

# OFT Higher Education Committee

## *2026 Resolution*

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### **IN SUPPORT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, ACADEMIC FREEDOM, AND THE PROTECTION OF FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH**

WHEREAS, colleges and universities are vital institutions that foster innovation, advance scientific discovery, promote economic development, and serve as centers of free expression and democratic engagement; and

WHEREAS, institutions of higher education play a crucial role in providing students with the opportunity to learn, grow, and develop skills that strengthen our communities and our nation; and

WHEREAS, recent actions by the Trump administration have imposed unprecedented and politicized regulations on colleges and universities, including coercive funding threats and ideological pressure that undermine long-standing principles of civil rights, academic freedom, freedom of speech, and equality of opportunity; and

WHEREAS, these actions are widely viewed as unlawful, with many already facing successful legal challenges; and

WHEREAS, the administration's proposed "Trump compact" seeks to condition federal research funding on ideological loyalty rather than on peer review, scientific merit, or the public good; and

WHEREAS, such a policy would violate the First Amendment and the constitutional prohibition against imposing ideological conditions on federal funding, in direct contradiction to established Supreme Court precedent; and

WHEREAS, politicizing federal research funding threatens essential scientific, medical, technological, and educational advancements—including lifesaving cancer research, clean water initiatives, nursing programs, technological innovation, and other public-benefit projects—simply because universities permit lawful activities such as teaching topics disfavored by the administration; and

WHEREAS, this proposed policy constitutes an attempt at ideological coercion that endangers America's global leadership in research, innovation, health care, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, such actions pose profound risks to the public interest and undermine the foundations of a free, knowledgeable, and democratic society; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) stands firmly for education, science, students, and academic freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT rejects the proposed "Trump compact" and any attempt by any party or person to condition federal research funding on ideological conformity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT calls upon university leaders, faculty, staff, students, and community members to unite in defending the independence of higher education and the principle that no President or governmental administration has the authority to purchase ideological obedience or compromise fundamental freedoms; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT will work to build a coalition of public and private sector  
38 unions to combat any attack on academic freedom or First Amendment rights in Ohio or from the  
39 Federal government; and

40 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the OFT reaffirms our commitment to protecting the integrity of  
41 research, the free exchange of ideas, and the essential democratic role served by institutions of  
42 higher learning.

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44 Sources: [What is Trump's Compact for Higher Education? | Pen America](#)

45 [How Universities are Responding to Trump's Compact | Inside Higher Education](#)