

ACTION ALERT:

OPPOSE POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN FEDERAL RESEARCH FUNDING



The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is [proposing a rule](#) that would establish new requirements for every grant made by an agency of the federal government. **An essential aspect of this proposal is that OMB itself, rather than each federal agency, would establish and control grant requirements, leaving decisions regarding federal research funding in the hands of political appointees, rather than experts.**

- **THE ISSUE:** The proposed rule would provide for White House control of federal grants for science, mathematics, and engineering research. Grant-making decisions would not be based on merit, but instead on partisan political concerns, thereby undermining trust and confidence in critical scientific research.
- **THE ASK:** [Submit a comment](#) before the imminent deadline of midnight on July 13, 2026, and speak out publicly in opposition to this rule and the risks it poses to the rule of law and the norms and principles of our democratic institutions. Make clear that federal funding of these fields must be completely shielded from political influence.

WHY THIS MATTERS

- The proposed rule threatens the First Amendment rights of researchers and research institutions.
- The proposed rule is arbitrary and capricious and an abuse of discretion under the Administrative Procedure Act. The proposed rule employs vague, undefined terms that would give political appointees unfettered discretion to favor or disfavor researchers and institutions based on their political alignment rather than the merits of their research.
- The proposed requirements and criteria for federal grants would undercut innovation in science, mathematics, and engineering research by allowing political considerations to supplant science, mathematics, and engineering principles.
- This is not simply about how grants are issued. It is a test of whether government officials acting on political considerations can override constitutional rights and diminish a key democratic norm: the public's trust that independent scientific, mathematical, and engineering research is based on merit, not politics.
- The proposed rule reflects the vision of Project 2025 to insert the federal government into the grant-making process. Once again, Project 2025 is proven to be a roadmap to this administration's efforts to expand its power and evade accountability. If this proposed rule goes into effect, key aspects of Project 2025's goal of controlling science and academic research will be achieved.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- **[Submit a comment](#) before the imminent deadline of midnight on July 13, 2026.**
An important tip is to reference corresponding sections of the proposed rule, where applicable, in your comments, as described in the accompanying Action Alert Briefing Materials. For more guidance, please see our [Meeting the Moment Tips for Commenting Effectively on Proposed Rules](#).
- **Speak out on multiple platforms against the proposed rule to ensure the public understands the risks it poses to the rule of law and our academic institutions.**
Write articles and letters to the editor and post on social media. Reach out to local podcasters and radio shows to share why federal funding of science, mathematics, and engineering research should not be politicized. Use the Talking Points below as well as LDAD's social media messaging. For additional help, see our [Meeting the Moment Tips for Writing and Placing Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces](#).

KEY TALKING POINTS

- No administration should be permitted to insert its politics into decisions on the merits of science, mathematics, or engineering research. **Doing so would chill the ability of researchers and academic institutions to pursue evidence-based studies, and risk replacing scientific judgment with political considerations and ideology.**
- **OMB lacks the statutory authority to control who is eligible to receive federal funding and how that funding is spent.** Only federal agencies that are authorized by statute to make grants have the legal authority to make these determinations.
- **The proposed rule would supplant critical peer review of federal funding for science, mathematics, and engineering with political decisions made by political appointees, thereby undermining the caliber of America's research institutions and the integrity of the resulting work product.**
- The proposed rule violates the Paperwork Reduction Act, as more fully described in the accompanying Briefing Materials.