

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

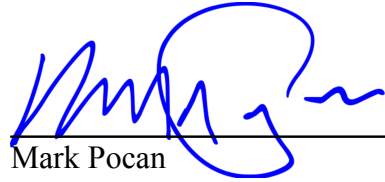


Lori Trahan
Member of Congress


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



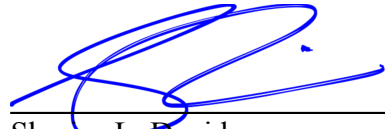
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



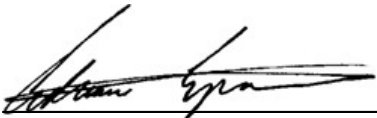
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



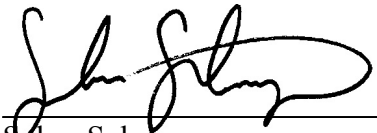
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



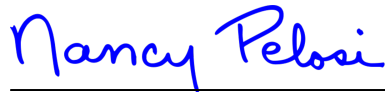
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



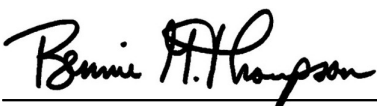
Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



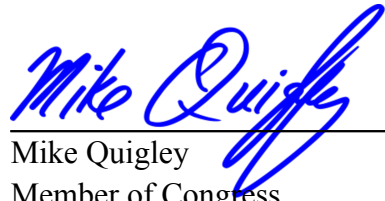
Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



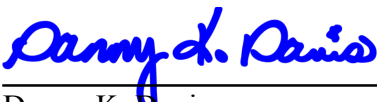
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



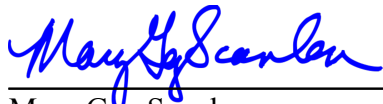
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



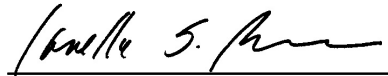
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
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Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



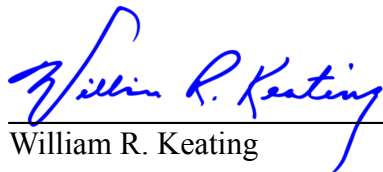
Janelle S. Bynum
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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William R. Keating
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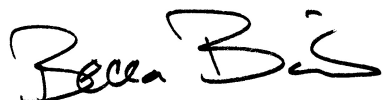
Madeleine Dean
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Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



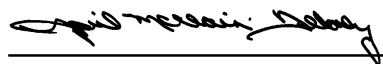
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Becca Balint
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



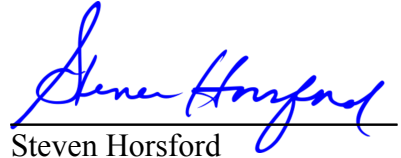
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



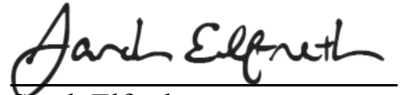
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Nevada's Fourth
Congressional District



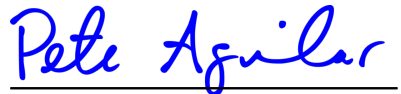
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
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Adam Smith
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Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



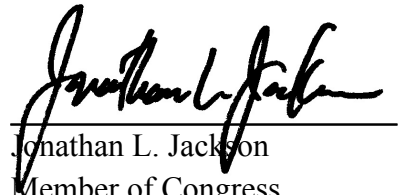
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



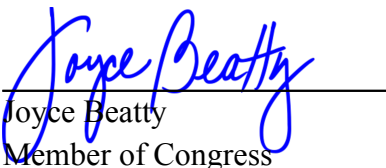
Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
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Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



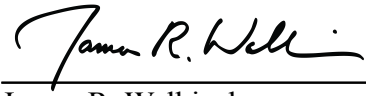
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
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Stephen F. Lynch
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James R. Walkinshaw
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André Carson
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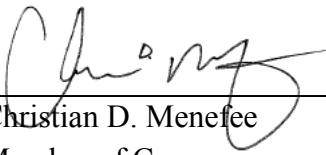
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



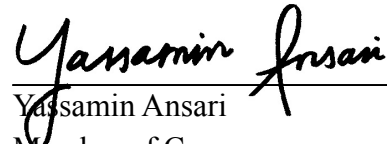
Shontel M. Brown
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Haley M. Stevens
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John B. Larson
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Valerie P. Foushee
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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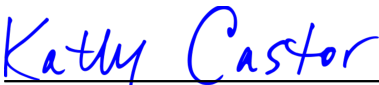
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



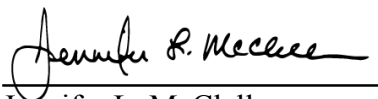
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



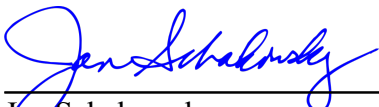
Analilia Mejia
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Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



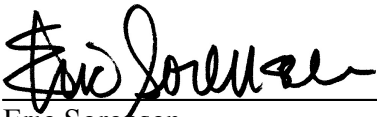
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



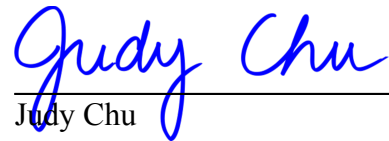
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



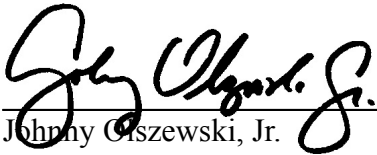
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



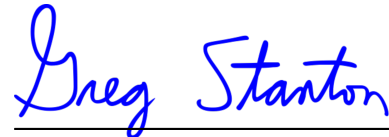
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Johnny Oszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



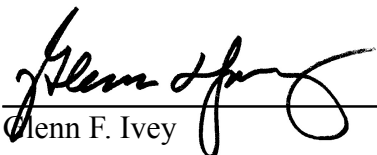
Ro Khanna
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Deborah K. Ross
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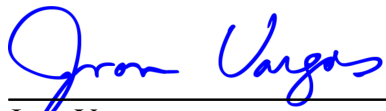
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



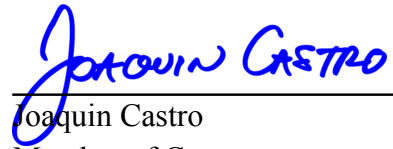
Glenn F. Ivey
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



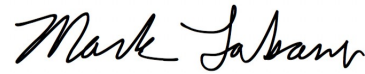
Frederica S. Wilson
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Chellie Pingree
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Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



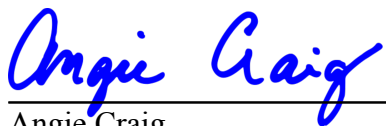
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



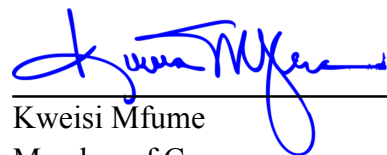
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



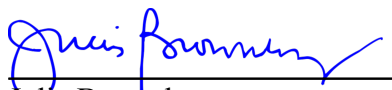
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



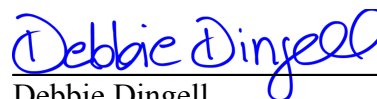
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



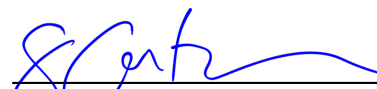
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



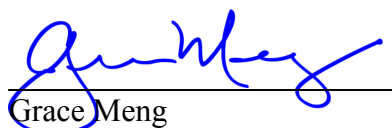
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



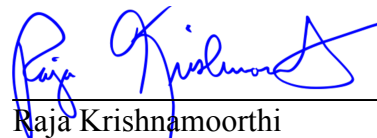
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



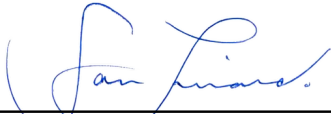
Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



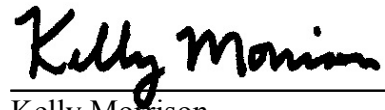
Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



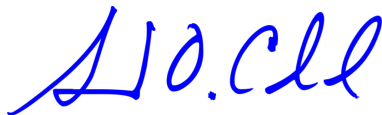
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



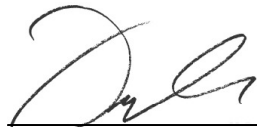
Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



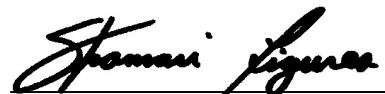
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



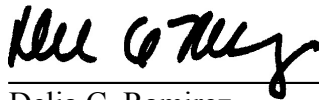
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



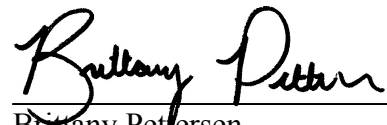
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



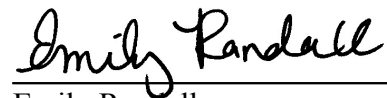
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



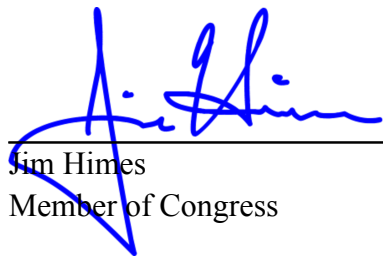
Brittany Petersen
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



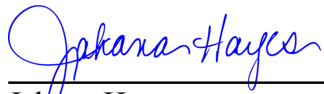
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



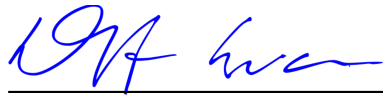
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress