

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 9, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write to express our deep concern regarding recent actions taken by your Administration that irreparably harm the National Science Foundation (NSF) and, by extension, the broader American scientific enterprise. As Members of Congress committed to maintaining the United States' leadership in science and technology, we are troubled by reports of halted funding and shifts away from the NSF's longstanding merit-based review process.

According to a recent article in *Nature*¹, NSF staff were instructed on April 30 to "stop awarding all funding actions until further notice." This directive not only halts new research grants but also suspends the disbursement of funds for existing projects, including those with previously approved annual installments. This means that money appropriated by Congress and already invested in ongoing research projects, which are now halted, has been wasted. Furthermore, the NSF has introduced a policy requiring staff to screen grant proposals for alignment with unspecified "agency priorities," with non-conforming proposals to be returned to applicants.

The NSF has, for decades, been a cornerstone of American innovation, funding groundbreaking research that has led to advancements in medical imaging, artificial intelligence, geographic information systems, and numerous other fields. Central to the NSF's success has been its commitment to a merit-based, peer-reviewed grant process, ensuring that funding decisions are made based on scientific excellence and potential impact, free from political or ideological influence.

Changes to this commitment have far-reaching implications. They not only disrupt ongoing research but also erode the confidence of the scientific community in the federal funding apparatus. Moreover, in an era of intense global competition, particularly with nations like China investing heavily in science and technology, these actions risk ceding our leadership position and compromising our ability to address critical challenges. Political meddling by your Administration has already resulted in the termination of over 1,000 grants, totaling approximately \$739 million, and has prompted the resignation of widely respected NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan, leaving the NSF without leadership at a critical time.

Given these concerns, we request answers to the following questions:

1. What specific criteria define the "agency priorities" now guiding NSF funding decisions?

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-01396-2>

2. How does the Administration plan to ensure that the NSF's merit-based review process remains intact and free from political interference?
3. What measures are being taken to mitigate the impact of the funding freeze on current research projects and the scientific workforce?
4. How does the Administration intend to maintain the United States' competitive edge in science and technology in light of these policy shifts?

The Administration must reaffirm its commitment to the principles of scientific integrity and merit-based evaluation that have long underpinned the NSF's success. Ensuring transparency and objectivity in research funding is essential not only for the advancement of knowledge but also for maintaining public trust and our nation's global standing.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



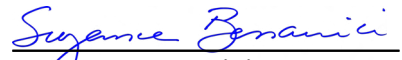
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress




Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



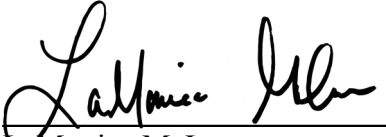
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



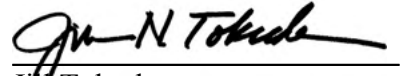
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



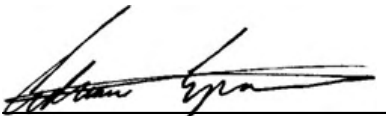
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



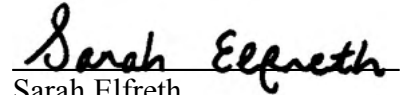
Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



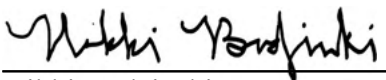
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



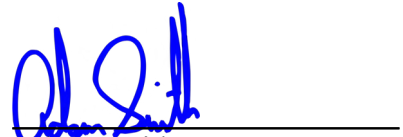
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



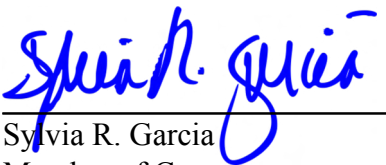
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



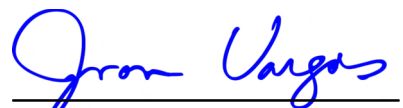
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



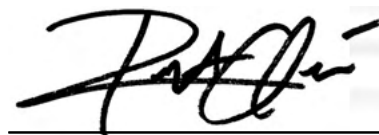
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



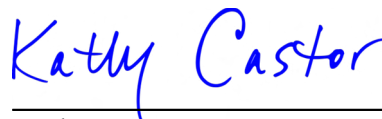
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress




Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



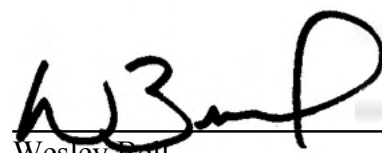
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



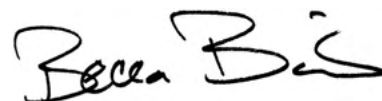
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



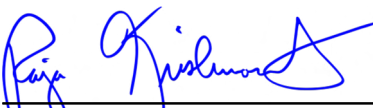
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



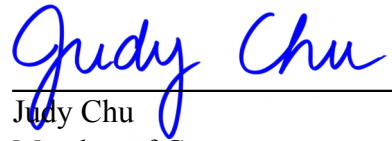
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



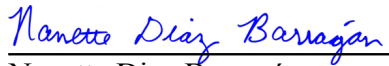
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



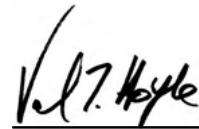
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



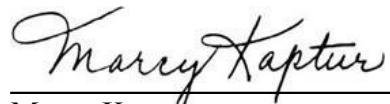
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



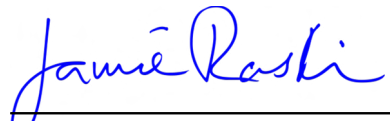
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



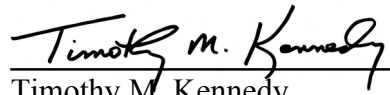
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



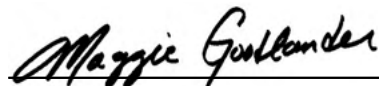
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



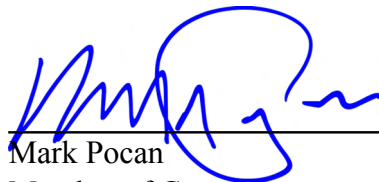
Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



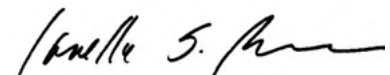
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



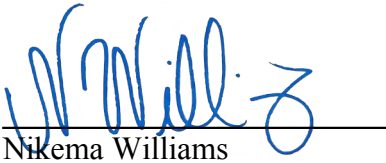
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, House
Natural Resources Committee



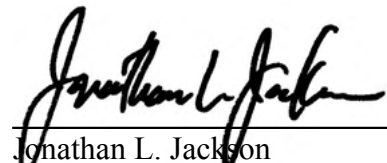
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



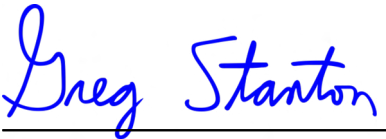
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



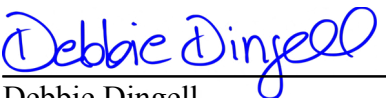
Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



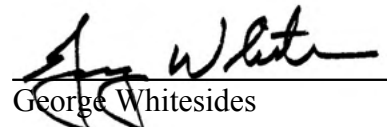
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



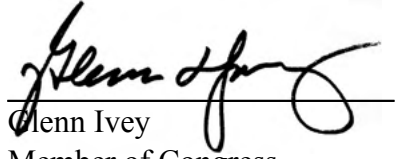
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



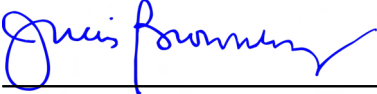
George Whitesides
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



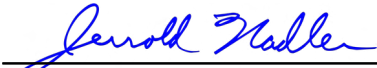
Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



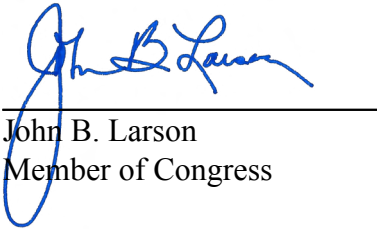
John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



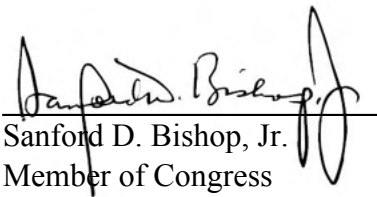
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



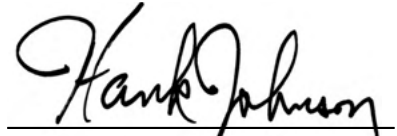
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



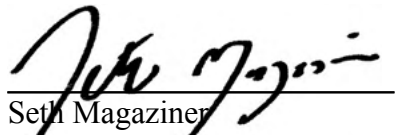
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



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



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



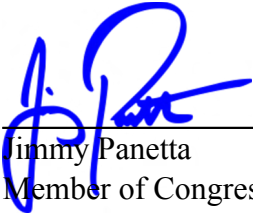
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



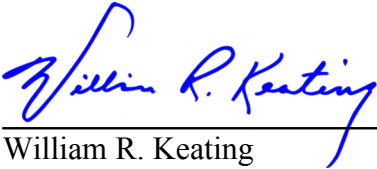
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



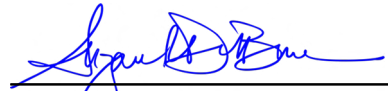
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



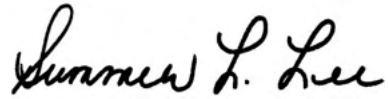
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



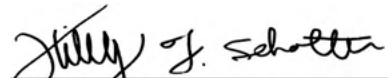
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress