



BACKGROUND AND SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VISTS

WHAT WE ARE FACING: The Trump Administration has implemented several executive actions that affect the science and technology community. These include mandates to initiate federal funding freezes, staff layoffs, and restricting areas of research. While some of these activities are halted by judicial orders, others are already having real and significant impacts to the American scientific enterprise and the people essential to its success; for example, in February, several federal research agencies dismissed a significant number of dedicated civil servants from their jobs.

Furthermore, the House and Senate have until March 14 to finalize the fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget, which currently provides \$200+ billion in federal investments in R&D programs. The government is operating under an extension of funding called a continuing resolution (CR), and if Congress fails to finalize the FY 2025 budget at current proposed levels, it could cement in place drastic cuts to research.

HOW YOU CAN ACT: Reach out to the federal relations representatives at your institutions. Contact the Members of Congress representing your state and district to share personal stories that illustrate the impacts of federal policy decisions on you and your communities. It is vital that policymakers hear firsthand from their constituents and institutions about how disruptions and uncertainty are collectively hurting the scientific community and damaging American competitiveness. You can send an email or set up a meeting with congressional staff at district offices. Remember, you are a constituent, and your voice matters.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS: Use what's below as a guide, but do not feel the need to follow it verbatim. When using these points in a personal meeting, be conversational, and allow for staff response and input to let the meeting flow. When sending an email or placing a phone call, keep your message succinct, and focus on core points and action that policymakers should take. Make it personal: tell your story. Consider this interaction as a first step in building a relationship with congressional leaders and staff – being polite will open doors for further communication and advocacy opportunities.

MARCH 14 CONTINUING RESOLUTION DEADLINE

- Investments in research at the [e.g., Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, or your agency of choice] have led to transformative innovations and are vital to our nation's economic, energy, and national security.
 - **ADD** your federal agency/program example and how it contributed to society or the advancement of scientific knowledge.
- Allowing the government to shut down OR dramatically reducing investments in R&D threaten our ability to innovate and create the new technology and cures that will shape the future.
- **Ask Congress:** Finalize the government's fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget by the March 14 deadline, including robust funding for research and development for [insert Agency Name] that is critical for scientific research and STEMM students and workers nationwide.

WHY RESEARCH AND AMERICAN INNOVATION IS CRITICAL

- For over 75 years, the United States implemented a strategy for federal investment in research



and development that has grown our economy in ways never imagined at the beginning of the 1900s.

- This strategy has been so successful that other nations have copied it and are increasing their own investments in R&D.
- Our nation's [competitive position](#) in the global economy is at risk.
- The U.S. innovation system relies on robust investments in science and engineering. We cannot compete on the global stage if we do not provide real growth to federal R&D budgets.
- **Ask Congress:** We urge Congress to finalize appropriations for FY 2025 and support critical investments in our nation's scientific research, including funding for [insert Agency name].

WHY RESEARCH and EDUCATION ARE CRITICAL

- These investments are also critical for supporting STEM education and the future of the workforce.
 - **ADD** a personal story from the perspective of an early-career researcher.
 - **ADD** any examples of fellowships, scholarships, or other programs that have helped early-career scientists continue to study in STEM.
 - **ADD** examples of ongoing barriers to the ability of young scientists to continue their STEM studies.
- To remain competitive, the U.S. needs to ensure that there are opportunities for all Americans from all parts of our nation to pursue a career in STEM.

FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATION (F&A)

- The Trump Administration has proposed billions of dollars in cuts to biomedical research.
- These cuts come in the form of reduced federal reimbursement for Facilities and Administrative costs. F&A costs comprise a significant part of what is needed to keep labs and other facilities open and operational – not only the cost of the facilities themselves, but also things like high-tech equipment and materials, utilities, security, and support staff.
- Federal support is critical for universities to take on the added expenses to build and maintain cutting-edge facilities and research equipment.
- These research cuts affect every U.S. state and the impact to [insert State name] is estimated at [insert Estimated Amount]. (**Resource:** <https://jamesmurphy.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/numnn-how-much-money-does-each-state-stand-to-lose-under-new-nih-formula-.png>. The author, James S. Murphy, is the Deputy of Career Pathways and Post-Secondary Policy at Education Reform Now. His work has been published in the NYT, Atlantic, USA Today, Chronicle of Higher Education, and NPR. Murphy's post and methodology are written [here](#).)
- Currently, federal judges have put stop orders on the blanket F&A rate cut proposed by NIH under the Trump Administration.



- If the cuts were to take effect, research projects could suffer, facilities could deteriorate, and many people could lose their jobs.
- F&A cuts are research cuts, and if they go forward, they could prevent, reduce, or delay the next lifesaving diagnostics and treatments.