



August Advocacy & OMB'S Proposed Grant Rule

Advocacy Hour: Ring Your
Representative to Stop the
Proposed OMB Rule
August 11, 2026

Presented By:



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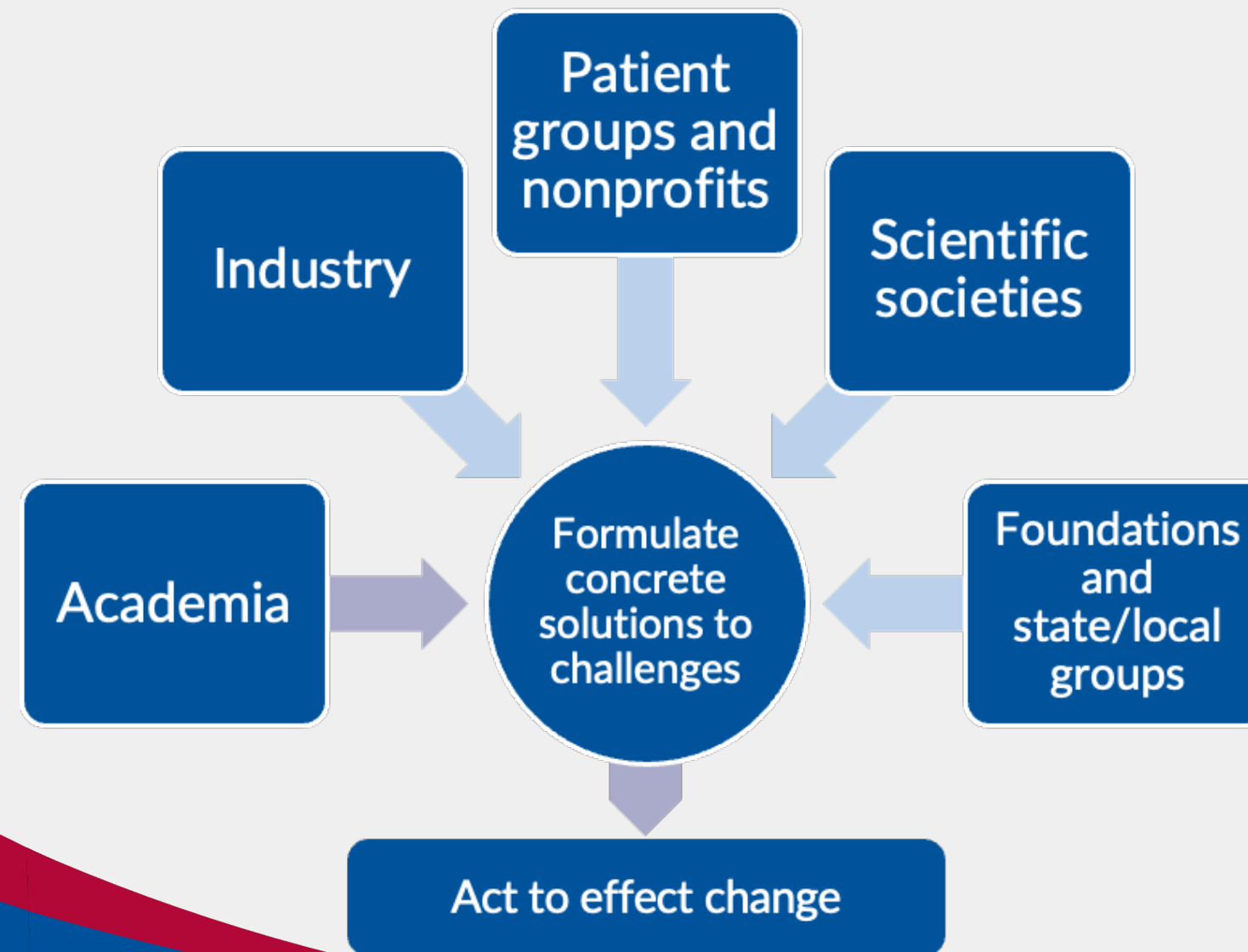
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Research!America

Research!America is a non-profit medical and health research advocacy alliance. We advocate for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all.



OMB Proposed Rule: Background

Key Changes

- Political pre-approval of discretionary grants
- Expanded termination authority
- Restrictions on international collaboration
- Publication/conference cost restrictions
- New compliance burdens

The Rule

On May 29, 2026, OMB published a proposed revision to the Uniform Guidance — the government-wide framework governing all federal grants and cooperative agreements.

The Status

The Senate passed a temporary funding bill that would block OMB from finalizing or implementing the rule through Dec. 11. This protection is not yet law, and more advocacy is needed to stop the rule permanently.

The Ask

Please ask your members of Congress to stop the OMB rule.

ADVOCACY

Taking action to create change

Advocacy is about educating decision makers and helping them understand how public policy decisions will impact the people and communities we care about.

How To Advocate To Your Lawmakers

You can make your voice heard using several methods of engagement. You can start small and build - it all makes an impact.



VOTE

Voting is the primary language of democracy



WRITE

- Letters
- Emails
- Action Alerts
- Social Media
- Op-Ed



CALL

You can always call the office and the staff will note your name and position on the issue you're calling about



MEET

Meet with your representative in their office or attend an event like a townhall.

HELPFUL ADVOCACY TIPS

DO

- Make one clear ask
- Consider your audience & the meeting setting
- Lead with people
- Acknowledge the goal
- Use plain language
- Explain the real-world impact
- Stay respectful and concise

DO NOT

- Misrepresent yourself or your institution
- Contact lawmakers who don't represent you
- Lead with institutions
- Make assumptions
- Use jargon and technical language
- Overstate potential impacts
- Bring personal politics into the meeting

Potential Questions You May be Asked

Q: Isn't OMB simply trying to stop fraud, waste, and abuse?

- Oversight and accountability are important goals.
- OMB has not shown these changes would improve oversight.
- Some provisions could instead increase bureaucracy, reduce transparency, and make funding decisions less predictable.

Q: Shouldn't a president be able to align grants with the administration's priorities?

- Presidents should set broad policy priorities within the law.
- The concern is allowing political priorities to override expert review or disrupt programs funded by Congress.
- This same power would apply to all future administrations.

Q: Are any parts of the proposal reasonable?

- Stronger oversight is a reasonable goal.
- The concern is adopting sweeping government-wide changes without clear standards, adequate analysis, or safeguards.

Potential Questions You May be Asked

Q: What is wrong with political appointees reviewing grants?

- Political leaders already oversee agencies.
- The proposal expands their role in individual grant decisions while discouraging routine reliance on expert peer review.
- It provides little transparency about when or why expert recommendations are overridden.

Q: Didn't OMB already receive public comments?

- Yes, and OMB must consider them.
- Public comments alone do not ensure the proposal will be withdrawn or changed, so congressional engagement remains important.

Q: What can Congress do?

- Urge OMB to withdraw or revise the rule.
- Seek information from agencies about impacts in their districts.
- Raise concerns publicly.
- Include protections in future appropriations legislation.

Questions?

How to Contact Your Lawmakers

1. Find your members of Congress at <https://www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member> and open each member's official website.
2. Locate the district or state office nearest to you.
3. Call you local office using the script below.
4. Repeat the process for your other members of Congress (3 calls total).

Step 1: Find your members of Congress

CONGRESS.GOV [Advanced Searches](#) | [Browse](#) [Legislation](#) | [Congress](#)

Members ▼

Examples: Don Bacon, Wyden

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Find Your Members

Find your member by address:

× 🔍

515 Parnassus Ave, San Francisco, CA, 94143, USA

Parnassus Ave, San Francisco, CA, 94117, USA

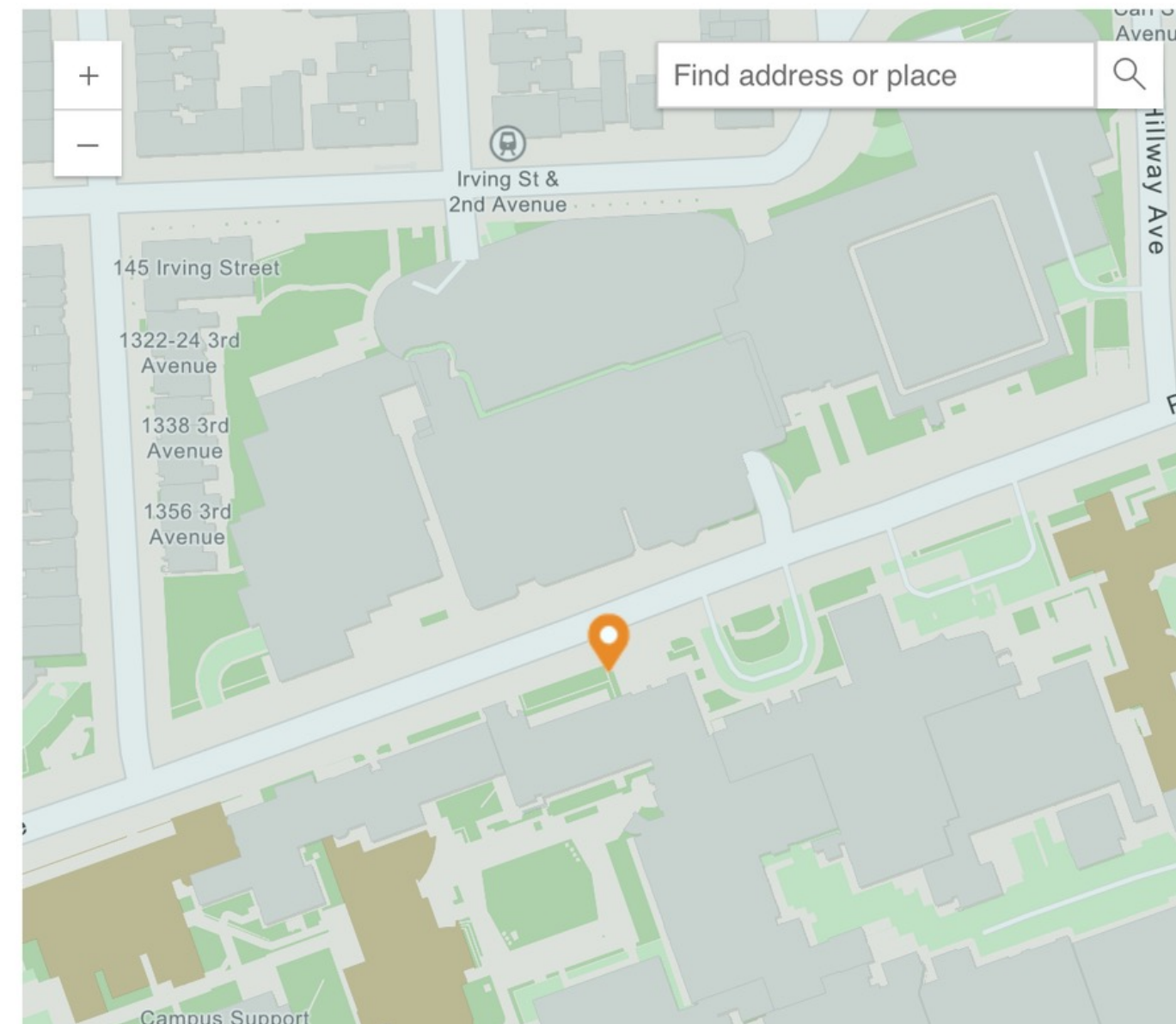
Parnassus Ave, San Francisco, CA, 94122, USA

Click on a list to view their contact information.

Step 1: Find your members of Congress

Your Members

[Alerts for These Members](#)



1. [Senator Padilla, Alex](#)



State: California

Party: Democratic

Served: Senate: 2021-Present

Contact: 331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3500

[Contact](#)

2. [Representative Pelosi, Nancy](#)



State: California

Party: Democratic

Served: House: 1987-Present

Contact: 1236 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-4965

[Contact](#)

3. [Senator Schiff, Adam B.](#)



State: California

Party: Democratic

Served: House: 2001-2024
Senate: 2024-Present

Contact: 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841

[Contact](#)

Step 2: Locate the district or state office nearest to you.

ALEX PADILLA
U.S. SENATOR for CALIFORNIA

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OFFICE LOCATIONS



FRESNO

2500 Tulare Street
Suite 5290
Fresno, CA 93721

☎ (559) 497-5109

📠 (202) 228-3864

DIRECTIONS →

SAN FRANCISCO

333 Bush Street
Suite 3225
San Francisco, CA 94104

☎ (415) 981-9369

📠 (202) 224-0454

DIRECTIONS →

SACRAMENTO

501 I Street
Suite 7-800
Sacramento, CA 95814

**This office is currently
under renovation and is
only available by
appointment only*

☎ (916) 448-2787

📠 (202) 228-3865

DIRECTIONS →

Step 3: Call your local office using the script below.

Hi, I am a [researcher/scientist/patient/doctor/etc.] and constituent that lives in [your city, state AND zip code]. I am calling to ask if you can share a message with your boss. [Pause for response] I am calling to express my strong opposition to the proposed rule from the Office of Management and Budget. This proposal would make sweeping changes to how federal grants are awarded without thoroughly assessing what those changes could mean for medical research, patients, or taxpayers. I know the Senate has taken an important step toward temporarily pausing the rule with language in their Continuing Resolution, but a temporary delay is not a permanent solution. I am asking [Sen/Rep. name] to do whatever they can to stop the OMB rule.

Matt: Hi, this is Matthew Ryan, and I'm a **grad student at UCSF, calling in my personal capacity**, and a constituent. I live in **San Francisco, CA in zip code 94143**. I am calling to ask if you can share a message with your boss.

Office: Yes, I'm happy to pass something along.

Matt: I am calling to express my strong opposition to the proposed rule from the Office of Management and Budget. This proposal would make sweeping changes to how federal grants are awarded without thoroughly assessing what those changes could mean for medical research, patients, or taxpayers. I know the Senate has taken an important step toward temporarily pausing the rule with language in their Continuing Resolution, but a temporary delay is not a permanent solution. I am asking **Senator Padilla** to do whatever they can to stop the OMB rule.

Office: Yes, I can pass that along for you.

Matt: Great—do you need my address?

Office: Sure thing.

Matt: Great, it's 515 Parnassus Ave, San Francisco, CA 94143.

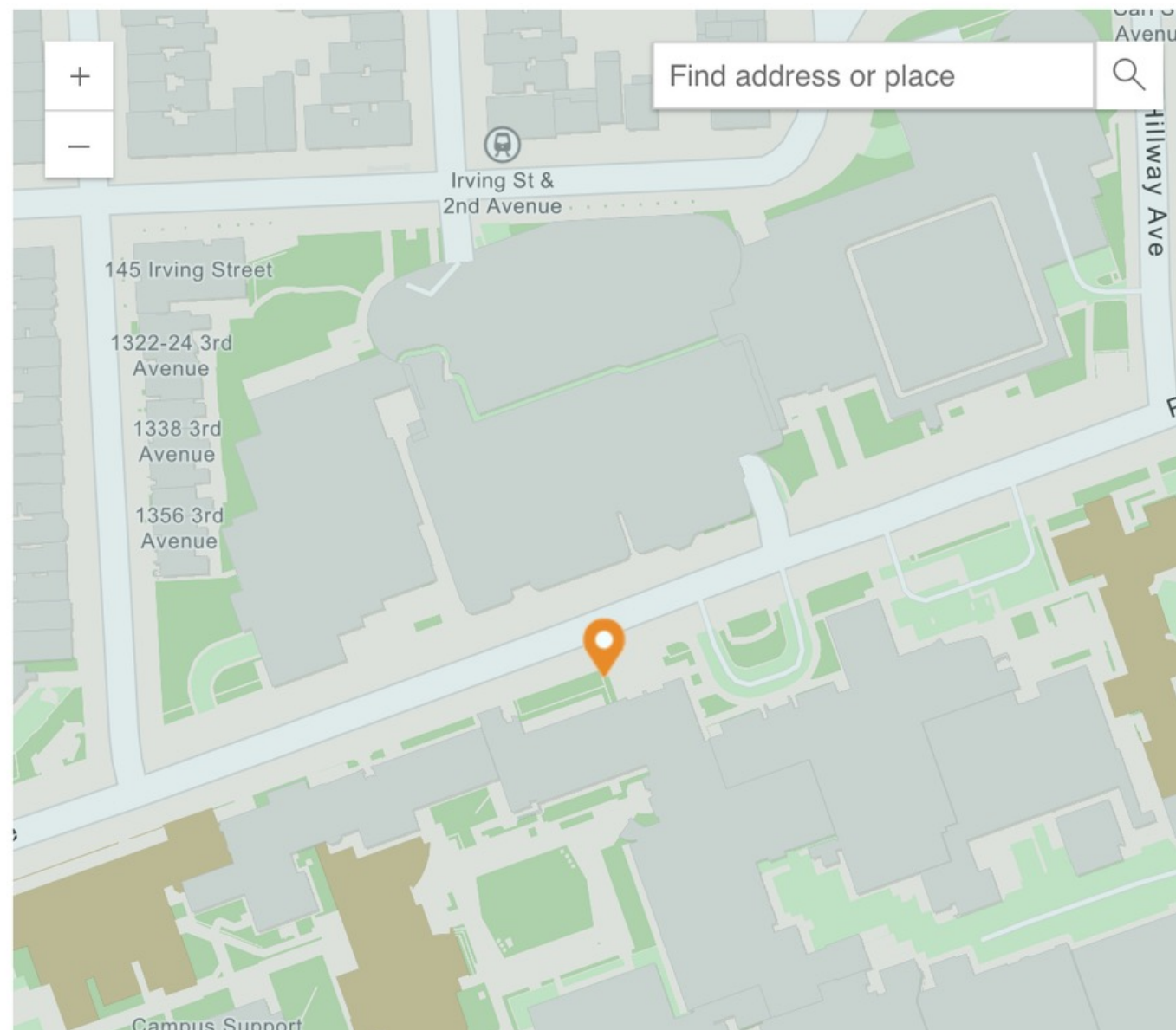
Office: OK thanks, I've recorded your message.

Matt: Thanks, have a nice day!

Step 4: Repeat the process for your other members of Congress.

Your Members

[Alerts for These Members](#)



1. [Senator Padilla, Alex](#)



State: California

Party: Democratic

Served: Senate: 2021-Present

Contact: 331 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3553
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State: California

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Party: Democratic

Served: House: 2001-2024
Senate: 2024-Present

Contact: 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841
[Contact](#)



Questions?

Now it's your turn!

Hi, I am a [researcher/scientist/patient/doctor/etc.] and constituent that lives in [your city, state AND zip code]. I am calling to ask if you can share a message with your boss. [Pause] I am calling to express my strong opposition to the proposed rule from the Office of Management and Budget. This proposal would make sweeping changes to how federal grants are awarded without thoroughly assessing what those changes could mean for medical research, patients, or taxpayers. I know the Senate has taken an important step toward temporarily pausing the rule with language in their Continuing Resolution, but a temporary delay is not a permanent solution. I am asking [Sen/Rep. name] to do whatever they can to stop the OMB rule.

We'll come back together at 2:25 PM ET to debrief and discuss next steps.

Feel free to put questions in the chat as they come up!

Debrief and Next Steps

1. You did it! How did it go?
2. Send a text or message to 3 friends or colleagues, asking them to call their members of Congress.
3. Want to do more? Ask to meet with the in-district office staff.

Thank You

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-  edarbouze@researchamerica.org
-  Allie Byrne, PhD
-  abyrne@researchamerica.org
-  Matthew J. Ryan, PhD, MPP
-  mryan@researchamerica.org

