

# Contact Your Member of Congress

*Scripts for August Recess Outreach on the OMB Uniform Guidance Proposal*

## Before You Reach Out

These scripts are designed to help GSA members engage as Scientist Citizens: sharing expertise and real-world impact with congressional offices, not advocating for or against any candidate or party. Use whichever format fits the moment — phone call, voicemail, email, or a district/state office meeting.

## Three things to remember

- Identify yourself as a constituent first. Staff prioritizes input from people who live or work in the district or state.
- Keep the message educational and concrete. The goal is to help staff understand real-world impact, not to deliver a partisan message.
- Add one sentence from your own experience. A personal, specific example is what staff remember.

## Phone Script — Senate Office

Use this version when calling a Senator's Washington or state office. It references the Senate Appropriations Committee's continuing resolution (CR) language delaying the OMB Uniform Guidance proposal until December 11.

*Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I'm a constituent from [City/Town, State].*

*I'm also part of the aging research and professional community, and I wanted to share why the OMB Uniform Guidance proposal matters to my work and to our community.*

*Aging research and aging-related programs depend on rigorous peer review, stable long-term funding, scientific meetings, publication of findings, and the ability to share evidence.*

*I understand the Senate Appropriations Committee included language in the continuing resolution that would delay implementation of the OMB proposal until December 11. I hope Senator [Name] will continue supporting that additional time so Congress, agencies, and affected organizations can better understand the impact of these government-wide changes.*

*[Add one sentence from your own experience — see the prompts below.]*

*Thank you for your time. I'd be glad to serve as a resource on this issue going forward.*

## Phone Script — House Office

Use this version when calling a Representative's Washington or district office. The House continuing resolution does not currently include the delay language, so the ask here is framed around examining the issue closely rather than referencing language that isn't in the House bill.

*Hello, my name is [Your Name], and I'm a constituent from [City/Town, State].*

*I'm also part of the aging research and professional community, and I wanted to share why the OMB Uniform Guidance proposal matters to my work and to our community.*

*Aging research and aging-related programs depend on rigorous peer review, stable long-term funding, scientific meetings, publication of findings, and the ability to share evidence.*

*I know the Senate and House are taking different approaches right now — the Senate continuing resolution includes language delaying the OMB proposal until December 11, while the House version does not. I hope Representative [Name]'s office will continue examining the potential impact of this proposal on research, public health, education, community programs, and the federal partnerships that support our communities as we age.*

*[Add one sentence from your own experience — see the prompts below.]*

*Thank you for your time. I'd be glad to serve as a resource on this issue going forward.*

## **Voicemail Script**

If you reach a voicemail system, keep it brief — about 30 seconds — and always leave your name and a callback number so staff can follow up.

*Hello, my name is [Your Name], a constituent from [City/Town, State], and a member of the Gerontological Society of America.*

*I'm calling to share that I have concerns about the OMB Uniform Guidance proposal and its potential impact on aging research, public health, and community programs in [State/District].*

*I'd welcome the chance to talk with staff about this issue. You can reach me at [Phone Number] or [Email]. Thank you.*

## **Email / Written Message**

Use this version for email, an online contact form, or a written leave-behind at a district meeting. It can be adapted for a Senate or House office by adjusting the bracketed CR reference.

*Subject: Constituent input on the OMB Uniform Guidance proposal*

*Dear Senator/Representative [Name],*

*I am writing as a constituent from [City/Town, State] and as a member of the aging research and professional community.*

*I wanted to share why the Office of Management and Budget's proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance matter to my work and my community. Aging research and aging-related programs depend on rigorous peer review, stable long-term funding, scientific meetings, publication of findings, and the ability to share evidence with the public.*

*[For Senate offices: I hope you will continue supporting the continuing resolution language that would delay implementation of this proposal until December 11, giving Congress and affected organizations more time to understand its impact.]*

*[For House offices: I hope your office will continue examining the potential impact of this proposal, particularly given that the Senate and House are currently taking different approaches to it.]*

*[Add one or two sentences describing your own work and its connection to federal grants or cooperative agreements.]*

*Thank you for considering this input. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a resource for your office on this issue.*

*Sincerely,*

*[Your Name]*

*[Institution/Organization, if applicable]*

*[City/Town, State]*

## District or State Office Meeting — Talking Points

August recess is one of the best times to request a brief meeting with district or state staff. A 15-minute conversation can be very effective. Use these points to structure the conversation.

1. Introduce yourself as a constituent connected to aging research, education, practice, public health, or aging services.
2. Explain what the Uniform Guidance is: the government-wide framework governing federal grants and cooperative agreements across research, public health, workforce development, housing, transportation, and community services.
3. Describe why it matters to your work — for example, its potential effect on peer review, conference and publication costs, or the stability of long-term grants and cooperative agreements.
4. Note the October 1, 2026 proposed effective date and GSA's concern that it does not allow enough time for institutions to update policies, train staff, and build compliance systems.
5. Share the current congressional landscape: the Senate CR includes language delaying the rule until December 11; the House CR does not. That difference will need to be resolved before a final funding measure is enacted.
6. Close with a specific, personal example from your own work or community, and offer to remain a resource for the office.

## Personal Story Prompts

Staff remember specific, personal examples more than general statements. Choose one prompt and complete it with a real, concrete detail from your own work.

- "In my work, federal support helps ..."
- "At my institution, these grants support ..."
- "For the people and communities we serve, this research matters because ..."
- "In our community, federal partnerships help make possible ..."

## Quick Reference: Key Facts

- The Uniform Guidance is the government-wide framework governing federal grants and cooperative agreements — not limited to research.
- GSA submitted formal comments to OMB urging withdrawal of the proposed rule.
- GSA's comments emphasized preserving rigorous peer review, retaining current cost-allowability standards for conferences, publications, journal subscriptions, and memberships, and keeping termination authority tied to cause-based standards.
- The Senate Appropriations Committee's continuing resolution includes language (Section 157) delaying the proposal until December 11; the House CR does not include this language.
- The proposal identified an October 1, 2026 effective date; GSA raised concerns about insufficient implementation time.
- The public comment period has closed. OMB has not announced next steps.

## After You Reach Out

Visit [geron.org/advocacy](https://geron.org/advocacy) for GSA's Advocacy Toolkit, Federal Policy Updates, and additional Scientist-Citizen resources, including congressional office education guidance, district meeting tips, OMB discussion guides, and frequently asked questions. If you have a meeting scheduled or hear back from a congressional office, please let GSA's Policy & Professional Affairs team know so we can track engagement across the community.