

OPEN LETTER TO CONGRESS DEMANDING THE RESTORATION OF THE NSB

The following is an Open Letter to Congress concerning the Trump Administration's recent firing of all 22 seated members of the National Science Board, the entity which, by law, oversees the National Science Foundation and performs other functions. We invite the public to join us by signing below as a supporting endorser of this letter.

Dear Honorable Members of Congress:

We write to express our deep dismay at the abrupt dismissal by the White House of all 22 members of the National Science Board. This body was created by Congress 76 years ago at the inception of the US National Science Foundation to oversee it, recommend national strategic policy for scientific research, and provide apolitical scientific advice to Congress and the President. This dismissal comes at a time when the National Science Foundation has been moved from its dedicated facility to a different building, is operating with no Director and a drastically-reduced staff, and a proposed budget cut of more than 50% from FY 26 levels. In short, the dismissal of the National Science Board members ramps up an alarming attack on the ability of the US to engage in basic and applied research, and to be competitive globally, particularly given that China is now investing more in R&D than the US. This dismantling of a critical national advisory body is but one of many such actions taken by the current administration that deprives our government of independent, apolitical, oversight and expert advice, not only in the sciences but also in healthcare and technology.

We stand with the staff of the National Science Foundation, many of whom have lost job protections, and whose alerts to Congress in July 2025 about the threats to the NSF mission have gone unaddressed. We stand with the National Science Board, and call on Congress, as an equal branch of government, to rapidly and firmly support science by calling for the reinstatement of terminated National Science Board members and appointment of new ones to fill vacant slots, and that as required by law (NSF Act) the Board members are "eminent in the fields of the basic, medical, or social sciences, engineering, agriculture, education, research management, or public affairs" and chosen "solely on the basis of established records of distinguished service." Congress has in the past been a responsible and wise steward of our nation's scientific infrastructure, and we ask that it once again meets the moment to protect our nation's scientific competitiveness, economic well-being, and national security.

Respectfully signed by,

Elected members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, in their personal capacities, along with our supporters and allies in the science, technology, medical, healthcare and business communities.

[After endorsing below, please [view the NASEM signatories and endorsers here.](#)]

NASEM Letter Endorsers

Endorsing organizations

Stand Up for Science

Kapor Center Advocacy

Scientist Network for Advancing Policy

Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science

Asian American Scholar Forum

27 UNHTED/NIH Vigils

Association for Computing Machinery's U.S. Technology Policy Committee

Stand Together for Higher Ed

American Educational Research Association

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry

The Planetary Society

American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT)

American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB)