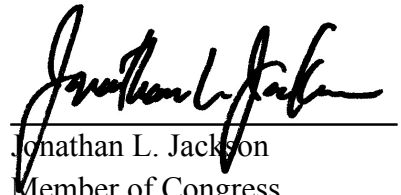
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Pablo José Hernández
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Chris Deluzio
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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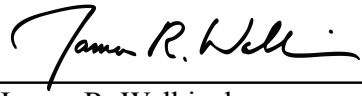
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James R. Walkinshaw
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André Carson
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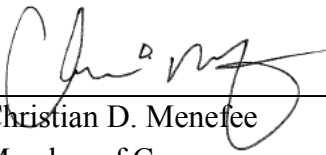
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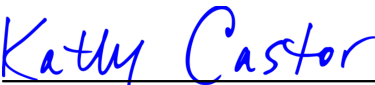
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



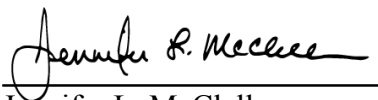
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



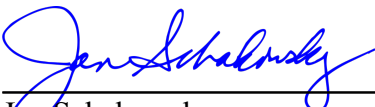
Analilia Mejia
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Kathy Castor
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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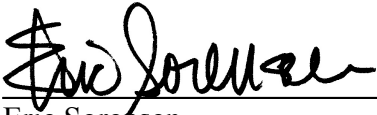
Jan Schakowsky
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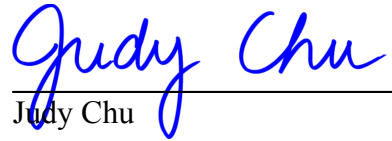
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



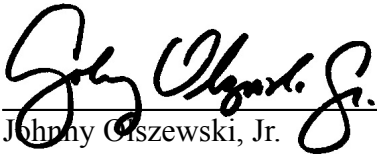
Robin L. Kelly
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Judy Chu
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Greg Stanton
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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Ro Khanna
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Deborah K. Ross
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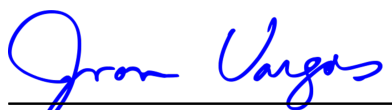
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Glenn F. Ivey
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Juan Vargas
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Joaquin Castro
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Chellie Pingree
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Gabe Amo
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Mark Takano
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Derek T. Tran
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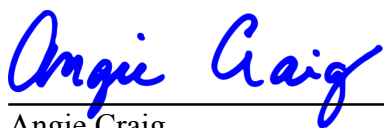
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



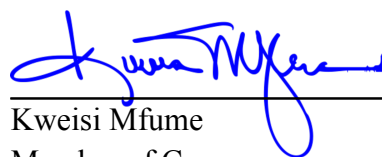
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



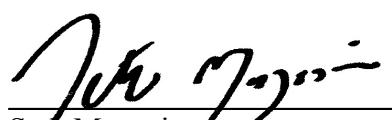
Angie Craig
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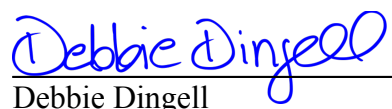


Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

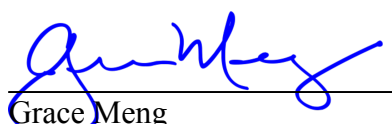

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

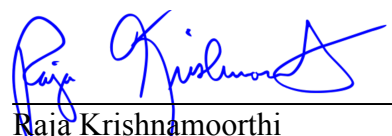

Seth Magaziner
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Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress


Sarah McBride
Member of Congress

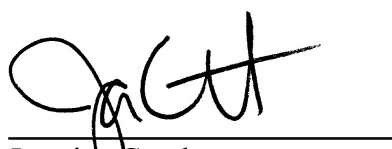

Sean Casten
Member of Congress


Grace Meng
Member of Congress

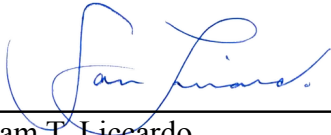

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

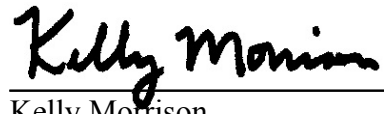

Wesley Bell
Member of Congress


Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

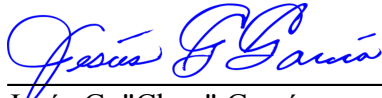

Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



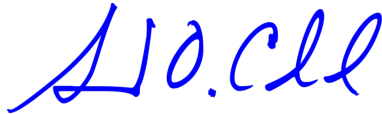
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



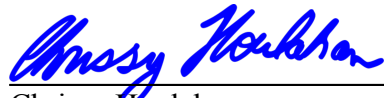
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



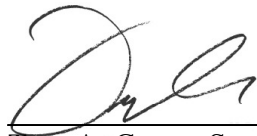
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



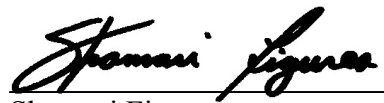
Salud Carbajal
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Chrissy Houlahan
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.
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Shomari Figures
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Dina Titus
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Rick Larsen
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Terri A. Sewell
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Bill Foster
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Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



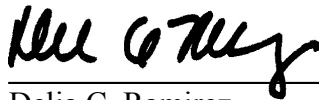
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



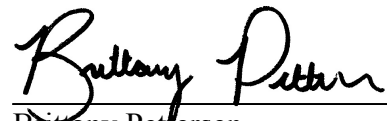
Delia C. Ramirez
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Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



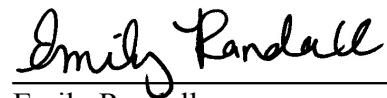
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



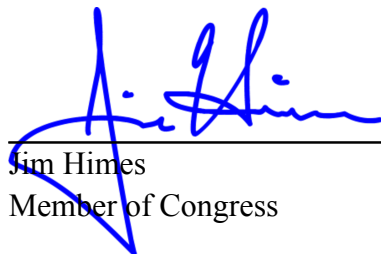
Brittany Petersen
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Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



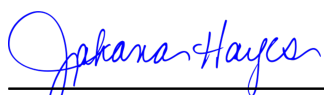
Emily Randall
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