



Committee: House Science, Space & Technology Committee
Event: [Unleashing the Golden Age of Science: Examining the Priorities of the FY2027 Research and Technology Enterprise](#)
Date: July 22, 2026

Executive Summary:

The House Science, Space & Technology Committee held a hearing on July 22, 2026, to examine the Trump administration's Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) research and technology priorities. Members questioned the administration's proposed science budget, research funding reforms, artificial intelligence (AI), research security, and U.S. competitiveness with China. Republicans emphasized accountability, strategic investments in critical technologies, and "gold standard science," while Democrats criticized proposed funding cuts and argued the Trump administration is weakening America's research enterprise.

Member Toplines:¹

[Chair Brian Babin \(R-TX-36\)](#): Babin defended the administration's FY27 research priorities, arguing federal science investments should be measured by outcomes rather than spending levels. He highlighted investments in AI, quantum computing, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, and research security, emphasizing the need to maintain U.S. technological leadership over China and ensure federally funded research meets the highest standards.

Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-18): Lofgren sharply criticized the administration's science agenda, arguing proposed funding cuts, canceled research grants, and restrictions on universities are weakening the U.S. research enterprise, reducing STEM enrollment, and ultimately benefiting China at the expense of American scientific leadership. She also questioned the administration's management of National Science Foundation (NSF) funding and its treatment of federally supported research institutions.

Witness Toplines:

[Michael Kratsios, Director, White House Office of Science & Technology Policy \(OSTP\)](#): Kratsios defended the White House's science agenda, calling for reforms to prioritize individual researchers over legacy institutions, expand flexible grant mechanisms, and align federal research investments with national priorities such as AI, advanced manufacturing, and biotechnology. He highlighted the [Genesis Mission](#) as the administration's flagship AI initiative, describing it as a whole-of-government effort backed by more than \$5 billion to accelerate scientific discovery and maintain U.S. technological leadership over China.

¹ Opening statements were not available for Ranking Member Lofgren at the time of this memo's distribution.

Major Takeaways:

Federal Research & NSF Funding

- Chair Babin asked how the Administration's budget differs from previous science budgets and how it would improve outcomes for taxpayers.
 - Kratsios argued the federal research enterprise has become stagnant and bureaucratic, stating the Administration intends to prioritize individual researchers over institutions to better reward innovation.
- Babin questioned whether Congress should reconsider NASA's exemption from the *Federal Advisory Committee Act* and strengthen transparency requirements for scientific advisory bodies.
 - Kratsios expressed support for increasing transparency and accountability across federal science agencies and committed to working with Congress.
- Babin and Kratsios both criticized previous federal research funding for supporting DEI and environmental justice initiatives, arguing these decisions undermined public confidence in federal science.
 - Kratsios asserted that greater funding certainty would improve long-term planning for federal research initiatives.
- Ranking Member Lofgren raised reports that OSTP was influencing NSF grant decisions and withholding nearly \$1 billion in congressionally appropriated research funding.
 - Kratsios denied administration involvement in individual grant awards, stating OSTP's role is limited to coordinating science priorities across agencies.
- Lofgren also questioned whether Genesis was being funded using NSF appropriations.
 - Kratsios said he was not familiar with specific funding decisions but defended concentrating federal resources on large national scientific missions, including Genesis and quantum computing.
- Rep. **Suzanne Bonamici** (D-OR-01) questioned the Administration's dismissal of the National Science Board, the proposed Office of Management & Budget (OMB) grant reforms, and investigations into the National Academies, arguing they undermine scientific independence and merit-based research.
 - Kratsios argued that OSTP supports reforms to improve accountability while preserving merit review and defended proposed "Golden Ticket" grants.
- Reps. **Deborah Ross** (D-NC-02) and **Gabe Amo** (D-RI-01) argued that grant cancellations, staffing reductions, and political involvement in federal science agencies are weakening America's research enterprise and driving scientists overseas.
 - Kratsios rejected those claims, claiming reforms are intended to strengthen scientific enterprise.

AI

- Several Republican members, including Reps. **Jay Obernolte** (R-CA-23), **Scott Franklin** (R-FL-18), **Vince Fong** (R-CA-20), and **Sheri Biggs** (R-SC-03), questioned the Administration's AI strategy and implementation of the Genesis Mission.
 - Kratsios described the Genesis Mission as the flagship AI-for-science initiative, announcing more than \$5 billion in federal commitments across more than fifteen agencies to integrate AI into research spanning health, transportation, energy, biotechnology, and other fields.

- Obernolte also asked about funding for the Center for AI Security & Innovation (CAISI) and the National AI Research Resource (NAIRR).
 - Kratsios stated CAISI would benefit from additional resources to recruit experts and said OSTP continues supporting expansion of NAIRR.
- Franklin asked about implementation of the administration's AI Action Plan.
 - Kratsios highlighted U.S. leadership in frontier AI models, expansion of AI infrastructure, and implementation of the Ratepayer Protection Pledge.
- Rep. **Suhas Subramanyam** (D-VA-10) questioned why the administration replaced a proposed executive order containing mandatory AI safety requirements with one relying on voluntary commitments from frontier AI developers.
 - Kratsios responded that voluntary commitments remain the standard, noting major AI developers have agreed to provide frontier models to the federal government for cybersecurity evaluations before public release.

Research Security

- Members from both parties emphasized maintaining U.S. technological leadership over China, although they differed on how best to achieve that goal.
 - Republicans focused on protecting federally funded research from espionage, strengthening domestic semiconductor manufacturing, and accelerating investments in AI, quantum computing, and advanced manufacturing.
- Rep. **Rich McCormick** (R-GA-07) asked how the Administration balances international scientific collaboration with protecting federal research from foreign adversaries.
 - Kratsios acknowledged growing concerns regarding foreign talent recruitment programs and espionage, stating OSTP supports a risk-based approach to protecting sensitive research while maintaining international collaboration.
- Rep. Subramanyam questioned whether American companies should source semiconductors from Chinese firms.
 - Kratsios emphasized the Administration's priority is expanding domestic semiconductor manufacturing, avoiding companies placed on U.S. entity lists.

Energy

- Reps. **Valerie Foushee** (D-NC-04) and **Sarah McBride** (D-DE-AL) questioned whether the administration's voluntary [Ratepayer Protection Pledge](#) has successfully protected consumers from electricity price increases associated with AI data center development.
 - Kratsios defended the pledge, stating that companies committed to build, bring, or purchase sufficient electricity generation to prevent new AI infrastructure from increasing residential electricity rates; therefore, costs have lowered.
 - Foushee argued electricity prices continue to rise in affected communities and questioned whether companies are complying with the pledge.
 - Kratsios maintained the pledge represents a significant commitment from industry and acknowledged he does not track company compliance.
- McBride also questioned which federal entity oversees compliance with the pledge.
 - Kratsios stated he believes responsibility primarily rests with the White House National Energy Dominance Council.

Space & Advanced Technologies

- Rep. **Daniel Webster** (R-FL-11) questioned how OSTP is supporting the administration's space agenda.
 - Kratsios highlighted administration goals to return Americans to the Moon by 2028, establish initial lunar infrastructure by 2030, and deploy a nuclear propulsion reactor in space during the current Administration.
- Biggs asked about advanced nuclear energy deployment and the Genesis Mission.
 - Kratsios highlighted recent executive actions accelerating advanced reactor licensing and announced that four test reactors recently reached criticality, surpassing the Administration's stated goal.
- Members also discussed strengthening partnerships among government, academia, and industry, expanding workforce development programs, and accelerating commercialization of federally funded research.