

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, Americans suffer

- The federal government must prioritize the best available science to protect public health and the environment. Science-based decision-making is essential in areas like chemical safety, air quality, weather forecasting, and healthcare.
- Federally funded research helps Congress make informed decisions on resource allocation and enables state and local governments to better serve their communities. A scientific process free from political or financial pressure ensures evidence-based policies that put the American people first.
- The U.S. Government has a history of attempting to uphold scientific integrity. President Biden strengthened these protections, instructing all research agencies to prevent political interference, suppression, or distortion of scientific data.

Challenges to Scientific Integrity in U.S. Policy

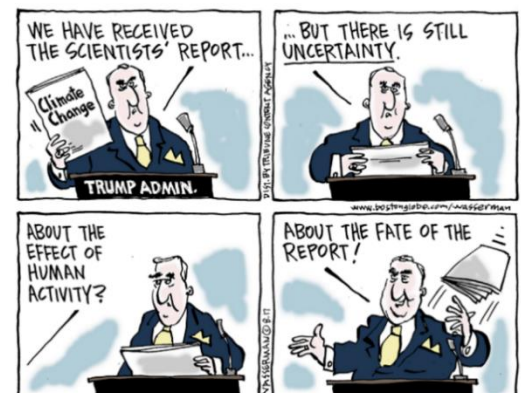
- Past presidential administrations from both parties have at times placed our nation's critical scientific work into the partisan fray where it does not belong—whether by altering hurricane forecasts, misrepresenting the safety and efficacy of birth control, or downplaying health risks associated with contaminants like perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- In the first weeks of 2025, several threats to scientific integrity have emerged, including:
 - The removal 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.
 - Restrictions on communication from the Department of Health and Human Services, leading to the first time in 60 years that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did not publish their Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

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.
 - 25+ federal agencies currently have some form of scientific integrity policy that could be made stronger under this bill.
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

Connect with Congressman Paul Tonko on Facebook, X, Bluesky, or Instagram: @RepPaulTonko