

Contact Your Member of Congress

Scripts for Constituent Outreach on the OMB Uniform Guidance Proposal

Before You Reach Out

These scripts are designed to help GSA members engage as Scientist-Citizens by sharing expertise and real-world impact with congressional offices, not by advocating for or against any candidate or party. Use whichever format fits the moment: phone call, voicemail, email, or a district or 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 clear, specific example from your work or community is often more effective than a detailed policy discussion.

Phone Script — Senate Office

Use this version when calling a Senator's Washington or state office. Focus on helping the office understand how proposed changes to federal grant policies could affect your work, institution, and community.

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'm calling to share my perspective on the Office of Management and Budget's proposed changes to the Uniform Guidance, the rules that govern federal grants and research funding.

Federal support helps sustain rigorous peer review, stable long-term funding, scientific meetings, publication of findings, research training, and the sharing of evidence.

I believe it is important for policymakers to understand how decisions about federal grant policies may affect research, innovation, workforce development, and programs that support all of us as we age. I wanted to share my experience so Senator [Name] and staff have the benefit of hearing directly from people involved in this work.

[Add one or two sentences 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. Focus on helping the office understand how proposed changes to federal grant policies could affect your work, institution, and community.

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'm calling to share my perspective on the Office of Management and Budget's proposed changes to the Uniform Guidance, the rules that govern federal grants and research funding.

Federal support helps sustain rigorous peer review, stable long-term funding, scientific meetings, publication of findings, research training, and the sharing of evidence.

I believe it is important for policymakers to understand how decisions about federal grant policies may affect research, innovation, workforce development, and programs that support all of us as we age. I wanted to share my experience so Representative [Name] and staff have the benefit of hearing directly from people involved in this work.

[Add one or two sentences 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.

Voiceemail Script

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.

Use this version for email, an online contact form, or a written leave-behind at a district or state office meeting. Adapt the bracketed language for a Senate or House office.

Subject: Constituent perspective on the OMB Uniform Guidance proposal

I am writing as a constituent from [City/Town, State] and as a member of the aging research and professional community. I am writing to share my perspective on the Office of Management and Budget's proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance, the rules that govern federal grants and research funding. Federal support helps sustain rigorous peer review, stable long-term funding, scientific meetings, publication of findings, research training, and the sharing of evidence.

[For Senate offices: I believe it is important for policymakers to understand how decisions about federal grant policies may affect research, innovation, workforce development, and programs that support all of us as we age.]

[For House offices: I believe it is important for policymakers to understand how decisions about federal grant policies may affect research, innovation, workforce development, and programs that support all of us as we age.]

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

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Institution/Organization, if applicable]

[City/Town, State]

District or State Office Meeting — Talking Points

Request a brief meeting with district or state staff when an in-person conversation would help you share your experience. 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 the proposal matters to your work. For example, explain its potential effect on peer review, conference and publication costs, research training, collaboration, 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. Explain that OMB is reviewing comments and Congress is continuing to examine the proposal through the federal funding process. Focus on the potential effects rather than asking the office to support or oppose a specific legislative action.
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

Choose one prompt and complete it with a clear, concrete detail from your own experience. Personal examples help congressional staff understand how policy decisions affect research, institutions, and communities.

- "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. This is 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.
- Congress continues to examine the proposal through the federal funding process. Because legislative provisions may change, consult the GSA advocacy webpage for the latest status before contacting an office.
- The proposal identified an October 1, 2026 effective date; GSA raised concerns about insufficient implementation time.
- The public comment period has closed, and OMB is reviewing comments submitted through the public process.

After You Reach Out

Visit 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.