



Dear colleagues,

The past few months have brought unprecedented changes in how the U.S. supports science, scientists, and scientific funding. These changes have shaken our community to the core, as our colleagues, peers, and friends are fired and harassed, our funding is threatened, and our science is censored. Our hearts go out to our members who have lost their jobs, livelihoods, and funding.

The Paleontological Society (PS) stands with our members in these uncertain times. **We believe that science should be open to everyone, that scientists should be supported at every government level, and that the benefits that scientific research brings to society should be championed.**

Despite these dramatic policy changes, the PS remains committed to supporting our community and advancing the science of paleontology through research, education, and advocacy. We affirm that one of our strengths as a Society is our diverse membership, and that such diversity is integral to the advancement of our Society, and to the continued rigor and ingenuity of paleontological research. We will continue to foster an environment that encourages the free expression and exchange of scientific ideas. Please note that the PS offers an [emergency fund](#) for members who are experiencing a financial emergency, if that is helpful.

The PS and our Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) are working with peer societies and government organizations to advocate strongly on behalf of science, scientists, and scientific funding. **If you are interested in helping with this work, please reach out to Dr. Tom Tobin (Chair of GAC, ttobin@ua.edu). Also consider contacting your elected government officials and/or attending the Geoscience Congressional Visits day ([usually held in September](#)).**

For our US members, you can find your elected officials and how to contact them here: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>. Our Government Affairs Committee advises that phone calls and visits to local offices may be more effective than using online forms. If you make contact, emphasize the immediate and direct effects of specific science policy changes on your ability to conduct your job as an educator, scientist, researcher, and other positions.

Sincerely,
Rowan Lockwood and the PS Executive Committee