

Protect the Integrity of Scientific Research

Urge House Leaders to Remove Damaging Provisions from the GRANT Act

Current Cosponsors: Holt, Price, Markey

Dear Colleague,

Several provisions in the Grant Reform and New Transparency (GRANT) Act (H.R. 3433) threaten our nation's scientific research system and will stifle innovation and economic growth. Please join us in urging the House Leadership to remove the most damaging provisions from the GRANT Act before further consideration of the bill by the House of Representatives.

The most troubling provision in the GRANT Act is the requirement that grant proposals be published in full on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) website. Grant proposals typically contain propriety intellectual information related to the applicant's hypotheses, novel experimental methods, and preliminary research findings. Making these ideas and data publicly available to everyone via the OMB website would undermine the applicant and their institution's right to their intellectual property.

A second disconcerting provision in the GRANT Act would require the public disclosure of peer reviews. Anonymity of peer review is the foundation of the modern scientific method. The prospect of negative career repercussions due to the public release of the name and contact information for peer reviewers and panelists would undermine the entire peer review process, hinder the ability of scientists to evaluate the credibility of research findings, and increase the likelihood that limited research budgets at federal agencies would be poorly spent. Proper peer review is critical for fiscal responsibility and anonymity is foundational to the review process.

Increased accountability and transparency are valuable goals which can be achieved without sacrificing intellectual property rights and the peer review process. Please join us in urging House Leadership to remove these damaging provisions before further consideration of the GRANT Act by the House of Representatives.

To sign onto the letter, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or Libby O'Hare (libby.ohare@mail.house.gov; 5-5801) of Rep. Holt's staff or James Hunter (james.hunter@mail.house.gov; 5-1784) or Rep. Price's staff.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

DAVID PRICE
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