

**DR. THOMAS CONNELLY, JR.**  
Chief Executive Officer

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October 22, 2020

Russell Vought  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Vought:

Recently the American Chemical Society (ACS) joined with dozens of diverse scientific organizations to urge the Administration to rescind recent Office of Management and Budget memos and an Executive Order which, under the guise of preventing the promotion of race and sex stereotyping, undercuts the ability of Federal agencies, contractors and grant recipients to conduct effective diversity training.

ACS also wishes to express its concern that these actions may negatively impact the chemistry enterprise, a vital component of our nation's innovation engine that creates jobs, spurs economic growth and enables our global competitiveness. Specifically, the Administration actions:

- Fail to embrace the power of diversity and inclusion which is key to scientific advancement. Science is better served when people of all backgrounds, race, ethnicity, religious beliefs and sexual orientations can work together in solving our nation's most pressing challenges.
- Promote the further marginalization of those affected by racism, making it more difficult to recruit under-represented populations into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields and thereby limiting the U.S. science talent pipeline that is so vital to our national success.
- Perpetuate the inequitable access to science education and participation in the scientific enterprise of this country by labeling inclusive training as "divisive" and "un-American".
- Violate the U.S. Constitution's guarantee to free expression and speech. In the science community, the ability to freely communicate fact and findings, without filters, is critical to achieving breakthroughs and advancement.

ACS embraces diversity, inclusion and respect as a core value of the Society and its members. Together we are working diligently to make the broader chemistry enterprise and our own operations a more welcoming environment for everyone. We respectfully ask that these Administration actions be rescinded without delay before they harm the U.S. scientific community.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas M. Connelly, Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer



Dr. Luis Echegoyen  
2020 President