



Connecting Science to Communities

June 25, 2026

Dear Nebraska Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of Nebraska Cures, I write to express concern regarding the Office of Management and Budget's proposed changes to federal grant regulations and the potential impact on Nebraska's research institutions, healthcare providers, and nonprofit organizations.

Nebraska Cures is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing medical research and innovation, including an emphasis on behavioral health. For twenty-five years, we have worked with researchers, healthcare leaders, policymakers, and patient advocates across Nebraska to support discoveries that improve and save lives.

We appreciate the Administration's interest in promoting accountability and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Strong oversight is essential. However, we are concerned that portions of the proposed rule could create uncertainty for research institutions and nonprofit organizations that rely on competitive federal grants to conduct research, improve healthcare delivery, and address pressing behavioral health challenges.

Nebraska's universities, hospitals, and research institutions compete successfully for federal grants because funding decisions are traditionally based on scientific merit, expert review, and demonstrated potential for impact. These investments support breakthroughs in areas ranging from cancer and neurological diseases to maternal health and mental health. They also help attract talented researchers, create high-quality jobs, and strengthen Nebraska's economy.

We are particularly concerned about the potential impact on biomedical research and behavioral health initiatives. Federal grants play a critical role in supporting research that leads to new treatments and therapies, as well as programs designed to address Nebraska's growing mental health workforce shortages and behavioral health needs. Increased uncertainty regarding grant approvals, continuation funding, or long-term project support could discourage investment and slow progress in areas that directly affect Nebraska families.

We respectfully urge Congress to closely examine the proposed rule and its potential effects on research, healthcare innovation, and behavioral health programs. Any reforms to the federal grant process should preserve transparency, accountability, and merit-based review while ensuring that researchers, healthcare providers, and community organizations can continue their important work with confidence and stability.

It is our hope you will be willing to reach out to the White House and express your concern about the broad scope of this rule change.

Nebraska has built a strong reputation for research excellence and innovation. We hope you will work to ensure that federal policies continue to support the discoveries, treatments, and health initiatives that benefit our state and the nation.

Thank you for your service and your consideration of these concerns. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further and serve as a resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda McGill Johnson".

Amanda McGill Johnson
Executive Director
Nebraska Cures