

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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<http://science.house.gov>

June 29, 2026

Mr. Brian Stone
Chief of Staff, Performing the Duties of the Director
National Science Foundation
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Stone,

On June 24, 2026, an amendment to the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Guidance on Financial Assistance was quietly posted to the Federal Register.¹ The Summary of Changes explicitly notes that these proposed changes to the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) are in the service of "aligning [the PAPPG] with the proposed revisions to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR 200 through the proposed rule published on May 29, 2026." OMB's "Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance" is currently in the middle of its public comment period, which concludes on July 13, 2026.² The fact that NSF is initiating changes to its PAPPG in alignment with a rule that has not been finalized makes a farce of the entire rulemaking process, which is supposed to be transparent and consider and respond to public comments. You must rescind this draft immediately and cease all efforts to implement OMB's proposed revisions to the uniform guidance until that rule is finalized.

OMB's proposed rule is an absolute disaster for independent science. The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Minority will have far more to say about this proposed rule, as will the

¹ "20260624 NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance_Draft_For Public Comment," June 24, 2026, Regulations.gov, accessed here: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/NSF-2026-OTR-0001-0003>.

² "Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance," Federal Register, May 29, 2026, accessed here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/29/2026-10817/regulation-for-federal-financial-assistance>.

scientific community at large. Many reputable organizations have already spoken out,^{3,4,5} and I am sure that comments will continue to roll in over the coming weeks. NSF jumping the gun and issuing proposed PAPPG amendments before the OMB rule is finalized – let alone before the public comment period has concluded – is a clear sign that the Administration in general, and NSF specifically, have no interest in legitimately considering the input of the impacted community. The only acceptable course of action at this point is to rescind the draft guidance from the Federal Register. Failing to do so would put NSF’s proposed draft guidance on dubious legal footing. Ultimately, the downfall of the proposed OMB rule would be a victory for American science, but an indictment of the Trump Administration’s competence and respect for the rule of law.

Pursuant to Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology “shall review and study on a continuing basis laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development.”⁶ The Committee possesses jurisdiction over the National Science Foundation.⁷ If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Sara Palasits or Albert Hinman with the Science Committee’s Minority staff at (202) 225-6375. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

cc: Brian Babin, Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

³ Kritika Agarwal, “Five Ways OMB’s Proposal Could Upend U.S. Science,” Association of American Universities, June 12, 2026, accessed here: <https://www.aau.edu/newsroom/leading-research-universities-report/five-ways-ombs-proposal-could-upend-us-science>.

⁴ “Comment on Office of Management and Budget proposed rule for federal financial assistance,” American Physical Society, accessed here: <https://www.aps.org/initiatives/advocate-amplify/policy/federal-grants-rule-change>.

⁵ Colin Hamill and Roohi Dalal, “Breakdown of OMB Proposed Rule: Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance,” American Astronomical Society, June 4, 2026, accessed here: <https://aas.org/posts/news/2026/06/omb-proposed-rule>.

⁶ [119 First Session House Rules](#).

⁷ *Id.*