

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2026

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

Dear Director Vought:

We write to address our concerns with the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) proposed rule which would impact critical, lifesaving cancer research funding. This proposal would undermine the independent, merit-based process for awarding federal cancer research projects, and we urge thoughtful reconsideration.

Federal cancer research grants go through a rigorous, competitive vetting process. New York and Pennsylvania institutions like Stony Brook, Northwell Health, Cold Spring Harbor, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Abramson Cancer Center, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, Ellen and Ronald Caplan Cancer Center and the Cancer Center at CHOP compete for these grants based on scientific merit alone, without regard to politics. Long-term Federal investment in cancer research has helped drive a 34% reduction in the overall U.S. cancer death rate over the past thirty-five years, resulting in an estimated 4.8 million fewer deaths. New York and Pennsylvania's institutions have played a major role in these efforts, and they rely on federal grants being awarded fairly and on merit, without fear of arbitrary termination.

OMB's proposed rule would potentially undermine this process. Requiring grant programs to align with "administration policies and priorities" and allowing political appointees to unilaterally reject applications would make it easier for agencies to cancel or suspend already-awarded grants. These changes would ignore Congressional intent, unnecessarily inject politics into cancer research funding decisions, increase delivery timelines and project costs and make it harder for scientists to plan and sustain long-term research. Above all, this proposal could jeopardize the real progress we have made against this deadly disease.

We urge you to preserve merit-based review of cancer research grants, and at minimum extend the comment deadline so that Congress and the public can fully evaluate and weigh in on the impact of this proposal. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Regards,



Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress