

April 2025

Recent federal agency and policy changes directly impact the research oversight ecosystem, impeding public trust in science and research. As a member of the PRIM&R community, your voice is crucial in educating lawmakers and the public regarding the essential role of federal agencies in safeguarding scientific research's integrity and safety.

Our toolkit is a resource for you to share key points regarding the importance of research and research oversight agencies. Join us in taking action to emphasize how public safety relies on strong research oversight and robust federal funding.

Table of Contents:

[Take Action! What Can You Do?](#)

[“Why Does This Matter?” Talking Points](#)

[Phone Script for Calling Congress](#)

[Email Template for Writing to Congress](#)



Take Action!

Public Safety Relies on Strong Research Oversight

**As a member of the PRIM&R Community,
your voice is crucial in safeguarding the
integrity of scientific research.**

Recent reductions in funding, staffing, and agency capacity threaten a void in the research ecosystem that could lead to significant lapses in research oversight.

What Can You Do?

Contact Your Representatives

- Call or email your representatives – use our [phone script](#) or [email template](#)
 - Use the [Congressional Directory](#) to find your members of Congress. Enter your address to access their phone numbers, emails, and mailing addresses.

Inform Your Community

- Raise awareness about this lesser-known area of government and society
- Use our "[Why Does This Matter?](#)" section below for talking points
- Spread the word through social media posts

Stay Connected

- Follow PRIM&R on social media: [BlueSky](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)
- Bookmark our [Take Action](#) policy page
- Make sure you're signed up for our [email alerts](#)

Take a Break

We understand that this current climate can be overwhelming. Take care of yourself and rest when needed. PRIM&R will continue tracking developments and [providing updates](#).

Why Does This Matter? - Talking Points

How Are Medical Advancements Made?

- The federal research framework has led to advances in the treatment, diagnosis, and prevention of disease and conditions.
- The "bench to bedside" pipeline, the process by which the results of laboratory research are directly used to develop new ways to treat patients, depends on sustained public investment and trust.

NIH Funding Powers Innovation

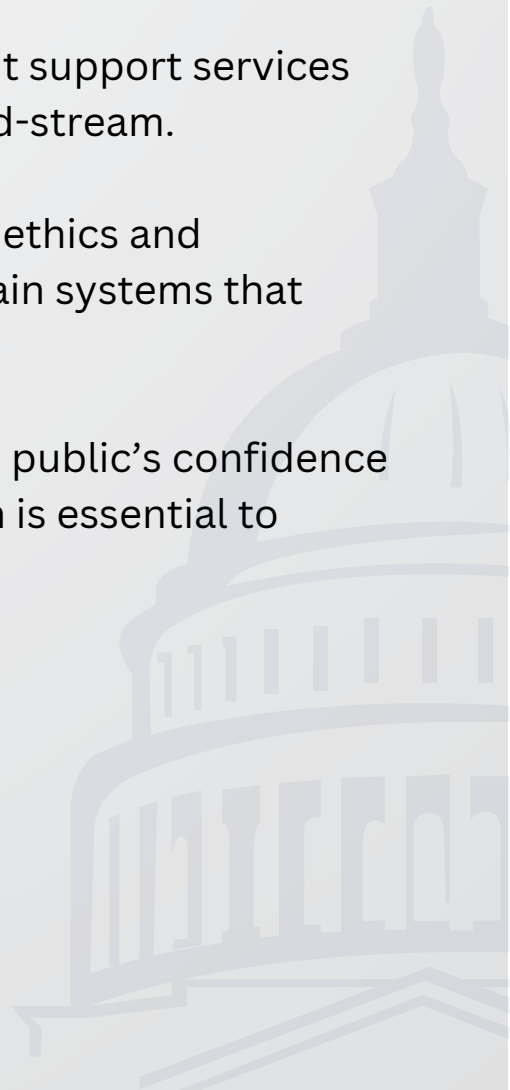
- NIH is the largest public funder of biomedical research.
- NIH grants create jobs and drive scientific discovery.

Who Makes Sure Science is Safe and Protects Research Participants?

- Research in the US is carefully monitored by government agencies to protect both people and animals involved in studies. When scientists want to conduct studies involving humans, agencies like the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ensure participants understand what they are signing up for and are not put at unnecessary risk. For animals, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) has an inspection service that enforces the Animal Welfare Act, and the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) ensures federally-funded studies involving animals adhere to regulations. These agencies ensure scientific progress is balanced with ethical treatment of participants.

What Impact Will Cutbacks Have?

- Reductions in funding and staffing to the federal research framework will weaken research oversight and may lead to significant lapses in participant protections.
- Without expert federal guidance, institutions may adopt more conservative approaches or inconsistent interpretations of regulations, slowing research progress and creating uncertainty.
- Stop-work orders and loss of research participant support services will put individuals at risk and disrupt studies mid-stream.
- Cuts will degrade the pipeline of future research ethics and oversight professionals, making it harder to sustain systems that ensure integrity, trust, and public safety.
- Ultimately, diminished oversight undermines the public's confidence that research is being conducted ethically, which is essential to advancing science and public health.



How Does This Impact You?

- Cuts to federal funding impede scientific progress and undermine public health. This includes delaying the discovery of new treatments, preventing medical progress, and undermining our country's ability to tackle current and future health challenges.
- Even if you are not participating in research, this is a public safety issue—because the medications you take, the vaccines you receive, and the public health policies that protect your communities are all built on research that must be conducted safely, ethically, and with trusted oversight, which regulators and the research community have been working to build for over 50 years.



Phone Script: Call Your Representatives

IF LEAVING VOICEMAIL: Please leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied.

"Hello, my name is [*Your Name*], and I am a constituent from [*Your City, State*] and a member of the research community/research oversight community.

I am calling to express my serious concerns about budget cuts and dramatic staffing reductions at the NIH, and other federal agencies that provide research oversight—like the Office for Human Research Protections, which helps ensure research is conducted ethically and protects participants from harm.

A well-funded federal research infrastructure plays a crucial role in protecting research oversight, supporting ethics professionals, and ensuring the safety of participants in research trials.

Cuts to federal funding harm scientific progress and public health by delaying the discovery of new treatments, preventing medical progress, and undermining our country's ability to tackle current and future health challenges.

Strong research oversight and robust funding are essential for public safety.

Thank you for your time.

Email Template: Tell Congress Public Safety Depends on Research Oversight

Subject: Protect Research Oversight and Federal Research Funding

Dear *[Representative/Senator] [Last Name]*,

I am writing to you, as a member of the research community, to express my serious concerns about ongoing funding cuts and workforce reductions at agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

- **Weakened Research Oversight:** Reduced HHS funding threatens the effectiveness of the oversight process, potentially undermining ethical scientific research. Continuous cutbacks to federal research funding weaken agencies that play a vital role in upholding research protections, supporting ethics professionals, and fostering public trust in science.
- **Harm to Scientific Progress and Public Health:** Cuts to HHS funding will delay the discovery of new treatments, prevent medical progress, and undermine our nation's ability to address current and future health challenges. This is a critical public safety issue.
- **Job Cuts and Strain on Public Health Agencies:** Massive job cuts at agencies including the FDA, CDC, and NIH, will further strain the system responsible for the health and safety of our communities and weaken research oversight. Job cuts at NIH specifically will hinder scientific research, delay medical breakthroughs, and jeopardize public health by limiting the development of critical health innovations and disease prevention strategies.

The United States needs strong research oversight and robust research funding for our collective public safety. Cuts to funding would harm scientific progress and public health by delaying the discovery of new treatments, preventing medical progress, and undermining our country's ability to tackle current and future health challenges.

These cuts threaten the effective oversight process, undermine ethical scientific research, and put members of the public at risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your City, State]

[Your Professional Affiliation (optional)]