Stop OMB's Proposed Rule: Reach Out to Local Media

Did you see a news story about medical progress? Turn it into a letter to the editor in three easy steps.

Did you just read about a promising cancer treatment? A breakthrough in Alzheimer's research? New discoveries that could help prevent disease or save lives?

These advances don't happen overnight. They depend on years of research, sustained funding, and the ability of scientists to follow promising leads.

A proposed federal regulation from the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) threatens to undermine that progress by making federally funded research more vulnerable to abrupt cancellation, political interference, and unpredictable changes in funding requirements.

You can help sound the alarm by answering three simple questions.

1. What caught your attention in the article?

Start by referring to the article and explaining why the research matters to you.

Example: "Your recent article about progress in treating Alzheimer's disease offers hope to millions of families affected by this devastating illness."

2. What would happen if research like this were interrupted or never got off the ground?

Think about the patients waiting for answers, the years of work that could be lost, and the discoveries that might never happen.

Example: "Breakthroughs like this build on years of research. When funding is abruptly cut off or research decisions are driven by politics rather than scientific merit, promising work can be lost and patients pay the price."

3. What do you want readers and policymakers to know?

Make the connection to OMB's proposed rule and explain why it matters.

Example: "Regardless of who is in the White House, this rule would give political appointees sweeping new power to override scientific judgment, cancel research that's already underway, and derail promising medical advances. Decisions with consequences for

patients and taxpayers should be grounded in scientific merit, not political priorities. OMB should withdraw this proposal."

Put your answers together. You've written a letter to the editor!

Keep it short, ideally 150 to 200 words. Mention the article you're responding to, use your own voice, and submit your letter through the newspaper's website.

Make It Your Own!

Want to personalize your letter? Consider emphasizing one of these points:

- **Patients:** Every delay in medical progress means more time waiting for answers, treatments, and cures.
- **Taxpayers:** Abruptly canceling research wastes resources already committed and prevents taxpayers from seeing the benefits of the work they've funded.
- **Scientific independence:** Research funding decisions should be based on scientific merit, not the changing political priorities of whichever administration is in power.

The bottom line: Every medical breakthrough has a story. Your letter can help make sure the next chapter is written by science, not politics.