

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to propose a brief, personal piece for *The Times* on my journey from being a local [Northwest Indiana] kid to becoming a scientist, and why cutting funding to the NIH and NSF threatens the future of places like northwest Indiana. I've seen firsthand how investments in public institutions create opportunities for young people to break new ground in science because they were opportunities I had growing up in Lake County.

This is an important local issue. [Indiana] relies on public science funding to drive health advancements and job creation, with NIH support alone contributing over [a billion dollars] to the state's economy. Without it, we're not just losing the chance to make new discoveries, we're losing jobs, life expectancy, education programs, healthcare advances, and a pipeline of future scientists who can transform our communities.

The timing for this piece is urgent. With science funding on the federal chopping block, it's important for readers to see what's at stake: not just abstract "research," but the real-life impact on our schools, health, hospitals, and families in [Indiana]. The science opportunities I had shouldn't be rare. They should be the baseline for the next generation of kids here.

I think this story will resonate with your readers because it's not just about what's lost, it's about what we can still protect. Please let me know if I can share this kind of piece with your newspaper.

Sincerely,

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Dear Editor,

I am a faculty member at the [University of California, Berkeley], but I grew up in the [Baltimore suburbs of Towson and Timonium]. With the recent news about the Trump administration's unprecedented actions defunding and interrupting American scientific research, I've decided to work harder on public outreach. I wanted to see if you would be willing to consider publishing an opinion piece I've written on the importance of this work done by NIH and NSF for my home community and the public in general. I could make it any length that you think would fit, and I'd be happy to send a draft. I believe I can present a novel and compelling piece on the importance of these institutions for the nation in general and our community in particular.

Thank you for your consideration,