

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

We write to request that the relief proposed in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-20-17 be made mandatory immediately with respect to the American university research community.

Last week, OMB issued Memorandum M-20-17 “Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Due to Loss of Operations” which permits short-term relief for administrative, financial management, and audit requirements for federal agency grant recipients impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This was a positive step forward for impacted colleges, universities, and non-profit research institutions, but it falls short of certain help for our nation’s universities and research enterprises.

Requiring federal agencies to provide temporary relief to the American research community with respect to proposal deadlines, no-cost extensions, allowability of salaries, non-competing continuation requests, extensions of closeout deadlines, and prior approval requirements would significantly help institutions maintain regular operations. Additionally, if agencies were instructed to implement such relief on institution-wide bases instead of grant-by-grant, administrative burdens during this time of difficult transitions would be greatly reduced.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. We look forward to continuing to work with you to support all of America through this difficult time, including our world-class research community.

Sincerely,

MARK POCAN
Member of Congress

BRIAN FITZPATRICK
Member of Congress

JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress

JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress

DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress

JOE NEGUSE
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JUAN VARGAS
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