

The Scientific Integrity Act

119th Congress

House Co-leads: Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Haley Stevens (D-MI), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Don Beyer (D-VA)

When science is undermined, people suffer

- The federal government must rely on the best available science to protect public health and the environment. From chemical safety and air quality standards to weather predictions and pandemic preparedness, science-based decision-making is essential.
- For years, the U.S. Government has attempted to uphold scientific integrity. President Biden strengthened these protections, instructing all research agencies to prevent political interference, suppression, or distortion of scientific data.
 - However, the Trump Administration has since rescinded Biden's directive.

Science is under attack in U.S. public policy

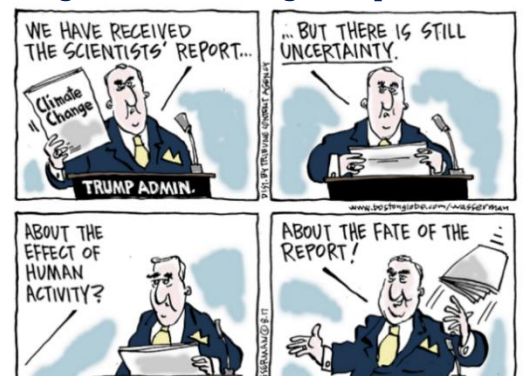
- From past to present administrations scientists have faced pressure to alter or dismiss findings—whether it's adjusting the path of a hurricane to suit a narrative, misrepresenting the safety and efficacy of birth control to restrict access, downplaying the severity of a pandemic, or suppressing health risks associated with contaminants like perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- In just the first weeks of 2025, there have already been numerous attacks on science including:
 - The ousting of more than a dozen independent inspector generals tasked with protecting agency work from political interference.
 - Erasing and manipulating essential public health data on CDC websites.
 - Silencing communication from the Department of Health and Human Services, meaning for the first time in 60 years, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did not publish their Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.
 - Disregarding the overwhelming scientific evidence of fossil fuels' harms through executive orders that prioritize fossil fuel extraction, transport, and use over public health and the environment.
 - Limiting through an executive order how the federal government acknowledges sex and gender identity, disregarding the scientifically supported existence of intersex and transgender individuals and the complexity of human biology.

Congress Needs to Act!

Federal agency **scientific integrity policies** put a high wall separating scientific findings and **political or special interests** seeking to influence them.

The Scientific Integrity Act

1. Requires federal agencies that fund or direct public science to establish & maintain clear scientific integrity principles.
2. Formalizes these policies and strengthens them with the force of law. Clarifies that science should determine policy, free from inappropriate politics, ideology, or financial conflicts of interest.
3. Holds public scientists to the highest standards while guaranteeing their rights and protections under the law.



Credit: Dan Wasserman/Tribune Content Agency

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