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July 13, 2026

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Public Comment on Proposed Rule: Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance (Docket OMB-2026-0034; 91 FR 32198)

Dear Director Vought,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance framework.

The sweeping changes proposed in this rule threaten the foundational integrity of America's research enterprise, undermine fairness in federal grantmaking, and jeopardize our nation's most powerful engine for long-term economic growth.

This rule would undermine fair process and evidence-based decision-making across all areas of the federal government. It would cause serious disruptions to scientific research, as well as undermining sound judgment and fair process in federal investments affecting public health, community nutrition, public safety, economic development, infrastructure, nonprofit social services, environmental protection, education, and a broad array of other areas affecting the lives of citizens across the country.

I am deeply concerned by provisions such as the newly mandated senior appointee "pre-issuance review" process that would empower political appointees to depart from the recommendations of scientific experts and not defer to independent peer-review panels. This provision dangerously prioritizes political considerations over evidence-based policymaking in federal grantmaking. For many years, America's world-class researchers have thrived with the assistance of federal grantmaking that is led by scientists, technical experts, and rigorous, independent peer-review panels. The federal government, the states, and research institutions have worked together

harmoniously for decades to make American hospitals, universities, and entrepreneurs the envy of the world.

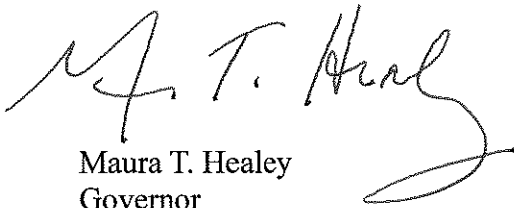
An evidence-based approach to federal grantmaking ensures that public resources are channeled towards projects defined by scientific excellence and objective merit, rather than partisan preference. Time and again, this approach has led to breakthrough innovations—from the internet and advanced manufacturing to domestic biotechnology—that have created the high-wage jobs and entirely new industries of the future. By abandoning this proven blueprint, the proposed rule functions as a long-term job killer.

Injecting political interference into science directly threatens this job-creating engine by undermining scientific expertise in favor of the subjective policy preference of political appointees. When funding decisions are divorced from scientific merit, private capital flees, commercialization stalls, and the economic ecosystems built around our research universities collapse. It risks the faith and confidence of America's world-renowned talent, researchers, and institutions, that clearly stated, expertly reviewed, and consistently applied scientific criteria would govern funding decisions. The perception that scientific grants are being scanned for partisan compatibility risks causing even the general public to question the independence of federally supported research and the credibility of the findings it produces. Once that confidence is lost, it is extraordinarily difficult to rebuild.

The proposed rule would stifle innovation, delay breakthroughs in life-saving medicine, and compromise America's global competitive advantage, and ultimately kill domestic jobs that depend on technological superiority.

I urge OMB to withdraw the proposed revisions and instead double down on the federal government's historic commitment to objective, expert-led, evidence-based policymaking.

Sincerely,



Maura T. Healey
Governor