

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2026

Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Massachusetts Congressional Delegation Public Comment on Proposed Revisions to the Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance (Docket OMB-2026-0034; Published May 29, 2026)

We write to oppose the Office of Management and Budget's proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance framework governing federal grants and financial assistance. The changes risk injecting political considerations into federal grant-making decisions that have been guided by scientific excellence. Under the proposed revisions, for example, funding decisions will be reviewed by political appointees to make sure grants "advance the President's policy priorities," and agencies would have broad discretion to terminate grants at any point. Such interference threatens America's leadership in research and innovation while global competitors are investing aggressively in science and technology.

As Members of Congress from Massachusetts, we are proud that our state is home to the world's leading ecosystem for scientific discovery. Our universities, hospitals, research institutions, and innovative companies have established Massachusetts as the global center of biotechnology, life sciences, advanced medicine, robotics, and clean energy that drive economic growth and improve lives. Massachusetts laboratories spur breakthroughs that strengthen America's economy and national security, and create countless jobs across the country.

The federal government's role in funding research marks one of the most transformative public investments in American history. Federal grants have enabled scientists, engineers, physicians, and entrepreneurs to pursue groundbreaking work based on scientific merit and rigorous peer review. This system has produced lifesaving medicines, revolutionary technologies, and entire industries that have cemented the United States as the world's innovation leader.

The Administration's proposed revisions threaten to undermine that success by creating opportunities for political interference in funding decisions. Awarding or terminating grants based on an administration's political preferences would displace scientific judgment, inject uncertainty, abandon promising research, delay discoveries, and weaken public confidence in the integrity of federal support.

The risks are particularly acute for new medicines and medical technologies. Massachusetts institutions and companies are at the forefront of developing treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and rare diseases. Politicizing grant-making threatens to slow the pace of discovery and delay breakthroughs that could save lives.

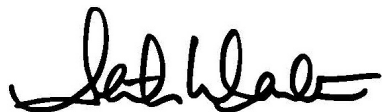
Equally concerning is the message these actions would send to the next generation of scientists and innovators. If the federal government politicizes science, targets institutions of

higher education, and second-guesses expert judgment for ideological reasons, researchers will question whether the United States remains the best place to build their careers.

At a moment when we face intense competition from strategic rivals in critical technologies, the federal government should be strengthening merit-based research funding, not the opposite. Our innovation advantage rests on our commitment to scientific excellence and intellectual freedom.

We urge OMB to withdraw these proposed changes and preserve the longstanding principles that have made America's federal research investments the envy of the world. Federal funding should continue to be based on merit, expertise, and public benefit—not political considerations. The future of American scientific leadership depends on it.

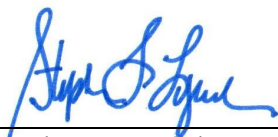
Sincerely,



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



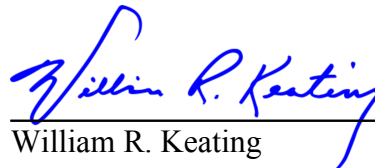
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
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Katherine M. Clark
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William R. Keating
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Ayanna Pressley
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