

August 13, 2020

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education
Labor and Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Murray and Representative Pallone,

Thank you for your [letter](#) to President Trump regarding the need for science to lead federal COVID-19 efforts. We join the many who are concerned about anti-science rhetoric and placing apparent political interests above evidence.

For example, hundreds of organizations have [called](#) for the Secretary of HHS to reject political interference in CDC's efforts to fight COVID-19. Almost 100 former HHS officials from Republican and Democratic administrations have written a [public letter](#) criticizing the marginalization of science in the administration's response to COVID-19.

We, the undersigned organizations and associations, are committed to protecting scientific integrity in the federal policy-making space. From environmental justice to public health, government accountability to transparency, worker safety to scientist protections, we want to ensure that US policy and decision-making are informed by scientific evidence and the best available data, and that the public has reliable access to independent scientific information and analysis produced, funded, or acquired by the federal government without political interference.

Thank you both for cosponsoring the bipartisan Scientific Integrity Act ([H.R. 1709](#)), which has the [support](#) of good government groups, environmental organizations, public health advocates, and unions. We encourage Senator Murray to support and ensure that the SI Act, which is in the House-passed HEROES Act, is included in the Senate stimulus package. Science doesn't dictate policy, but science must inform it. Experts throughout government—at the EPA, at the CDC, at FDA, at NOAA, at NASA, at the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and at many other agencies—are there to make sure that information can serve the public interest. Whether it's climate change, severe weather, pollution, food safety, or infectious disease, the choices we make to protect ourselves and our communities become harder when we aren't confident that we can trust what we hear. Especially now, when we are all seeking information to keep ourselves, our families, and our communities safe, the need for these protections is ever more self-evident. The Scientific Integrity Act would help protect scientists from political interference and thereby allow restoration of public confidence in federal agencies.

As a whole, and individually, we stand ready to work with you and anyone else seeking to ensure that policy is developed using science.

Sincerely Yours,

American Meteorological Society
Climate Science Legal Defense Fund
The EMAA Project
Government Accountability Project
Government Information Watch
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health
National Center for Health Research
National Women's Health Network
Open the Government
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Union of Concerned Scientists