



Questions for the Record

Protecting American Innovation: The Federal Research Security Enterprise

7/15/2026

Representative Andre Carson – District IN-07

Witness Dr. Patricia Valdez

1. When a young, brilliant scientist sees colleagues' grants frozen or projects terminated for political reasons, they often move to the private sector or to foreign labs entirely. What is the agency's assessment of the cumulative loss of intellectual capital specifically in high-tech fields like quantum computing over the last 18 months, and how do we quantify that as a national security risk in itself?

NIH Response

NIH recognizes that attracting and retaining outstanding scientific talent is essential to maintaining a strong, stable, and secure research enterprise that advances both scientific progress and national competitiveness.

For instance, the [NIH Quantum Computing Challenge](https://nih.gov/challenges/nih-quantum-computing-challenge)¹, led by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), seeks

¹ nih.gov/challenges/nih-quantum-computing-challenge



to catalyze the use of quantum computing to address biomedical problems in drug discovery, clinical risk prediction and treatment, biomedical imaging, and genetic data analysis. Under the Challenge, NCATS will award up to \$1.3 million in prizes to advance scientific expertise and intellectual capital in quantum computing for biomedical research.

2. Given the current landscape of federal mandates, how would you describe the overall state of compliance across U.S. research institutions regarding research security laws and policies?

NIH Response

Overall, NIH has seen meaningful progress as institutions have implemented new research security requirements, strengthened disclosure processes, and expanded research security training. We work closely with institutions when potential concerns are identified. Continued partnership with research institutions remains essential to maintaining compliance while supporting high-quality biomedical research.